

THE TECHNIGRAM

JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS



Student Leadership: Is it really as RAD as they make it sound?

AB387: A Perspective

Reflections on the ASRT House of Delegates 2017

PLUS: President's Message

AND: Legislative Report: Fall 2017

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President's Message

By Doris Abrishami, MA, CRT(R)(M), ARRT

Dear Friends:



I have finally had a moment to reflect on my journey as 2016-2017 president of CSRT and I am amazed at the countless, everyday contributions of our Radiologic Technologists and Radiation Therapists to our patients. Throughout the year, I have witnessed technologists and therapists working together to provide the best care possible for their patients. Whether they are working at the multi-hundred bed hospitals, or at out-patient imaging centers and clinics, these technologists and therapists give their 110% in every situation. I witnessed the same dedication as I attended

the American Society of Radiologic Technologists' Educational Symposium and House of Delegates meeting this year in Orlando, Florida. Technologists and radiation therapists from all over the United States gathered to make a difference in their professions, listen to each others' points of view, network, and learn from the best in our field.

Being a delegate and representative of the CSRT is not only an honor but it also is a great responsibility. I had the pleasure of being a delegate for the second time and as I stood to honor our national anthem during the opening ceremony, I felt a tremendous pride and sense of obligation to guide our students as an educator, to serve our patients as a technologist, and to represent the CSRT members as their president to the best of my abilities.

Our students are the future of our profession! I have had the honor of serving as a student mentor for the past three years at the ASRT House of Delegate meetings and I have enjoyed the enthusiasm and never-ending pursuit of knowledge exhibited by our student representatives. During one of the last meetings with the students, they were encouraged to ask questions from the delegates. Many students asked what modality or area of study should they pursue once they have completed their studies as imaging technologists or radiation therapists. My answer to them was to consider continuing their education and becoming an educator in our field and start getting involved with research and writing. As more senior educators and baby boomer generation are retiring, we find our profession in need of more educators who could guide the next generation of imagers. Our profession is going to need more instructors with Masters and Doctoral degrees in the near future and it is our obligation to express this message to the next generation of radiographers and radiation therapists.

Our November 2017 issue of Technigram is packed with many articles such as; our efforts toward opposition of AB 387 as well as many other legislative news throughout the United States. A first time delegate, and a CSRT board member, **Lisa Naugle** describes her experience in Florida as well. Finally, I encourage you to read more as our RT student leaders share their experiences from ASRT House of Delegates and what leadership means to them.

In addition, I hope you find the time to spend a few hours at CSRT's virtual conference that will take place for the entire month of November. Please give us your feedback and remarks so that CSRT can serve you better in the upcoming year. CSRT board members and your representatives continually ask themselves: "How can we make today to be better than yesterday?"

All the best,

Call for Presenters

The CSRT is seeking presenters for our upcoming **face-to-face seminars, live webinars, and/or pre-recorded online education**. Share your knowledge with members of The California Society of Radiologic Technologists on topics such as:

- Digital Radiography
- Radiation Therapy
- Fluoroscopy
- Mammography
- Education
- CT

For more information contact the CSRT President Doris Abrishami at doris.abrishami@csun.edu or the CSRT Office at (415)278-0441 or email@csrt.org.

Upcoming Events

■ CSRT 2017 Virtual Annual Conference

November 1-31, 2017

Online Education & Exhibits

Registration will remain open throughout the month at www.csrt.org

■ CSRT Student Committee Meeting

November 14, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Online Meeting via WebEx

Visit www.csrt.org or contact the CSRT office for the WebEx link

CSRT Presents

RAD Talks

2nd Annual
Virtual Conference

November 2017



CSRT's 2nd Annual Virtual Conference will be held entirely online with participant access for the full month of November 1-30, 2017.

