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DEAR ISRRT MEMBERS,

The COVID-19 pandemic persists with challenges and changes in health care systems specifically relating to clinical operations, student clinical education and scientific research activities for many of our ISRRT member countries around the world. This pandemic continues to affect professional organizations, stakeholder meetings and medical conferences as well. As some countries with adequate resources and vaccine programs are opening up, others are locking down again to try and slow the third wave of the pandemic being caused from the Beta and Delta variants of the virus.

As I write this column sad news has just arrived from the Irish government relating to the ISRRT World Congress. The Irish Government has just announced no indoor meetings may occur for the month of August in Dublin over concerns with the Delta variant of the COVID-19 Virus. Regrettably the ISRRT and the IIRRT will have to move quickly to work towards a fully virtual 21st ISRRT World Congress on August 20-23. The ISRRT Board of Management has been meeting every two weeks over this past summer trying to finalize a combined virtual and in person meeting for our ISRRT members to attend and enjoy. As ISRRT president and on behalf of the ISRRT Board of Management I wish to offer a special thank-you and recognition for the adaptiveness to change and dedication of the IIRRT President Dean Harper, the local organizing committee chairman, Michele Monahan, the scientific committee chairman Shane Foley, the IIRRT office manager, Ann Marie Lynam and the rest of the organizing committee members.

The IIRRT Congress committee and the ISRRT Board of Management are working hard to bring you a fully virtual congress with the same traditions you have come to expect over the last 60 years of ISRRT World Congresses. This includes a virtual flag ceremony honoring our ISRRT members societies, entertainment, the Hutchinson lecture and the traditional turning on of the ISRRT Globe signifying the beginning of the congress. The Scientific program will become virtual providing best practices and scientific research on Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Therapy practice from all over the world. Live online panel discussions
will still be a part of the program as well. Please take time to tune into the closing ceremony where the announcement will be made for the dates of the 22nd ISRRRT World Congress taking place in Bangkok Thailand in 2022.

The ISRRRT will make history having their first virtual Council meeting on August 17 due to the pandemic. Although the times zone difference around the world limits the amount of time we can host a virtual council meeting we believe there is enough time to complete the draft agenda that was been developed for this virtual meeting. Our CEO has secured a platform that will allow voting and an opportunity to our council members to participate and be heard on behalf of their countries. We have also secured an observation login as well. The ISRRRT BOM is looking forward to hearing from our member societies and believe we can create an opportunity to move our ISRRRT strategic agenda forward for our profession.

The ISRRRT Board of Management have been working diligently. This includes prioritizing projects and collaborations to ensure the radiographers’ voice is represented at global stakeholder meetings and National Conferences being held around the world. I would like to take a few moments to share with you some of the highlights from the work Board members and those that I have been participating in on behalf of our ISRRRT membership.

Several ISRRRT BOM were invited to present at the 7th Southeast Asia and Open Asia online Conference held on June 27, 2021. As ISRRRT President I gave an ISRRRT Update and Welcome. Napapong Pongnapang, ISRRRT Vice President Asia/Australia spoke on ‘MRI Safety’ and ISRRRT Regional Director Tan Chek Wee presented on ‘The Role of Radiation Therapists in Advanced Technology’. We all participated in a Panel discussion relating to Artificial Intelligence, advanced technologist roles, and professional issues affecting our profession. A special thank you to President of the VART, Thai Van Loc and Asia leadership for the invitation. The speaker program was exceptional and gave an opportunity to share best practices, exchange ideas and collaborate with professionals all over Asia and parts of the world. I understand that there were over 3,000 participants in the conference. This is exceptional leadership demonstrated from Asia.

This next project I would like to highlight falls right in-line with my presidential key messages, “Influence Change, Impact Change and Create Change. Our ISRRRT Director of Education, Yudthaphon Vichianin further developed and rolled out to radiographers and radiology students around the world the opportunity to participate and help create a change in social behaviors within our profession. This information is helping to contribute to a reduction in mortality and non-communicable disease burdens around the world.
7. ISRRT’s continued support to the WHO’s Framework for Tobacco control though advocacy, promotion of Tobacco free radiographer school’s world wide.

8. Dissemination of the WHO’s list of priority medical devices for cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, COPD and trauma.

These projects will be done collaboratively and distributed by our ISRRT social media platforms including our ISRRT eLearning platform, ISRRT Facebook live session ISRRT Instagram, ISRRT website as well as ISRRT Workshops and ISRRT World Congresses workshops. Please watch for updates and progress on these projects in the future.

