

# MRVector Newsletter

American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists

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[www.armrit.org](http://www.armrit.org)

## ARMRIT 2012 7th Annual Meeting Report 'Because MRI is a Specialty!'

Summer 2013 Issue  
Vol. XIX No. 1

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.



(Cont. pg. 2)

### Its Medical Imaging Stupid! Ye Olde Radiology

Bellerose, NY June 2013

Phrases come to mind such as 'Keep it Simple Stupid', easily remembered by the acronym KISS, and "It's the Economy Stupid", made famous by President Bill Clinton in at least one campaign. I submit, "Its Medical Imaging Stupid" to the list.

As MRI completes its third decade as a clinically approved (FDA) diagnostic Medical Imaging modality, undeniably the gold standard for diagnosis utilizing non-ionizing radiation, it's obvious that three out of four categories... (cont. Pg. 2)

### 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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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... (cont. pg. 3)

**"...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, (cont. Pg. 2)

### 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. (cont. pg 3)

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

Fairfax, VA, May 2013

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

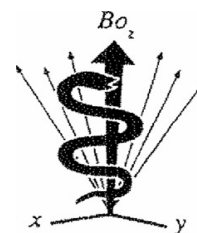
#### ▶ MRI Contrast Agent Safety

#### ▶ MRI of the Brain and Spine

(cont. pg. 3)

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### ARMRIT 2013 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Seminar

Nov. 7th - 9th

at the  
**Ontario Airport Hotel & Conference Center**  
Ontario, California



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Its Medical Imaging Stupid! (cont. from Pg.1)

...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 Gama 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, ARMTRIT, President

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

...these states had only a handful, or less, of ARMTRIT 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 ARMTRIT MRI Technologists (650), yet licensure for MRI Techs has not even been considered nor proposed. This must be and can be changed for California ARMTRIT 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, ARMTRIT 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 ARMTRIT constituents.
- 2) California has the largest percentage of ARMTRIT 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 ARMTRIT 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, ARMTRIT  
President

\*\*\*To Renew your BLS on-line,\*\*\*  
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## ARMTRIT 2011 DVD

This course meets all criteria and has been approved by **AHRA**:  
The Association for Medical Imaging Management for **12 Category A** Continuing Education Credits.



[DVD for 12 CME Credits](#)

To order - Visit: [www.armrit.org](http://www.armrit.org)

ARMTRIT 2012 Mtg. Report (cont. from Pg.1)

Opening remarks from Jim Coffin, President and W.M. Sy, MD led right into the first lecture by Senior Director and Legal Counsel of the American College of Radiology (ACR), Leonard Lucey. Mr. Lucey, speaking for the second time and scheduled for ARMTRIT 2013, presented the subject, "Accreditation Process from A to Z". Next presenter was Humberto Wong, MD, of Hoag Radiology & Newport Harbor Radiology Associates of California who presented "Clinical Cardiac MRI: An Introduction".

Frequent contributor, Stephen Dashnaw, ARMTRIT, Director of Imaging Services, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, presented "Functional MRI and its Applications" followed by Scott Williams, MD, of Newport Harbor Radiology Associates, California, presenting "Body MR: Clinical Insights & Applications (MR Enterography) and John Lieu, MD, also of Newport Harbor Radiology Associates, California with "Musculoskeletal MRI: Basic Anatomy & Pathology".

The next lecture was a follow-up by Irina Rondel, MD, Director of Breast Imaging, The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, NY, "Breast MRI and MRI Guided Procedures". MR Breast Imaging has established a niche as a specialty of MRI... (Cont. Pg. 4)

## NEW! ARMRIT 2012 DVD

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The Association for Medical Imaging Management for **12 Category A** Continuing Education Credits.



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**DVD Fee: \$ 225 each**

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When MRI Techs Realize Their Worth, They'll be ARMRIT (cont. from pg.1)

Beginning its fourth decade and since its inception as an FDA approved clinical diagnostic medical imaging technique in 1983, 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.

Today, it is more and more common to see MRI positions searching for MRI Techs specializing in Breast MRI, Cardiac MRI, Orthopedic MRI, Pediatric MRI, and coming full circle, Central Nervous System MRI. These positions require a technologist who thoroughly understands MRI in its general applications, utilized daily at tens of thousands of MRI facilities nationally and internationally, yet must be an expert in the MRI specialty they've acquired, usually by being outstanding in all aspects of MRI.

Where does this leave the 'Jack of All Trades' technologist, usually originating from Radiography? These techs diminish their own self worth, professionally, take jobs from other techs who do specialize, and while they may help the 'bottom line' of the

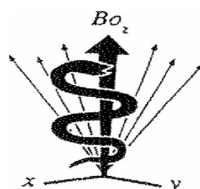
employing facility, this is usually accomplished sacrificing the safety of the patient, diagnostic accuracy, and the Tech's own 'bottom line'. Since when does a tech who performs more than one modality get paid twice or three times as much for two or three modalities? Let's not forget the added stress 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 watering and dumbing 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

T. Schrack, ARMRIT Authors New Booklet for MRI CME-ICPME. (cont. from pg.1)

...and proudly displays the "ARMRIT" credential after his name.

