

NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES

THE IMAGIST

September 2014

Volume 19, Issue 1



INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

**DIGITAL
ASRT
STATE -
MENTS** 1-2

De-Licensure 2
in Texas,
Could New York
be Next?

Seven Teams 3
Compete in
Quiz Bowl
2013

Essay Contest 3
Winners An-
nounced

Poster Con- 3
test Draws
Entries from

NYSSRS Mis- 4
sion

NYSSRS Con- 4
tact Infor-
mation

DIGITAL ASRT STATEMENTS BY: ERIC LOBEL

As your New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences President-Elect, it was an honor to represent over 17,000 New York State technologists at this year's American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) annual conference this past June in Orlando, Florida. Each state affiliate sends two representatives to the conference and specifically to the ASRT's House of Delegates where we vote on various practice standards and position statements. This year, both Dave Finaldi, President of the NYSSRS and myself were the designated delegates for the state of New York. ASRT position statements reflect the beliefs or standing of the ASRT and upon reviewing must take into account existing state statues and institutional policies. I wanted to bring two specific position statements related to digital radiography to your attention and to the attention of any students

you may be training.

One statement is related digital cropping/masking (C-14.10) and the other discusses the process of post-processing (C-14.07). The two position statements are below and are exactly as they appear in the latest ASRT Position Statement Document. (The full document can be found here: <http://www.asrt.org/docs/default-source/governance/hodpositionstatements.pdf?sfvrsn=10>)

Digital Imaging Cropping or Masking in Radiography

It is the position of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists that a digital image should not be cropped or masked such that it eliminates areas of exposure from the image that are presented for interpretation. Pre-exposure collimation of the x-ray beam is necessary to comply with the principle of as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

To determine that exposed anatomy on an image is not significant or of diagnostic value is a medical decision and is therefore outside of the scope of practice for a radiologic technologist. Adopted, Main Motion, C-14.10, 2014

Digital Image Post-Processing in Radiography

It is the position of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists that an image obtained for a prescribed projection in a digital imaging system or series be assigned only to that specific projection and not be altered by post-processing in order to be represented as another projection. Adopted, Main Motion, C-14.07, 2014

Personally, I couldn't agree more with these position statements. As a full-time educator, I see students and new technologists push the limits of post-processing in order to make radiographs more ascetically

-pleasing. Some might think they are doing this to please the radiologist or simply because they are striving to enhance the image as they might do utilizing a regular photographic image with an image editing software such as Photoshop. The problem is so widespread in my experience that many students and technologists alike are just following the crowd and doing what everyone else is. As it states in Digital Imaging Cropping or Masking in Radiography (C-14.10), it is not within our scope of practice as radiographers to determine what anatomy can be removed from an image. I understand the thought process that had the proper collimation at the time of the exposure been utilized, anatomy now present would not have appeared on the image. This fact does not

allow for incidental findings or the fact that radiologists are required to interpret and analyze every part of an examination presented to them. It should not be our determination what they should be allowed to read and what we feel may be omitted.

The second position statement, Digital Image Post-Processing in Radiography (C-14.07) is not as straight forward. Basically it states that the technologist may not represent several images that were really part of one radiograph. For example one forearm should not be split (digitally) into three separate views – wrist, forearm, and elbow. All of us have learned that the central ray is placed in a specific location for each procedure. Not doing so will distort the image. Other financial issues arise that can be seen as fraud when an institution bills for three studies (separate accession numbers) when in reality only one exposure was taken. My view is that

as professionals, we need to practice what we all learned during our tenure as students. Use pre-exposure collimation, separate alignment and placement of the central ray for each radiographic projection.

Brennan Inducted as President of ASRT

By: Paulette Peterson

On June 29th 2014 William Brennan, former president of the NYSSRS was inducted as president of the ASRT. He took the oath of office in the presence of friends and family at the annual governance meeting in Orlando, Florida. His acceptance speech included a slide show that highlighted many current and past delegates to the ASRT House of Delegate who Brennan said “inspired me every time they stepped up to the microphone”. Mr. Brennan is only one of three ASRT presidents from New York State in ASRT history. The others were: 1945-46 Walter J. Clark, R.T. New York, NY and 1965 Donald F. Atkins, R.T., FASRT Millard Fillmore Hospital, Buffalo, NY. Bill Brennan’s term as president is for 1 year. He will then serve as ASRT Chairman of the Board.