On June 29 I participated in a virtual meeting on Medical Imaging in Africa in which Dr Maria Perez asked the ISRRT to collaborate with WHO headquartered in Geneva and the WHO African Regional Office (AFRO). This will enhance access to quality and safety in medical imaging in Africa as part of the WHO AFRO Strategy towards achievement of Universal Health Care Coverage. As president I sent an email to all the ISRRT African council members, ISRRT Members societies and ISRRT African Regional Coordinators asking their involvement in the project and participation on the conference call that happened on June 29. A survey was developed and all persons that participated on the call were asked for input to the survey which will be launched in July, 2021. This will provide situational analysis of medical imaging services and practices in the different countries in African region. The analysis will include information on equipment, human resources, professional recognition in countries, national policies, infrastructure, education and training of professional working in health care. These key leaders with in our African region will help to encourage participation and response from their countries to the survey. The Goal for a strategic plan will then be developed relating to short, medium- and long-term plans for the countries of Africa. The ISRRT BOM is delighted to collaborate on this project as this project will contribute to elevated, target education, training and resources for healthcare in Africa.

As your ISRRT president I was asked to contribute the second report produced in collaboration with the senior leaders of the BIR World Partner Network called “Innovations in Imaging and Radiotherapy: A more connected World.” Presidents and senior officers form 20 societies in the BIR World Partner Network contributed to this publication. As professional organization’s we are all aware that the COVID pandemic has presented unprecedented difficulties and obstacles for health professional around the world. These 20 leaders have shared global perspective on how to connect with hard-to-reach communities, and how technology can be used to allow geographically remote populations to work together. You can read the full magazine article on the ISRRT website at www.isrrt.org under the communication tab, other publication

On June 13, the ISRRT celebrated an important day with its 20th episode of Facebook live webinars, marking it’s one year anniversary. Due to the pandemic the ISRRT was forced to think outside the box and find a way collaborate and present education to our members all over the world. We celebrated the first episode on the COVID-19 topic reaching our members around the world at our one-year anniversary webinar. Nobody would have been able to tell me that we could have such success with an online Facebook platform where member societies shared best practices and highlighted professional matters affecting the profession. The idea arose from our ISRRT Vice President Napapong Ponnapang and ISRRT Director of Education Yudthaphon Vichianin. ISRRT Director of Public Relations and Communications Alain Cromp agreed to produce the publicity for each episode and what a great job he did. The three of you deserve congratulations for your wonderful idea but the true success of the Facebook live session rests on the entire ISRRT BOM and CEO who have all taken a turn contributing over the past year. Such involvement included helping to find speakers, participating as panelist, being a speaker or acting as a host throughout this past year. As your president I participated on 19 of the 20 episodes and all have been very educational, interesting but I have to say the anniversary episode was near to my heart covering my current daily profession work. i.e. “The Role of the Nuclear Medicine Technologist (radiographer) in Patient Safety and Quality using Advanced Nuclear medicine Technology”. As we move forward to the next year stay tune for more innovative and educational opportunities that will be rolling out from the ISRRT.

In June ISRRT Director of Professional Practice, Stewart Whitely and I attended the virtual launch of the WHO’s medical devices technical series which the ISRRT contributed to developing and reviewing. Sections of the draft were written under the portfolio of
Stewart Whitley, and the ISRRT professional practice committee. I special thank you to all member experts who helped ensure the radiographers voice was accurate in this technical series. The title of this one in the series is, ”WHO List priority medical devices for Cardiac Diseases, Stoke and Diabetes”. The goal of these projects is to design, evaluate, regulate and manage medical devices, that will support local, regional and global health. As part of our ISRRT /WHO collaboration we serve as a resource during the development for these documents.

Finally, I was invited by EFRS to participate in their Radiographer Education, Research, and Practice (RERP) Summit held this past May. I presented the ISRRT perspective on the Future of Medical Imaging, Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy Services along with several other stakeholder from within Europe. The ISRRT looks forward to the White paper which is being produced from the Delphi study and summit. 

Donna Newman
ISRRT President
DEAR COUNCIL MEMBERS, and readers of the ISRRT News & Views,

We are only a few days away from the major event of our organization, the Council meeting and the 21st ISRRT World Congress

Council meeting is the most important event of the ISRRT, as the Council is the decision-making body of our organization!