- ✓ **ACCESS** the conference on your time and from anywhere – through your computer!
- ✓ **INTERACT** with fellow participants in discussion forums & the virtual exhibit hall
- ✓ **EARN** up to 15+ Category A CEU Credits – over half of the biannual requirement! Certificates are delivered instantly upon completion!
- ✓ **LEARN** diverse topics including Fluoroscopy, Radiation Therapy & more with instant online access to video presentations from top experts in the field
- ✓ **STUDENTS** compete to win scholarships & submit scientific displays for cash prizes
- ✓ **OBTAIN** California CEU credits to meet the Radiologic Health Branch (RHB) mandates

CSRT 2017-2018 Board of Directors



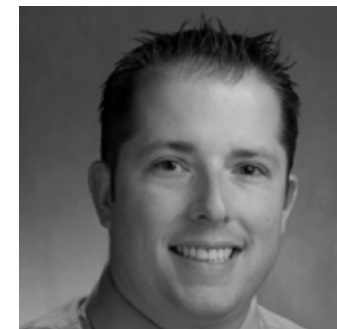
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Student Committee Chair



ASRT House of Delegates Meeting

By Lisa Naugle, BSRT, CRT, (R)(M)(CT)(MR)ARRT

I had the privilege this past June of attending the ASRT Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting in Orlando. I was fortunate enough to be selected as an alternate delegate for the CSRT, and found myself suddenly filling in as a delegate. Since this was my first time, I really had no idea what to expect. I was looking forward to learning some of the behind-the-scenes workings of the ASRT House of Delegates, but didn't really understand what that would entail.

Fortunately, I was attending with my co-

delegate, CSRT President **Doris Abrishami**, (pictured on the right) who had attended the previous year in Las Vegas. I figured I could ask her everything that I needed to know about the proceedings, in case I was lost. (And I admit I did feel a little lost at times.)

The ASRT adeptly handled all my travel arrangements, and required me to review a variety of online materials prior to attending. Some of these reviewed parliamentary procedure, the ASRT organizational structure, and the Practice Standards. I had a lot of homework to do! Once we

were actually in Orlando, I received more materials to help me navigate the process, including *The Beam*, a publication by the ASRT for attendees. I also downloaded the ASRT Conference App, which was easy to navigate and extremely helpful in keeping track of my delegate-required meetings.

Once I began attending the HOD business meetings and chapter meetings, two things struck me:

First of all, most technologists never see the workings of this organization that watches over our profession. I have

been a technologist for over 25 years, and although I benefit from the work of the ASRT in advancing the standards of our profession and providing continuing education and resources, I don't really think of the investment made by so many individuals who have committed themselves to serving our profession for so many years. It was a privilege to be able to witness and take part in electing new officers and discussing the various issues affecting technologists all over the country.



Many states are still struggling to establish licensure. As hybrid imaging continues to develop, such as PET/MR, what sort of educational requirements will be necessary to ensure patient safety? Whose scope of practice might be affected in the future? How do we position our technologists to keep up with the technological changes that lie ahead? Establish a mandatory BS degree as entry level, or keep the AS degree requirement and just recommend the BS degree? So many issues to consider, and it was enlightening to hear from technologists in

different states express how these things will affect their practice.

“I know with busy work schedules and busy lives, it’s difficult to make the time to be informed about issues related to our profession, let alone take the step to advocate for our field and our patients. But our jobs and our patients depend on it.”

Secondly, I came away from my experience at these meetings realizing how important it is for “average techs” to be involved in the future of our profession. More than one state affiliate representative shared their struggles with other professions downplaying the need for radiologic technologists to be licensed, just so that they can encroach upon our scope of practice and essentially do our jobs without the education we possess. Consider the recent VA proposal, which would have allowed Nurse Practitioners to “perform, supervise, and interpret medical imaging examinations”. A similar proposal was introduced in the Kentucky legislature. And Wisconsin recently battled legislation that was introduced in their state government to delete the Radiologic Technology

Exam Board. These were defeated because technologists wrote letters expressing, among other things, concern for patient safety. Yet, many state affiliates struggle to get active participation from the technologists in their state, with some affiliate chapters closing and reopening over the years. (Being on the board of the CSRT, I can certainly identify with this one.....such a big state, yet so few take the time to become members.) This is an ongoing struggle for all our organizations. Yet so important for not only advocacy for our profession, but for our patients. Having non-technologists, with mere hours of radiation protection and physics education, performing radiologic exams is a bad idea for patient safety and quality of care.

I know with busy work schedules and busy lives, it’s difficult to make the time to be informed about issues related to our profession, let alone take the step to advocate for our field and our patients. But our jobs and our patients depend on it. And we owe it to the scores of technologists who worked to establish our ASRT and standards of our profession. I am proud to be a part of the Radiologic Technologist community, not only in our state, but nationwide. I hope you also will value this diverse community, and work to strengthen and protect it. ♦

Student Leadership: Is it really as *RAD* as they make it sound?