September 2014

SEVEN TEAMS COMPETE IN QUIZ BOWL 2013 BY: EILEEN DOYLE

Students from seven radiography programs competed in the 2013 Student Quiz Bowl competition in Corning on October 26th. Barry Barrows, Kate Reid and Ashley Rice formed the team from Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburg. Hostos Community College in the Bronx was represented by Michael Reyes, Osbed Betancourt and Felicia Pirmal. Matt Papillo, Tom DiPietro and Joe Palazzolo

competed for Mercy Medical Center located in Rockville Center. Rochester's Monroe Community College sent Jeff Collins, Elizabeth Dreher and Tuong Vo. Mohammad Ahmed, Alyssa Goldsmith and Xiruo Zhang came from Stony Brook to fight for Stony Brook University. SUNY Broome from Binghamton came with a bus load of students and team members Sandra Kastner, Karla Brown and Devonne Rogers. Westches-

ter Community College in Valhalla was well covered by Mike Desimone, Brian Silberstein, and Corey Sampogna. Competition was fierce and in the end SUNY Broome walked away with 1st place, Monroe Community College took 2nd and Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital drove six hours one-way to go home with 3rd place. Congratulations to all of the students who participated. The NYSSRS is proud of you.

Essay Contest Winners Announced By: Eileen Doyle

Lisa Silver from Monroe Community College won first place in the 2013 student essay contest for her paper entitled "Ergonomics in the Radiology Department." Second place was taken by Sharka Matouskova from Westchester Community College. Sharka's paper was on "Stopping the Chain of Infection in Radiology Suites." Both winners took home certificates and monetary awards. Papers were judged by Dan Prosser, a technologists from the Finger Lakes region, Doug Osborn, a radiography program director from Plattsburg and Charles Drago, an educational administrator from Seaford.

"Competition was fierce and in the end SUNY Broome walked away with 1st place,"

Poster Contest Draws Entries from 4 Schools By: Eileen Doyle

The poster competition drew informative and creative entries from across New York State. First place went to Ashley Rice, Barry Barrows, and Kate Reid from Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburg for their entry on CT Hydrocephalus. Second and third place went to teams from SUNY Broome in Binghamton. Karla Brown's team won 2nd for CT of the Sinuses, and Devonne Rogers' team won 3rd for Medulloblastoma. Ray Fradella of Rochester, Mike DeSimone and Alexis Ramondelli from Westchester Community College served as judges for the poster competition this year.

September 2014

The Imagist

Volume 19, Issue 1

De-Licensure in Texas, Could New York be Next?

By Eric Lobel



As your delegate to the American Society of Radiologic Technologists I bring back some disturbing news about the Lone Star State. Texas technologists are in the midst of a battle to hold on to their state licensure. According to the ASRT, Texas has 28,375 licensed technologists. If licensure is removed, individuals would be able to deliver ionizing radiation without any formal coursework in radiation protection, radiation safety and medical imaging physics. This extends to other modalities such as computed tomography, angiographic procedures, and fluoroscopy that already are of concern as their doses are significantly higher than general radiographic examinations.

tions.

In May, the governmental entity known as the Sunset Advisory Commission put forth a report calling for the end of licensure to for 19 occupations, including radiologic technologists and medical physicists.

On June 10th the ASRT reported that the commission claims that the state's deregulation of radiologic technologists would "have little impact on public health or safety" because technologists work in "health care facilities subject to numerous federal and state requirements" and "have private accreditation programs."

On June 24th - 25th, the ASRT and other organizations will meet with the Sunset Advisory Commission to urge them to withdraw this proposal. As a licensed technologist and educator I find it hard to believe licensure, once in place, can be de-licensed in the future. Unfortunately, this can happen and if licensure is challenged in Texas, why not New York or any other state with licensure. The New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences would act immediately should anything like this happen here but we can't do it without the financial support from our membership and assistance from our national society. Please get the word out to help increase membership in the NYSSRS. Your license should never be taken for granted; just look at Texas. I will update the member-

The mission of the NYSSRS is to promote the Radiologic Sciences and Medical Imaging Professions, establish and maintain the appropriate education to achieve the purpose of elevating and promoting the highest standards possible for patient care in the communities of interest and also protect the general welfare of Radiologic Science .

Immediate PastPresident - Kenneth Martinucci M.S., R.T. (R)(CT) kmartinucci@aol.com

President - David Finaldi B.S., R.T. (R) david.finaldi@rochestergeneral.org

President-Elect - Eric Lobel M.A., R.T. (R)(CT) elobel@citytech.cuny.edu

Vice President - Paulette Peterson M.Ed., R.T. ppeterson@monroecc.edu

Treasurer - Joseph Whitton M.S., R.T. (R)(CT)(MR) joseph.whitton@stonybrook.edu

Secretary - Ann Verschuuren M.S., R.T. (R)(M) ann.verschuuren@sunyorange.edu

Nominating Committee Chair - John Tramposch B.S., R.T. (R) asmallhs@optonline.net



Newsletter Editor: Rebecca Turner R.T.(R) rturner707@hotmail.com

Something you would like to have published in the our next edition?

Let us know! Please, either e-mail me or one of the board members.

NYSSRS Mailing

PO Box 302