As it is stated in the ISRRT’s statute: “The power of the Society [ISRRT] shall be vested in the Council.”

Each society member appoints one council member to the council meeting and the voting procedure is equally and democratic distributed to all societies-members by assigning one vote per country to the Meeting.

This year, due to the pandemic consequences, the council meeting shall take place via electronic platform.

We, the president and the members of the board of Management along with the chief executive, are working intensively to organize a virtual council meeting to run as smoothly as it can be allowed by the internet speed and the boundaries of the electronic platform.

In good faith and everyone’s skills to the electronic media handling, we trust we will have an effective and productive council meeting.

All the documents and the drafts to be discussed during the council meeting will be uploaded on a specific area on the isrrt.org (council only area) where can be reached by Council members only.

The 21st World Congress is on the final stage of its preparation and the Local organising committee in doubling, as well as the Irish Society have a robust and strong self-commitment to make it happen successfully.

Several hours of preparation and many meetings between the local organizing committee and the board of management of the ISRRT will guarantee a remarkably successful ISRRT World congress.

This year the plans – as you have already been informed – the congress will run mostly virtual, for the obvious reasons. From a positive perspective, this will give the opportunity to many colleagues from around the world to participate easily and this will eliminate the lack of physical presence, which is always the best in human behavior, but this time is rather difficult to happen, at least for the most of us.

However, this is our chance to become part of this incredibly unique event, as all the ISRRT World congresses are.

I invite you all to give a last try to promote the Congress to your friends and colleagues and to give a high participation number of radiographers/RTs globally to the 21st ISRRT world congress.

I hope to meet you all “virtually” during the Dublin World Congress, August 20-22.

Dimitris Katsifarakis
Chief Executive ISRRT
THE YEAR 2021 IS ADVANCING AS THE COVID-19 VIRUS.

The Dublin World Congress in August will be virtual only. We hope to have many participants but the situation remains difficult in all countries to be able to travel. Also one can wish a lot of online participation.

We were able to start face-to-face conferences in France in June, one for radiographers in radiotherapy and another for neuroradiology.

It was a great moment to come face-to-face and I really enjoyed reliving this situation from the past. I hope that we can do the same at our next congresses and workshops at the world level.

As such, our colleagues from the UAE, RASE (Radiographers Association of the Emirates) have invited me, as every year, to participate as a speaker at the ARM (Annual radiology meeting) congress to be held in Dubai from October 10 to 12. It will be a face-to-face congress and I hope I will be very happy to meet our colleagues from the Arabic countries with whom I have had excellent relations for a long time.

Regarding the workshops, normally those of 2020 have been postponed to 2021. Today, only Cameroon has confirmed for November 4 to 7, 2021 in Yaoundé.

A possibility exists for Rwanda and Algeria. The financial situation of the ISRRT is satisfactory because we had very little expenditure in 2020 and 2021. The board met only online so no expenditure of hotels or airfares. We were able to improve our income thanks to the payment of the contributions of our member companies but also by the sponsorship of our webinars.

But as with conventions, the ISRRT leadership team needs to come face-to-face.

We will certainly use the possibility of meeting online in the future, but it is essential for us to meet face-to-face at least once a year.

Hoping that this COVID can leave us alone and allow us to find each other.

Take care

Philippe Gerson
ISRRT Treasurer
Dear ISRRT members,

As you are aware, in April of last year, the ISRRT and the IIRRT made the difficult decision to postpone the **21st ISRRT World Congress** which was scheduled for August 2020 in Dublin Ireland as a result of the emerging global COVID-19 pandemic.

This decision was taken in recognition of the priority to maintain critical frontline services during this time of uncertainty and the vital role which many of our members play in the provision of those services. The ISRRT also recognised the impact of the extensive international travel bans which were implemented which would have prevented our planned hosting of the Congress in its traditional format.

The recent commencement of vaccination programmes across the globe brings hope that we may soon return to a more normal way of living. Despite this, considerable uncertainty remains with regards COVID-19 related restrictions and when such restrictions might be eased and the possible impact to our World Congress. In recognising these uncertainties, the ISRRT Board and the IIRRT local organising committee have been working hard to explore the various options available to facilitate a viable Congress.

We are pleased to announce that the **21st ISRRT World Congress** will run as a virtual event from the Convention Centre in Dublin Ireland August 20-22. The virtual format will facilitate attendance for those delegates who aren’t able to travel due to COVID restrictions.