By Denise Clark



After all your hard work, you have been selected into a Radiologic Science program. As you are sitting in orientation, you hear testimonials about all the different leadership roles and all the benefits that are associated with these

positions. You can't help but silently weigh on the thought of how much extra time and responsibilities you will be taking on if you decide to step up and get involved. The main focus in your mind is if you will be able to handle a full time class load, clinical, and whatever is attached with becoming a leader within your program or associations all the while considering the perks of doing it.

Leadership roles are key components in any type of program. They designate a specific person to take charge and act as coordinators, liaisons, representatives, and many other things. According to an article in *Radiologic Technology*, "Professionals and Professionalism: Developing Leaders In Radiologic Technology," the students of today are the leaders of tomorrow and there is an emphasis of instilling leadership qualities in students now by promoting student involvement and mentorship. As with any job, there are always responsibilities and time requirements necessary to accomplish the underlying goal (Watson, 2003). As a student, these roles offer you the opportunity to display preexisting skills or acquire new ones that can increase your marketability in your job search. Even though there are numerous benefits, people

still show great reservations when they are presented with these opportunities. I have interviewed a few students for their perspective on leadership involvement to gauge if the fears are truly a misconception or the reality. Here are the answers to my questions:

Do you hold any leadership roles? If so, can you describe your responsibilities for those positions?

Sarah: At the moment, I am the president of our program association. My responsibilities as association president include: planning, organizing, and carrying out plans for monthly meetings. I also appoint and delegate the cabinet members to perform specific tasks. I reserve rooms on campus for our events/meetings and general RS program needs. Lastly, I attend conferences and meetings on campus to maintain the association's recognition.

In addition, I am also a student representative for the Radiologic Sciences (RS) Alumni Association at our university. For this position, I attend monthly meetings and collaborate with the RS Alumni team to coordinate and plan future events.

JC: I am the public relations officer for our program association. I am responsible for student outreach, informing members about upcoming meetings, events, and plans. I also advise future students on the ins and outs of the program and career field.

Chris: I am the class president. My duties are to raise money toward our graduation party by selling t-shirt and organizing fundraising events. I also ensure the class is headed in the right direction.

Do you feel that there are more or fewer responsibilities than were implied when the position was first advertised to you?

Sarah: I think I was aware of the amount of responsibilities I had to do. However, I was unaware of how much time each responsibility would take. For example, I did not know that it required a lot of paperwork, signatures, and at least five business days to reserve a room on campus to have a program association meeting when I first became president! But since I know that now, I can better prepare for future meetings and events.

Chris: I feel there was the right amount of responsibilities advertised for the position. There were some things I had wished I knew beforehand but I felt prepared to take on the challenge of leading the class.

Do you feel that you spend more or less time than you anticipated on leadership responsibilities or activities?

Sarah: I knew becoming the program association president would be a big time commitment, but I think I spend slightly more time on this leadership responsibility than I originally anticipated. It surprised me how much

work goes into prepping for monthly meetings!

JC: I spend more time than I thought but it is worth it!

Chris: The first year did not require a lot of time, but I plan on spending a lot more of my time with leadership responsibilities as we near our graduation.

What benefits do you feel you have acquired from your leadership experience?

Sarah: I have gained a tremendous amount of confidence in my public speaking abilities. I now feel comfortable speaking in front of a group of people since I have had so much practice as the association president.

Chris: I have become better at communicating with others and learned how to multitask more efficiently.

JC: This position has allowed me to improve my time management and communication skills. I have also been able to meet a lot of new people and increase my confidence with public speaking.

Now that you have experience, what advice would you give new students entering a program about accepting a leadership role?

Sarah: The first thing you must do is buy a calendar and stay organized! Having a leadership role means you will be responsible for many different tasks, so having a place to write out any events or due dates is crucial to success.

JC: Seek them out as soon as possible! Sometimes it's just taking the initiative to make great things happen. The feeling of being apart of something special is satisfying.

Chris: TAKE IT! Don't be afraid to step up and take on responsibilities. Over all, the experience has been rewarding and allowed me to improve as a person.

“The only obstacle to overcome on the journey to leadership is learning to believe in yourself and your abilities. Learning these leadership skills takes time, patience, and persistence...”

In your opinion, which do you believe is the main factor in deterring students' commitment?

Sarah: I believe it is the extra time commitment that is the main factor in deterring students away from being involved. Students studying Radiologic Sciences have a lot on their plate. Between classes and clinical, its hard to also maintain a social life as well. So I feel like many students will use the excuse “I don't have time for that!” when presented with involvement opportunities.

