

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

Web Store: RMRIT.MYAIA.COM

Winter 2003-04

In this issue:

- *Your Response*
- *2004 ID cards*
- *Projectiles*

New Eligibility Requirements

Member Response

“Stick Together” 10/28/03

My opinion on the ‘New Eligibility Requirements’ is that all parties need to agree on this issue. Because many MRI Techs do not know about our organization the ARMRIT is not as accepted as the ARRT. It is not only classroom education, practical experience is needed too.

I just hope that this discussion ends up on good terms. All ARMRIT members should stick together so our Registry will be stronger, more respected and recognized.

From my own experience, while attending a CME lecture in New York City on MRI/MRA, upon presenting my Registry ID card, they did not know what the ARMRIT was. As members we must make our organization and presence known.

Werginn Carvajal, RA# 1382
Miami, Florida

“Higher Standards” 10/24/03

My opinion on the matter of accepting MRI Technologists in to the Registry based on ‘experience only’ (equivalency clause) is that it will hurt the Registry in the long run. The one aspect that distinguishes the ARMRIT from the ARRT is the fact that ARMRIT members have formalized classroom training in multiple aspects of MRI Technology, ranging from physics to patient care and safety.

If the ARMRIT accepts technologists without this training then we are giving credence to the ACR’s biased argument that

we are a ‘ragtag organization’ with poorly trained techs. In the long run, this may hinder our growth and progress. At the current stage of the ARMRIT’s history, every member makes us stronger.

Holding our members to higher standards than the ARRT is vital to our success, anything less will inevitably lead to failure.

Richard Heffernan, RA # 1273
Middle Village, New York

“MRI School Graduate” 10/24/03

I just passed the ARMRIT MRI Technologist exam in August 2003 and I am thrilled. As a new member, I wanted to voice my opinion regarding the member response on ‘New Eligibility Requirements’. First of all, I was not aware that new requirements were being considered and I disagree with the member’s response (Burkhard, Vector Fall 03).

I attended the American College of Medical Technology (ACMT) MRI Technologist Program in Gardena, California. To qualify for this program I was required to have either a California limited x-ray license or have at least two (2) years of allied health medical experience. My medical experience was as a hemodialysis technician for five (5) years prior to entering the ACMT MRI Program.

In my opinion, having some kind of medical background is helpful when entering into a medical imaging profession as opposed to just getting on-the-job trained by an MRI facility. I also think that it is unfair and disappointing that some of us had to pay tuition averaging \$15,000 for an MRI program while others paid nothing to enter the field. When I started my MRI clinical externship I believe I knew between 30-50% of MRI theory in comparison to the member (Vector Fall 03) who claims he learned 99% on site. **(Over)**

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“MRI Graduate” (continued)

I would also like to know where does the ARMRIT stand in regard to legislation and the on going battle with the ARRT. Shedding some light on this subject would be much appreciated.

Roger Corea, RA# 1098
Glendale, California

What’s Your Opinion?

Whether it’s new eligibility requirements, exam development, CME requirements, MRI schools, etc., the ARMRIT wants to hear from you. As a Professional Organization made up of a national membership, Board of Directors and Examination committee, the key to the Registry’s success is member involvement.

Phone, fax, e-mail, write, let us hear from you and be part of the progress.

Jim Coffin, President

“2004 ID CARDS”

The annual renewal process begins every year on August 15th with the renewal fee due by October 15th. 2004 ID cards will be sent out the week of December 1-5, 2003 and are valid through December 15, 2004. The ARMRIT annual renewal is a calendar year renewal (from January thru December) with CME credits due by December 31st of each year.

Renewal is ‘Re-Certification’

The annual renewal process is a form of ‘re-certification’. In lieu of requiring members to sit for the initial certification exam every five or seven years as does Physician Assistants (every 7 years) and Emergency Medical Technicians (every 3 years), annual renewal is the current ARMRIT ‘re-certification’.

When the Registry receives your renewal form with your updated information, CME credits, and equipment experience, you have fulfilled the ‘re-certification’ process.

The annual renewal fee, due by October 15th, 2003, is for the calendar year of 2004. Along with application fees from Registry Candidates, the ARMRIT is able to move forward representing our members in the challenges that are before us. Needless to say, your support is greatly appreciated.

Jim Coffin, President

“PROJECTILES MUST BE PREVENTED!”

Over the last few years including 2003 incidences involving oxygen tanks have been reported, at least one was fatal. To prevent future accidents of this magnitude MRI Education and training must be looked upon more seriously by the medical imaging community.

I can not emphasize enough the importance of the MRI Technologist as the “Guardian of the MRI Environment”, especially the MRI Scan Room. Who else but the MRI Technologist is knowledgeable regarding the effects of the main magnetic field (Bo) on **ferromagnetic objects** such as **oxygen tanks, guns, ordinary tools, and some implanted devices** within the MRI scan room.

Patients, Physicians, Nurses, and all other personnel should be assumed totally ignorant of the dangers of entering the MRI scan room. To prevent future accidents, whether fatal or not, the MRI Technologist must protect the unsuspecting individual from the potential hazards of the MRI environment. MRI Technologists must protect those in their care and that is anyone in the MRI environment.

Jim Coffin, ARMRIT, President.