Las Vegas, NV, October, 2012

The 7th annual ARMRIT meeting, held October 25-27, at The Las Vegas Country Club (LVCC), Las Vegas, Nevada, again presented topics highlighting the specialty and sub-specialties of MRI Technology.

The beautiful and historical Las Vegas venue gave the attendees a taste of Vegas in a bygone era, with the quality service and outstanding cuisine Vegas is famous for. The view of the LVCC Golf Course during breakfast, lunch, and breaks, was breathtaking to say the least.

In Memoriam
Paul Richard Jarecky
1962-2013
Rest In Peace
Dana Point, California, June 2013

Long-time ARMRIT MRI Technologist (since 1996) and Alliance Healthcare Manager, Paul Jarecky, died while surfing on the evening of Thursday June 6th. Paul was 50 years old and leaves behind a wife of nearly 30 years named Sue and two children Bryan and Allyson. He had been with Alliance for 29 years as...

"...it's obvious that three out of four categories of Medical Imaging do not employ ionizing radiation..."

A Letter to CA MRI Schools
Bellerose, NY June 2013

Examples of current (Oregon & West Virginia), and proposed (New Mexico) legislation licensing MRI Technologists in these states, all include ARMRIT MRI certification as a criteria for licensure. Extremely important to note: at the time licensure was proposed and passed,

When MRI Techs Realize Their Worth, They'll be ARMRIT
Bellerose, NY July 2013

In Medicine, as in many professional fields, it is the 'Specialist' who commands the most respect. Specialists are in demand, when it comes to their respective skills, such as Neurology, Cardiology, Oncology, or Obstetrics, especially when surgery is involved. You wouldn't want a General Practitioner (GP) to perform your Neuro-surgery or knee replacement or an Orthopedic Surgeon perform your Cardiac surgery.

This is also true for Nursing, Physician Assistants, and Medical Imaging Technologists and has become especially true for MRI and the MRI Technologist, a Specialist in Medical Imaging.

We are proud to announce that Thomas Schrack, ARMRIT, Manager of MR Education and Technical Development, Fairfax Radiological Consultants, Fairfax, VA, has finished another new course for the ICPME medical publishing group on:

Cardiac MRI
Available on-line, this course is one of many authored and co-authored by the new member of ARMRIT’s Board of Directors. Tom is also the author of:

Advanced MRI Neurological Applications
MRI Contrast Agent Safety
MRI of the Brain and Spine

Fairfax, VA, May 2013

Thomas Schrack, ARMRIT
Authors New Booklet for MRI CME -ICPME.

Ontario Airport Hotel & Conference Center
Ontario, California

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...of Medical Imaging do not employ ionizing radiation (X-ray, CT, Mammography), rendering the title Radiology limited to only 25% of all categories.

Ultra-sonography utilizes sound-waves (non-ionizing), MRI utilizes electro-magnetic fields (non-ionizing), and even Nuclear Medicine utilizes the injection of a radio-isotope that is emitted from the body as a Photon and detected by a Gamma camera, (no X-rays involved). That being said, the term Radiology should be rendered to antiquity or at least to the 25% it still accurately describes.

Important organizations, such as the: American Healthcare Radiology Administrators (AHRA), Oregon Board of Radiologic Technologists (OBRT), West Virginia Board of Radiologic Technologists (WVBRT), and the New Mexico Board of Radiologic Technologists (NMBRT), have all modernized, respectively, to the: Association for Medical Imaging Management (AMIM), Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI), West Virginia Board of Medical Imaging (WVBMI), and the New Mexico Board of Medical Imaging (NMBMI).

Following suit are the numerous hospital radiology departments and private diagnostic imaging facilities that have updated the title of their department and facilities to Medical Imaging Department or Medical Imaging, PC or LLC, etc... The perception alone has made having a diagnostic imaging procedure less threatening and a more pleasant experience. The twenty first century is well underway, let's embrace it.

James F. Coffin, ARMRIT, President

A Letter to CA MRI Schools (cont. from Pg.1)

...these states had only a handful, or less, of ARMRIT Techs residing and working in the field, Oregon (24), West Virginia (0), and New Mexico (6), and no MRI Schools. Also important, New Mexico is the home of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), the ad hoc lobbying arm of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

In comparison, California currently has the most MRI Schools (7), the most active campuses (10), and the most ARMRIT MRI Technologists (650), yet licensure for MRI Techs has not even been considered nor proposed. This must be and can be changed for California ARMRIT Techs in general, especially, your current students and future graduates, and to ensure a level playing field. This can only be initiated and proposed by California constituents and must be a concerted effort by the MRI Schools, ARMRIT Techs, and MRI students residing in the State of California.

The legislation passed are historical precedent and evidence that:
1) Fair legislation can be passed in States with even a few ARMRIT constituents,
2) California has the largest percentage of ARMRIT Techs and MRI schools in the US in comparison to OR, WV, and NM.
3) Government Agencies cannot be biased to one private, non-profit group over another.

"... at the time licensure was proposed and passed, these states had only a handful, or less, of ARMRIT Techs residing and working in the field..."  