JC: The RS program itself is already very demanding with class and clinical. For some students, taking on additional responsibilities when they do not know exactly all they are getting into can be a challenge, especially if they have never taken on any before.

Chris: In my opinion, time commitment is the main factor in deterring students away from leadership roles because many of us believe it will take away from our studies.

After speaking with these students and hearing them describe their various commitments, it is quite obvious that there are definite demands for additional time and responsibilities. Even though these students are stretched beyond their limits, they still speak highly of their positions and experiences. I think it is clear that despite the fears and reservations, the benefits are well worth it. Being a leader is not an easy task, but it is with these roles that we are able to strive forward and continuously make differences throughout our profession and in the world.

The article Professionals and Professionalism: Developing Leaders In Radiologic Technology states:

“The only obstacle to overcome on the journey to leadership is learning to believe in yourself and your abilities. Learning these leadership skills takes time, patience, and persistence...” (Watson, 2003).

Eventually, it will come down to the fact that in that first orientation you found the courage to raise your hand and say YES, I can do it! ♦

My ASRT Experience *By Sarah Cope*



In February 2017, I received an email from my professor indicating there was an opportunity for students to be sent to the ASRT Educational Symposium and House of Delegates meeting in Florida during summer. After reading the criteria and submitting an application, I

hoped for the best as I waited to see if I was one of the selected students. About two months later, I received the email congratulating me and I was off to Florida in June! Although I was extremely excited for this opportunity, I was a little anxious because I did not know what to expect. However, my experience at the ASRT Educational Symposium and House of Delegates meeting was great and encouraged me to be a more active member in the Radiologic Sciences community!

During the first day of ASRT Educational Symposium and House of Delegates meeting, I attended five educational courses. The information offered in each course, or session, was presented in a timely and organized manner which was appreciated. The course I enjoyed most was titled, "Forensic Imaging: Impact on Medicolegal Death investigation and Research." This topic was discussed by Chandra Gerrard who explained the role of a forensic radiologic technologist. It was interesting to hear Gerrard's exciting stories and challenges she faced while having this job. As a current student, it is encouraging to hear about all of the different career options I will have as a radiologic technologist. The main reason why I enjoy attending this conferences is because I am allowed to gain information about different aspects in radiology

"As a current student, it is encouraging to hear about all of the different career options I will have as a radiologic technologist."

that I normally would not have received in a normal classroom setting. Knowing about these unique career options excites me for my future and encourages me to stay focused.

The next three days consisted of the House of Delegates business meetings and Chapter meetings. Attending the House of Delegates business meetings as a current student was a great opportunity because I got to see the importance of having a legislative body of the ASRT.

I enjoyed listening to the main motions that were forwarded by the Commission and watching members have discussions about these motions. Before attending these conference, I never understood the process of the submission of motions, processing of motions, and amending motions. So having this opportunity to learn about and see them in action was interesting. Attending the House of Delegates business meetings and Chapter

meetings allowed me to have a greater respect for the professional standards of practice already in place.

Overall, I had a great experience attending the ASRT Educational Symposium and House of Delegates meeting in Florida. I hope more students are able to have the opportunity to attend in the following years because it is a fantastic educational experience. I expanded my knowledge on the different career opportunities a registered radiologic technologist can have and I learned how the House of Delegates meeting functions and what items of business they discuss. I now have a sparked interested in becoming a delegate in the future and representing my own state. I can't thank my school enough for allowing me to attending this conference. I hope to attend the one next year and many years after that! ♦

Applications for the Student Leadership Development Program to attend the 2018 ASRT House of Delegates meeting are being accepted through December 19, 2017. Visit www.csrt.org for details.

Legislative Report: Fall 2017

By Lorenza Clausen, CRT, RT(R)(CT)(MR), ARRT



The California legislature will be wrapping up its session soon and will not be back in session until January 2018. Most will be in session through mid-September, although some work will continue until the end of November. The biggest news

to come out of this year's session was related to student internships in allied health professions. This included the medical imaging programs and the clinical hours that we must perform to qualify for the ARRT registry examination. AB 387 was introduced earlier this year and had its final amendments at the end of May. Having made its way through the Assembly Labor Committee, it was moved on to the Assembly Appropriations committee. It failed to move on and the author, Assemblyman Thurmond (D), pulled the bill and placed it in the inactive file for now.