The new section is listed as "NEW!" under the *MRI for Technologists* heading. Taking the course is free (small fee for a printed & mailed certificate).

CME credits are awarded by the ASRT and are acceptable as fulfilling ARMRIT Techs' MRI CME credit requirement which is 6 per year, in MRI subjects, each renewal period. ARMRIT accepts credits from the AHRA, ACCME, and ASRT as long as the subjects have MRI in the title.

Visit: [www.icpme.us](http://www.icpme.us) to access these "**Premium Educational Activities**". James F. Coffin, President

In Memoriam - P.R. Jarecky (cont. from pg.1)

...a technologist and a manager. He was also an instructor who taught lab for the MR Program at West Coast Ultrasound Institute in Ontario, CA.

Paul was a great individual and a real professional with a high degree of integrity. He loved healthcare and taking care of patients. He also had a vast amount of knowledge...(Cont. Pg.4)

...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 ARMIRIT 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.



Paul R. Jarecky, ARMIRIT #1528 (since 1996)

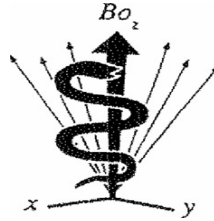
"We weren't prepared for you to go.  
You were too full of life to be  
Taken away from us so soon.

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



ARMIRIT 2012 Mtg. Report (cont. from Pg.2)

...requiring protocols and pulse sequences dedicated to imaging of the breasts with biopsy. Biopsy is a requirement of ACR Accreditation for an MRI Breast Imaging laboratory.

Lecturing for the third consecutive year, Sean Beaty, MD of Radiology Specialists, Ltd., Las Vegas, NV presented "MR of the Female Pelvis: Techniques & Applications". An expert in sports injury and orthopedic imaging, Dr. Beaty covered this important, yet less covered, subject with clarity and insight.

Next at the podium was Timothy Troncale, MRI Program Senior Director of the West Coast Ultrasound Institute and Technical Director of MRI for RadNet, a national provider of MRI and Medical Imaging services. Mr. Troncale presented "The Art of the Technologist Part 2: the Pulse Sequences", a sequel to his very well received "Part 1" at ARMIRIT 2011. Addressing issues relevant to every MRI Technologist every day, Tim makes clear issues in MRI that the average MRI Tech finds confusing, especially those without the benefit of attending a formal MRI Program.

With the introduction of new applications, now employed clinically, such as MR Enterography, Fetal Brain Imaging and fMRI, Thomas Schrack covered "Clinical MR Spectroscopy". Mr. Schrack is the Manager of Education and Technical Development for Fairfax Radiology Consultants, PC in Virginia. Tom brought to light an application that many MRI facilities have the ability to perform but rarely do. He made this subject easy to grasp and left many wondering how their

facility could benefit by incorporating this diagnostic tool.

A first-time contributor, Douglas Boyd of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, presented "MRI Positioning & Techniques for the Technologist". Douglas is also a Clinical Instructor for the West Coast Ultrasound Institute's MRI Program in Phoenix. Of course, MRI Positioning is an essential part of the clinical training of any MRI student.

Last but certainly not least, William O'Connell, Senior Medical Physicist with GE Healthcare, finished the lecture series with a presentation of immense interest to all involved in the MRI field, "Coming Attractions: Current Research in MRI Imaging". Highlighting the seemingly never ending potential of MRI applications, Bill's lecture ensured the audience MRI's future is bright.

James F. Coffin, ARMIRIT President  
Bellerose, NY

ARMIRIT LAB COAT PATCH



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### ARMIRIT 2013-Topics & Lecturers

"History of MRI Technology & Education of the MRI Technologist"

James F. Coffin, ARMIRIT, President

"Functional MRI & Applications-Update"

Stephen Dashnaw, ARMIRIT

"MRI Patient Safety"

David Diffenderfer, ARMIRIT, 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, ARMIRIT

"Diffusion Weighted Imaging (DWI), Principles and Applications"

Charles G. Nyman, ARMIRIT

"MRI of the Brain for Hemorrhage"

William Richards, ARMIRIT

"Blood Pooling Contrast Agents in MRI"

Thomas Schrack, BS, ARMIRIT

"Pre Natal / Post Partum & Adolescent Imaging in MRI"

Timothy Smith, ARMIRIT

"Diffusion Tensor Imaging-Fundamentals of DTI Tractography"

Timothy Troncale, ARMIRIT, RT

"Cardiac MRI, Works in Progress"

William Woodward, ARMIRIT