

MRVector

Newsletter of the:

American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists

Phone: 718-347-8690 Fax: 718-347-8691 E-mail: ARMRIT@msn.com Web page: www.armrit.org

Spring/Summer 2006

Oppose S. 2322 & H.R. 1426: Call your Senator & Representative today!!!!

ARMRIT 2006: First Annual Meeting and Seminar - August 25-27, 2006

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CARE Bill – Member Speaks Out.

MRI Education: ARMRIT vs. ARRT

Members On-Line at: www.armrit.org

First Annual Meeting Registration Form

MEMBER SPEAKS OUT

Regarding the CARE Bills, I e-mailed all of my Senators and Representatives, as well as Senator Mike Enzy. It amazes me that they think that this bill will “protect” patients.

In my experience, and I noted this in my letters, it is the Nurse Practitioners and Physician’s Assistants putting patients at risk. On a daily basis I am presented with a script ordering contrast for a patient that does not need contrast enhancement. Injecting a patient when there is NO REASON not only puts the patient at risk for a reaction but also costs the insurance companies and patients more money.

A co-worker commented that “well, the nurses just don’t know any better”. My response was, “then they shouldn’t be allowed to order exams”. The point being, it is not trained, experienced, competent and certified MRI Techs who are a danger to patients, but untrained and uninformed members of the medical community.

**Mary Babst, RA# 1550
Odessa, Florida**

**WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN
and SENATOR TODAY!!!**

THE PROS and CONS of an ARMRIT vs. an ARRT EDUCATION

In my experience as an MRI student soon to be ARMRIT certified I’ve encountered a number of advantages as well as obstacles.

One of the advantages is the opportunity to spend each of the two components of my education at two different locations. My MR studies began at the American Academy of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (AAMRI), Dr. Patrick’s school in Morehead City, North Carolina, where I went through the theory component of the program. Dr. Patrick MD, PhD, was then able to arrange an MRI clinical training site in Dallas, Texas.

Prior to traveling to Dallas, I was able to accomplish approximately one hundred clinical hours of the one-thousand hours required to complete the program and subsequently sit for the ARMRIT MRI certification examination.

One thing I found interesting was to hear the different medical terms that MRI technologists employ, whether or not they are certified through the ARMRIT or ARRT. Pertaining to MR physics, I could greatly relate to the ARMRIT tech that started me with my hands-on clinical training in Raleigh, North Carolina, yet the remainder of my clinical hours were performed in Dallas, Texas where I was trained by two ARRT certified techs.

I believe I was fortunate to get an MR perspective from both ARMRIT and ARRT techs. I also learned a great deal because the two techs in Dallas had over fifteen to



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twenty years experience, back to the clinical approval of MRI by the FDA.

Prior to clinical training, through the AAMRI, I studied anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, chemistry, algebra, and of course MR physics; all the required courses to sit for the ARMTRIT examination.

During my hands-on training in Dallas, I realized the high quality of my ARMTRIT education. Not to say that ARRT certified MRI techs don't possess a good MRI background, clearly many do, but the truth of the matter is that ARMTRIT techs specialize in Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Many x-ray techs are cross-trained in MRI for a few hours while ARMTRIT techs must perform one thousand hours. Nonetheless, my RT trainers were very knowledgeable because of their many years in MRI.

Unfortunately, ARMTRIT techs still go through a great deal of discrimination. For example, one of my classmates and I were taking an intravenous therapy class at one of the North Carolina hospitals. In the six hours we spent there that day, rumors had circulated on every floor that we weren't ARRT certified X-ray techs. One can only guess that the technologists and the nurses of that hospital had nothing productive to do that day. It will be hard to determine when this injustice towards ARMTRIT techs will stop. In my experience, the same individuals discriminating against ARMTRIT members are the same ones who use medical terms like "dye" instead of "contrast", "bright" and "dark" instead of "hyperintense" and "hypointense"; and who believe that FLAIR and STIR sequences are the same. Use of

incorrect terminology like that would get me in big trouble with Dr. Patrick.

Nowadays, we live in a world of politics and hypocrisy where ARMTRIT techs will continue to be abused for an indeterminate period. This is highly unfortunate because MRI technologists are in high demand and this injustice hinders the advancement of MRI in medicine. Needless to say, I encourage each reader of this article to continue supporting the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMTRIT).

Thierry Duvivier, RC# 1542
Miami, Florida

MRI Graduate of the American Academy of Magnetic Resonance Imaging, NC

MEMBERS ON-LINE at **www.armrit.org**

All Registry Active members are required to post their resume (CV) on the ARMTRIT Webpage at www.armrit.org:

- 1) Click on '**Registry Members**' at the bottom of the homepage.
- 2) Scroll down to the bottom of the list and click on: '**Click here to post your Resume (CV)**'.
- 3) Enter your Login: use your e-mail address.
- 4) Enter a *password (do not forget your password!)
- 5) Enter all relevant information and click on **Submit**.
- 6) Remember your **Listing Number**.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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Jim Coffin, President

REGISTRATION FORM

The White House Las Vegas Accommodations: Fairfield Inn by Marriott-Convention Center
3260 Joe W. Brown Drive 3850 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109
Las Vegas, NV 89109 Call: 702-791-0899 Code: W68

Attendee Information:

Name ARMRIT Member # / Non-Member

Address

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code, Country

Telephone

Fax

E-mail

Emergency Contact Name and Telephone

<u>Registration Fees:</u>	PRE-REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	
	Received by May 31	June 1 – On site	
ARMRIT Members	\$175	\$195	\$ _____
Non-Members	\$225	\$250	\$ _____

Payment: Check ___ Money Order ___ Check or MO payable to: **ARMRIT**

Mail Application To: 8815 Commonwealth Blvd. or Fax: 718-347-8691
Bellerose, NY 11426

Pay by Credit Card: (check one) MasterCard _____ Visa _____ American Express _____
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Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name of Cardholder: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

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Cancellation Policy: A full refund (less a \$50 administrative fee) will be made for any cancellations made in writing prior to August 1, 2006.