As bills run a two-year course, this could be reintroduced in the next session in January. A large response came out in force to oppose this bill. The JRCERT sent letters to the various committees and offices, as well as, many other related groups, educators and individuals in California. The bill was supported here in California by the union SEIU. While the intent may have initially been positive, the negative impacts to the allied health programs and those who hire would have been great. The bill sought to expand the definition of employer so as to provide minimum wage provisions for those completing supervised work experience. It is required for licensure, registration and/or certification, but can add numerous hours to the student's busy classroom and

study schedule. Some of the programs included could be radiologic technology, respiratory therapy, medical assistant, laboratory technology, dental and so forth.

The Radiologic Technology and Certification Committee (RTCC) will meet again in October for its biannual meeting. The meeting will be held in Sacramento on October 25th. The most recent minutes that have been approved are from the October 2016 meeting and are posted on the website. The committee consists of 3 radiologists, 2 orthopedic MDs, 1 cardiologist MD, 2 CRTs, a podiatrist, a chiropractor and a radiology physicist. Our CRT representatives are **Anita Slechta** and **Nancy Perkins**.

For more information, agenda, location, and committee information you can follow this link:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/RHB-RTCC.aspx>

On the national front, many states continue to pursue or introduce licensure bills. In other cases, states are fighting off encroachment attempts by non imaging groups. Nevada, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Missouri all introduced or are working on licensure bills in the past several months. The discussions are ongoing and hearings have been held, with many sessions ending and the process put on hold until the next year.

North Dakota was able to maintain modality specific licensure, which was newly enacted earlier in the year (SB 2198), and did not pass the more recent HB 1371. Radiography, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy and Sonography were maintained while MRI was added.

West Virginia fought off attempts to repeal the Patient Protection Law and the 40 year old West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners. This could have removed licensure from that state. Several other states have seen similar encroachment bills introduced that would allow nonphysician personnel such as NPs to perform and interpret medical imaging exams.

Pennsylvania introduced a licensure bill on July 25, 2017 by Representative Bryan Cutler. He is a former medical imaging professional and wants to ensure consistent standards. The bill would create the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board of Examiners. It will contain licensure standards for nonphysician personnel.

Two RA bills were introduced in June. SB 769 and HR 1904 would create the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act of 2017. Services performed by RAs would allow for Medicare reimbursement to facilities and radiology practices for imaging services performed by an RA. Currently 31 states license RAs, but this has been seen as an obstacle in obtaining the recognition needed to allow RAs to work on a broader scale nationwide.

Again, talk to your local, state and national representatives! They want to hear from you. Please contact your representatives to ask for support for the RA bills, as well as, any other issue relevant to medical imaging. This is an opportunity to educate our representatives about our profession. Please remember your state affiliate and support their efforts on your behalf. Without the support from the community, the CSRT and other state affiliates could not stay abreast of the professional happenings and keep you informed. ♦

Reflection on the ASRT House of Delegates 2017 *By Sarah Agbelusi*



I have had the privilege of serving on the student committee for the past two years, since my first month in my radiography program. In that time, I have served as a board member, student co-chair, and finally, in the position that I am in now,

student chair. It has been a wonderful journey and I am grateful for each experience that I have had. I have been able to volunteer at countless conferences, meet hundreds of people in my profession at these conferences, get an insider look at the workings of our profession, attend the House of Delegates meeting of the ASRT two years in a row. All of this was at no cost to me. I feel like I was able to receive a 2nd education for free. I'd like to share some of the things I've learned while attending these meetings.

One of the most influential experiences that I have had during my time in the student committee was attending the ASRT House of Delegates meeting and Educational Symposium. It was there that I got a better understanding of what it means to keep our profession a profession. Imagine a room with over 100 imaging professionals, from x-ray technologists to radiologist's assistants, CT techs, MRI techs, nuclear medicine, technologists from the military, QA/QC and everything in between and beyond sitting in one room together discussing the workings of the profession of medical imaging. Each bringing to the discussion a unique perspective of the profession highlighting challenges specific to a modality. These individuals discuss and ultimately vote to decide the scope of practice of our jobs. Essentially, they determine what we are allowed to do and not to do. In

the words of the speaker of the house for the ASRT House of Delegates "it's like congress, but we actually get things done." To experience this side of our profession, like the inner workings of a finely tuned clock, I developed a deep appreciation for what we do and what is necessary for us to be able to do what we do in our profession. This is something that I wish each medical imaging professional could experience. Especially when they are students. It really did open my eyes for the need for us to play an active role in our professional organizations, because without them, we don't have a profession.