An exciting Congress programme is currently being finalised which will include a number of inspiring workshops on the Friday following a condensed opening ceremony and a number of themed sessions running in parallel on Saturday and Sunday which are sure to cater to everyone’s interests. As previously communicated, the previously approved abstracts for the Congress in 2020 will be automatically upheld for the new 2021 event. The IIRRT local organising committee are currently in the process of contacting all abstract writers in order to finalise the programme and we hope to publish the final programme in the coming weeks.

We have also developed a new registration model with very competitive rates which is outlined below. This model will also give added flexibility to delegates. The rates are the same whether attending virtually or physically.

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For those who had already registered for the 2020 World Congress and opted to move your registration forward to the 2021 event, please be reassured that any refund owed to you will be actioned accordingly. A member of the local organising committee will be in contact with those affected in due course to discuss options available. In the interim, if you have additional questions relating to your registration please contact the planning committee at **ISRRT2020@advantagegroup.ie**

Please note that registrations will open at [https://isrrtdublin2021.org/](https://isrrtdublin2021.org/) once the congress programme is finalised. The virtual platform will be open for four week post conference for those who aren’t able to attend during the August 20-22 time frame.

ISRRT members, as always, we appreciate your continued efforts in the fight against COVID-19 and your dedication to ensure access to vital services for all of our patients.

On behalf of the ISRRT Board and the IIRRT local organising committee, we very much look forward to welcoming you to the virtual **21st ISRRT World Congress**.

Keep safe.

Sincerely,

**Donna Newman ISRRT President and Dean Harper IIRRT President**
New hybrid Congress format – Virtual or physical attendance
Fri 20th - Sun 22nd August 2021 Convention Centre, Dublin, Ireland
New registration rates outlined below
Registrations will open shortly at https://isrrtdublin2021.org/ once
Congress programme is finalised.

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<tr>
<td>Sunday Half Day Rate</td>
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- Full congress (virtual or physical attendance) including opening ceremony, access to Friday workshops and full access to Saturday and Sunday Programme.
- Access to one of the Friday workshops of your choice (virtual or physical attendance). Rate also includes access to the opening ceremony.
- Access to the full day Saturday programme (virtual or physical attendance).
- Access to one of the Saturday sessions of your choice (virtual or physical attendance).
- Access to the half day Sunday programme (virtual or physical attendance).
Stewart Whitley, ISRRT Director of Professional Practice, Hakon Hjemly, ISRRT Vice President Europe/Africa and Tim Agadakos Regional Director Europe represented ISRRT at this WHO Europe meeting. This was a Zoom facilitated virtual meeting which had over 90 participants from different international and European NSA organisations including the WHO Europe Executive Team.

Engagement objective & scope of the meeting

This engagement is the next step in the process of WHO/Europe engaging with Non-State Actors (NSAs), formerly known as NGOs – Non-Government organisations, by providing the opportunity to plan for NSAs involvement in the 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC71) and to reflect on ways of engaging given the virtual nature of the meeting.

The objective of this engagement is to:

1. Reflect on the work performed by the NSAs accredited by the WHO Regional Committee and how they have been working with WHO/Europe within the last year.
2. Brief NSAs on specific WHO/Europe’s activities and/or actions (e.g. Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development).

Representatives at the WHO Europe NSA meeting (over Zoom) including the three ISRRT representatives.
3. Inform NSA’s about plans for RC71 and discuss their participation and involvement. a. Present the RC71 agenda and format. b. Provide a briefing on key RC71 sessions, including side events and technical briefings. c. Discuss NSAs’ participation and involvement in the RC71, including their contributions in advance.

Expected engagement outcomes of the meeting was to strengthen the contribution of NSAs to the work of WHO/Europe and provide transparency and agreement by NSAs about how they will be involved in RC71.

The meeting was opened by the Regional Director who welcomed delegates and provided an update on WHO/Europe activities and events since June 2020, including the European Programme of Work (EPW) 2020-2025 ‘United Action for better Health’ and the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development.

The agenda items included several important and topical items with each item introduced by an explanatory presentation by a member of the WHO Europe executive team followed by an invited NSA speaker to elaborate on the subject. After this NSAs were given an open floor for comment and discussions with the opportunity to speak on how NSAs can be involved in ongoing work. Additionally NSAs were able to make comments in the Zoom chat function when not able to take the floor.

The topics discussed included:

- **Forthcoming 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC71)- September 2021**
  
  This had a focus on the provisional programme major agenda items and the technical briefings and side events including the option for NSA participation.