That being said, I strongly encourage all California MRI School Owners, Directors, Administrators, and Instructors to open the lines of communication to begin the discussion and process to propose legislation to license MRI Technologists in the State of California. I also propose the organization of a Coalition of MRI Schools, in California and Nationally.  
Your attention to this matter is extremely important and urgent.

Sincerely,
James F. Coffin, ARMRIT President

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employing facility, this is usually accomplished sacrificing the safety of the patient, diagnostic accuracy, and the Tech's own 'bottom line'. Since when does a tech who performs more than one modality get paid twice or three times as much for two or three modalities? Let's not forget the added stress of trying to be proficient at all modalities, the so-called 'Super Tech' ends up stressed out, burnt out, all at the expense of those we serve, the patient.

History has shown that all medical imaging technologists do better when they are recognized as specialists in their field. The advent of Ultrasound and its subspecialties, Nuclear Medicine and its subspecialties, and now MRI and its subspecialties, followed by the organization of their respective professional certifying bodies, ARDMS, NMTCB, and ARMRIT, is a 21st century and beyond philosophy. While the 'Jack of All Trades' mentality is archaic, potentially dangerous, serving only those that want to diminish each specialty by wandering and drowning down those specialties as a subspecialty of Radiography, a 20th century philosophy, and the tech specialist loses.

"...MRI pulse sequences and applications have increased exponentially, and there is no end in sight. This bodes well for MRI Technologists and the MRI field in general."

Let's face it, when MRI Techs realize their real worth, they will take themselves out of the shadows and false security of the Radiography umbrella and the 'jack of all trades' mentality of the ARRT, and shine in the light of their specialty, MRI. When, and only when, that happens, will MRI Techs get the recognition, respect, and reward for who they are, MRI Specialists.

The first step is to be certified as a MRI Tech by an organization that expresses MRI in everything it says and does, making no apologies for its stance. The ARMRIT certificate states: has successfully completed the examination for Magnetic Resonance Imaging and is qualified as a Registered Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist.

This leads to the second step by making a clear and resounding statement to all that you are an MRI Specialist with the education, training, and skills to perform your chosen profession safely, accurately, and diagnostically.

The third step is what you do every day, practicing your specialty, honing your current skills, and adding new skills and applications, with focus and without the distractions of another modality. Specialists within their profession are only a fraction of the total number, yet they stand out as leaders in their field, with the influence and responsibility that comes with it.

James F. Coffin, ARMRIT, President
...and passion about the industry with a keen business sense. A strong leader, he had a “no nonsense” management style. This was because he wanted the best out of his teams for the good of the patients and customers they served.

Most importantly to me, Paul Jarecky was my friend. We worked together for many years at Alliance and always had good times. When he and I traded territories in early 2011, we became close friends. He was a true gentleman who genuinely cared about people, especially his friends. Paul and I looked forward to the ARMRIT conferences every year where we would spend time at the seminar and hang together in the afternoons and evenings. Those were great times that I will definitely miss.

Paul died doing one of the things he loved most, surfing the waves off the coast of Orange County near his home in Dana Point, CA. He will be dearly missed by all those whose lives he touched, especially his family, friends, and coworkers. With a characteristic and infectious laugh, he could light up a room or a conversation and make people happy. I’ll miss hearing that laugh. The world has lost a truly great person far too early.

"We weren’t prepared for you to go. You were too full of life to be taken away from us so soon.

It’s still hard to believe How much we’ll miss your smile And your laughter in our ears. Your absence leaves a hole in us We’re filling with our tears.

You taught us how to be our best,

To in the moment live, To never hold a grudge for long, And loyal friendship give. Your presence was a light and joy...”

---Author Unknown

Rest in Peace, My Brother. Tim Troncale

---Author Unknown

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ARMRIT 2013-Topics & Lecturers

"History of MRI Technology & Education of the MRI Technologist”
James F. Coffin, ARMRT, President

"Functional MRI & Applications-Update”
Stephen Dushaw, ARMRT

"MRI Patient Safety”
David Diffenderfer, ARMRT, RT

“How to Prepare for an ACR Unannounced Accreditation Site Visit”
Leonard Lucey, American Coll. of Radiology

"MRI After Arthroplasty: Comparison of MAVRIC & Conventional FSE Technqs.”
Kevin Keenan, ARMRT

"Blood Pooling Contrast Agents in MRI”
Timothy Smith, ARMRT

"MRI of the Brain for Hemorrhage”
Charles G. Nyman, ARMRT

"Cardiac MRI, Works in Progress”
William Woodward, ARMRT

"Pre Natal / Post Partum & Adolescent Imaging in MRI”
William Richards, ARMRT

"MRI of the Female Pelvis: Techniques & Applications”
Timothy Troncale, ARMRT, RT

"Diffusion Weighted Imaging (DWI), Principles and Applications”
Timothy Smith, ARMRT

"MRI Positioning & Techniques for the Technologist”
Douglas Boyd of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

"Clinical MR Spectroscopy”
Thomas Schrack, BS, ARMRT

"How to Prepare for an ACR Unannounced Accreditation Site Visit”
Leonard Lucey, American Coll. of Radiology

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