For current students who are interested in the HOD meeting, I HIGHLY recommend that you go. It will open up many doors that you never thought were possible. It is a wealth of knowledge that you can't find in the school or clinical setting. It provides resources to the many different types of jobs that are available to you. Most importantly, it allows you to connect with other students and techs and to build relationships with people that you may have otherwise never gotten the opportunity to meet. I think in doing so, we can create a stronger community of radiologic technologists. ♦

Applications for the Student Leadership Development Program to attend the 2018 ASRT House of Delegates meeting are being accepted through December 19, 2017. Visit www.csrt.org for details.



AB387: A Perspective

By *Rachelle Campbell, Lynda Vega,
Melissa Wu and Gregory Adamczak*

On July 11, 2017, CSUN graduate students in the Health Administration Program and Professor James Sherman, hosted the “Protecting Student Opportunities in Healthcare” Town Hall. Members from the healthcare and college community attended to discuss the proposed bill, AB-387, including **Armine Sargsyan**, a Field Representative for Assembly member **Matt Dababneh**.

Representative Thurmond introduced the AB-387 “Minimum wage: health professionals: interns” bill in February 2017 in the California

House of Representatives. The essence of the bill would require hospitals to pay students minimum wage while in training programs such as Radiologic Technology. The bill passed through the Labor Committee in February and the Appropriations Committee in May but was pulled before the final vote in June. As this is a two-year bill, it has not gone away, but is simply in hiatus until January 2018 when it can be reintroduced.

Paying students salary outwardly seems like a good thing, but the bill brings up many issues

that were discussed by the panel. The speakers presented various perspectives regarding the potential impact the bill would have on the future of allied health education. **Doris Abrishami**, Assistant Professor in the Radiologic Sciences program at CSUN (pictured left) and **Rachelle Campbell**, Program Director for the Foothill College Radiologic Technology Program represented the school’s standpoint. From the school program perspective, this bill threatens to decrease or eliminate clinical placements for students entering the programs.

Clinical placement can be a difficult task, as clinical sites must weigh their departmental needs along with the budget when considering taking on students. If the hospital site must pay its technologist employees AND its students, that will limit the number of clinical placements that the hospital can offer to our educational programs. Additionally, colleges require that programs maintain a certain level of enrollment to ensure that they are meeting the mission to serve the community. Fewer clinical placements available will drive fewer enrollments, and program closure becomes a real possibility.

Another issue that was brought up is accreditation. The majority of California Community Colleges, CSUN and private Radiologic Technology Programs are accredited by Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. JRCERT is the gold standard for RT education, the programmatic equivalent to Joint Commission, and have written standards in place to prohibit students to be paid wages for their clinical hours. Thus, this bill threatens the accreditation of almost all the programs in California. Their focus is to determine not only if a program is meeting its goals, but how well they are meeting them. Student education and patient safety are the primary factors that permeate the JRCERT Accreditation Standards. The primary reason students are not allowed to be paid is to protect them from abuse, intentional and unintentional.

Sarah Cope, a student in the CSUN Radiologic Sciences Program, spoke regarding the student perspective. She articulated the need for money vs. the consideration of the impact of the bill on clinical training opportunities. Sarah spoke about what students needs are. Her understanding of both student monetary needs as well as the need for quality educational opportunities brings up a perspective that needs further exploration. What do students need and how can those needs be met within budgetary and accreditation guidelines?

Gregory Adamczak, Associate Director of Imaging Business Systems and Administration as well as **Dr. Martin Gallegos**, Senior Vice President for Policy

Development and Communications for the Hospital Association of Southern California represented the view point of the clinical institution. They both pointed out the impact of reimbursement cuts to imaging over the past few years and the overall impact that has had on the department budget. Another important concern that was discussed is the supervision requirements for students. Title 17 of the California Health and Safety Code requires that students be under supervision, direct or indirect, at all times while in the clinical setting. This requires a one to one ratio of student to technologist which helps to ensure the safety of both the student and the patient. However, to pay two people for one job is not cost effective and would impact the department's ability to meet their staffing needs and provide educational opportunities for students in a safe learning environment.