- **Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic**
  
  This included Health emergency preparedness and response in the WHO European Region Briefing and overview of RC71 agenda item by Dr Dorit Nitzan, Regional Emergency Director Keynote and an intervention from an NSA representative with an open the floor for comments and discussion.

This included a discussion on the lessons learned from the pandemic as shown in the slide above. Both Håkon and Tim were able on the chat facility, which will be recorded as part of the meeting, to explain that ISRRT had represented radiographers at WHO level on various task groups and technical documentation related the pandemic and had developed on the ISRRT website a range of e-learning courses at the beginning of the pandemic to support the radiography profession.

- **Realising the potential of primary health care: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in the WHO European Region and the Mental Health Coalition**
  
  This consisted of a briefing and overview of RC71 agenda item, including the EPW flagship initiative on the Mental Health Coalition by Dr Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat, Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Systems and a Keynote intervention from an NSA representative.

This presentation and discussion raised the importance of mental health of patients and health care workers.

- **Building better health tomorrow through stronger immunization programmes today – a decade of opportunity**
  
  This consisted of a briefing and overview of RC71 agenda item, including the EPW flagship initiative on the European Immunization Agenda 2030 by Dr Nino Berdzuli, Director of the Division of Country Health Programmes and a keynote intervention from an NSA representative.

Amongst the presentation the European Immunization Agenda 2030 and the Guiding principles were explained as well as the Regional Committee structure.
NSA participation in RC71

This agenda item included a call for volunteers to lead joint work and discussion on how WHO/Europe can facilitate this with a call for NSAs to lead and organise meeting prior to RC71 to finalise involvement.

A number of slides were presented including the one above which explored the way NSAs could participate meaningfully at the next Regional meeting – RC71. Driving this there is recognition that WHO’s engagement with Non-State Actors can bring important benefits to Global public health:

- Influence that WHO can have on non-State actors to enhance their impact on global public health or to influence the social, economic and environmental determinants of health.

- Influence that WHO can have on non-State actors’ compliance with WHO’s polices, norms and standards

- Additional resources non-State actors can contribute to WHO’s work.

- Wider dissemination of and adherence by non-State actors to WHO’s policies, norms and standards

A presentation by David Barrett, WHO/EURO communications representative was given about social media platforms used in RC71 and how they can engage in these platforms Process. Finally, it was explained the process for applying for NSA accreditation.

The meeting closed with remarks from the regional Director.

A full official report of the meeting will soon be published.
WORLD RADIOGRAPHY DAY

NOVEMBER 8TH 2021

THE ROLE OF THE RADIOPHGRAPHER IN A PANDEMIC
It has been a year and half since the COVID-19 pandemic has loomed over the world, including Indonesia. Coronavirus Disease 19 has infected millions of people, medical and health workers are still struggling to this day against this pandemic, including radiographers in Indonesia, the important role of radiographers as the front line against the pandemic has always been needed by the country until now.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus first appeared at the end of 2019 in the city of Wuhan, China, and continued to spread around the world along 2020. This outbreak overshadowed billions of people, with an increasing number of infections and deaths from the disease that was later referred to by the World Health Organization (WHO) as COVID-19. This disease that attacks the respiratory organs, makes billions of the world’s people infected, sick and even lose their lives. COVID-19 is a new pandemic that began with infection with the corona virus, a close relative of the SARS virus, which was epidemic a few years ago in China. In just over a month, this virus continues to spread around the world.

The first case of COVID-19 in Indonesia was announced on March 2, 2020, after a dance instructor and his mother from the Depok area, West Java, were confirmed positive for Covid-19, since then the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has increasingly spread to 34 provinces in the country. As of June 3, 2021, Indonesia has reported 1,837,126 cases, the highest in Southeast Asia. With 51,095 deaths, Indonesia ranks third in Asia and 18th in the world. Even at the beginning of July 2021, Indonesia experienced a significant increase in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant, so that the Indonesian government imposed emergency restrictions on public activities for two weeks.

Medical personnel and health workers in Indonesia have fought together to fight this pandemic, including Indonesian radiographers. Indonesian radiographers have played many roles together with the Indonesian Society of Radiographers (PARI). The role of radiographers is always needed by the country and society, PARI repeatedly sends radiographer volunteers to the Wisma Atlet Emergency Hospital and several COVID-19 referral hospitals. Hundreds of volunteers have been sent by PARI through the Indonesian Ministry of Health, they serve for 28 days with details of 14 working days and 14 days of quarantine before returning to the community.