Role confusion and scope of practice is also a major concern. Paid interns would possibly assume the role of hospital staff, and therefore be required to be treated as such. This puts the inexperienced student in the same tier as an experienced technologist, and holds the student to that higher level. Additionally, the hospital would now need to be included in the extensive hiring and onboarding process, which is currently handled by the criteria of the school's program. Ultimately, from the perspective of the clinical sites, this bill could prompt hospitals and clinics across the state to limit the number of, or no longer offer to take any students.

Programs are the life's blood of our profession. If a clinical site makes itself available to take students, the entire department is involved in their education, not just the clinical instructor. This partnership continues to elevate the quality of patient care as well as the educational experience of the student. As it is, staff are continually learning with students and upholding the highest standards of care as they teach the next generations of healthcare providers.

The impact of this bill has the power to alter the Radiologic Technology profession in a profoundly negative way. Discussion is needed to ensure that the needs of students

and patient safety are at the forefront of policy. Destroying clinical opportunities, thereby shutting down programs is not the answer. What can we do as a community? Contact Assembly Members to voice concerns with this bill. Encourage programs to engage in dialogue with students to determine their needs. All parties, clinical institutions, programs and students, need to engage in a deeper discussion to find solutions that work. ♦

ASRT Educational Symposium and House of Delegates *By Denise Clark*



Every year the ASRT hosts an opportunity for technologists, educators, and students to participate in the discussion of the laws/policies surrounding the designated modality of that year. There are ASRT representatives from every

state that have the opportunity to critique and amend the proposals before it is then voted on and enacted into our law. In the midst of governance changes, there is an opportunity to attend lectures on a variety of topics for continuing education units (CE's). This year, the conference was held in Orlando, Florida from June 22nd - June 25th. I was fortunate enough to have attended the conference on an academic scholarship from California State University, Northridge. As a graduating senior in a Radiologic Sciences program, I found the symposium extremely informative and inspirational.

The lectures that were offered ranged from Computed Tomography Portable ambulances to ARRT 101 for students. I attended several courses, but the ones I felt were the most insightful were: Radiologic Educational Standards, CT ambulances- helping to minimize the effects of stroke, and Imaging the Transgender Patient. During the Imaging the Transgender lecture, they discussed the important terminology surrounding the LGBTQ community that is crucial to our understanding of our patients and how to approach and verify their identity.

The CT ambulances are part of a Tennessee University study to observe the effective rate of TPA administration

within the allotted time frame in an area with a high prevalence of strokes. These units are equipped with a Radiologic Technologist, a doctor, and a hospital-grade, full-functioning CT scanner. The units are dispatched once the traditional EMT/paramedic ambulances arrive on scene and a triage is completed and confirms a stroke is occurring. These are mainly located in only six major cities between the Midwest and the East Coast. Their fastest reported dispatch to administration of TPA is seven minutes and they currently have a 30% success rate compared to the national average of 2-7% for administering TPA within the designated time frame.

During the House of Delegates meeting, they discussed the topic of our professional educational standard being upgraded to the level of the Baccalaureate degree. This topic stirred up a lot of controversy amongst the crowd with both sides providing adequate reasoning to accept or decline the proposal. The opposing side was focused on the states with no licensure avoiding certification because it will be an increased cost for no need, and the latter due to a specific job description that is unique from those who possess an A.S. degree and to make our

profession more professional, such as nursing. Radiology and its educational standards will be up for debate in the annual meeting next June in Las Vegas.

As a second year student, I was able to participate and fully understand the topics being discussed. As I observed future colleagues battle for the growth of our profession as a whole, I could not be more inspired to get involved and take action to prevent the future dismantling of our line of work. The presenters who lectured on their specialties within our field offered insights into the direction imaging is moving and gave a new perspective into a subset of career paths within a modality. I highly encourage any and all Radiologic Science students to attend this conference and experience for yourself the welcoming nature and wealth of knowledge you can gain over the course of a few days. ♦

Applications for the Student Leadership Development Program to attend the 2018 ASRT House of Delegates meeting are being accepted through December 19, 2017. Visit www.csrt.org for details.

Submit Your Articles

For CSRT members interested in submitting an article to be published in a future Technigram, an opportunity exists. The Technigram is published quarterly and is the official journal of the California Society of Radiologic Technologists. Articles will be published at the discretion of the Editor. Interested authors may either submit an existing article for consideration, or contact the Editor to present an idea. Submissions or questions may be submitted to Rich Lehrer, Editor, technorich@comcast.net or to the CSRT office at email@csrt.org.