The government created an Emergency Hospital, which was previously Athlete guest house, located in the Kemayoran area of Jakarta, which was later converted into an Emergency Hospital for Handling COVID-19. The struggle of the health workers volunteers, including radiographers with COVID-19 sufferers, is clearly seen in this place, how they fought tenaciously against COVID-19. Wisma Atlet Emergency Hospital currently has a capacity of up to 7,394 beds, containing an average of 70-80%.

Since the announcement of the pandemic, PARI has always provided Covid PPE support for health workers who are at the front lines of Covid services, when there is still a shortage and deficit of PPE for health workers, PARI also provides multivitamin supplements and medicines to radiographers who confirmed Covid positive and to every health workers at the front lines of COVID-19 services.

In the Continuing Professional Development Program, PARI provides Professional Credits to Radiographers who are at the front line of COVID-19 services, to encourage Radiographers enthusiasm and motivation to fight along with Indonesian health workers until pandemic confirmed end from the world. In the first batch, CPD Professional Credit was given to 8000 Indonesian radiographers across the country, and 4000 applications in the second batch.

In the government’s COVID-19 vaccination program, PARI supports Radiographers to mass vaccine injections in the initial period. A total of 17,000 radiographers across the country are ready to mass vaccination programs in each region. Radiographers COVID-19 survivors participated in the convalescent plasma donor program for patients in need. PARI gave CPD Professional Credit to plasma donors as an honour to all Radiographers. As a public service PARI provides information on available inpatient rooms and Intensive Care Unit to the public, including providing information on the availability of medicines such as Actemra etc.

To fellow radiographers who died on the front line against COVID-19, PARI provides advocacy support to the government to obtain compensation for health workers who died in the amount of 300 million rupiah or around 25,000 USD. Until now there are nine radiographers who have died due to COVID-19, and 450 have been confirmed positive with or without symptoms.

The struggle of all health workers, including radiographers, in handling the COVID-19 pandemic is felt by all people. Health workers are the most vulnerable component in the transmission of COVID-19 because they have direct contact with patients.
PARI collaborates with the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) for the Protection of Health Workers in an effort to improve the safety of medical personnel, prevent and reduce the death rate of health workers in tackling COVID-19. BNPB launched a health line service that is used to provide protection to health workers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Health workers who need assistance when exposed to COVID-19 can contact this number. Thus, not only protecting but this service can also suppress and minimize the risk of death that occurs in health workers as well as to reduce the transmission rate of COVID-19. There are a number of services obtained by health workers who access this health line, ranging from ambulance evacuation assistance, hospital referral assistance to swab test assistance or polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based swab tests as well as screening and various other assistance. With the launch of the health line, health workers can take advantage of this service so that the risk of transmission as well as death that occurs can be really suppressed or minimized.

PARI always cooperates with the Government, through the Indonesian Ministry of Health (Ministry of Health) to succeed in the community vaccination program to suppress the transmission and stop the pandemic with various socialization events such as webinars and web meetings and provides Professional CPD Credits for Webinars and those who have been vaccinated. Vaccination is the government seriousness in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, by providing free vaccinations to the population, it is hoped that herd immunity will be formed, it needs around 70 percent of the Indonesian population or about 181.5 million people to obtain community immunity. PARI President Dr. H. Sugiyanto, S.Pd, M.App.Sc (MRI) participated in the mass vaccination, sent photos and documentation of activities to radiographers community to encourage vaccination programs.

Radiographers play a significant role in handling COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Radiographers provide diagnostic images, prevent infection transmission, especially in the radiology examination room, including setting the area and staff, preparing and conducting the examination in safety patient procedure, administrating the level of PPE use, cleaning and disinfection methods and treating medical waste.

Thank you to all the medical staff, health workers, radiographers, and all the people who have struggled, survived, and become survivors. Let’s keep fighting COVID-19 together to stop the pandemic, support the most vulnerable and build back better in solidarity. Always support the government and World Health Organization’s efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Together, keep up the fight against COVID-19. Let’s continue to keep each other safe. PARI and Indonesian Radiographers fighting together with the people.

PARI President Dr H Sugiyanto, S.Pd, M.App.Sc (MRI) provides donations and assistance to health workers and radiographers on the front line against pandemic.

PARI President, Dr H. Sugiyanto together with all Radiographers participated in the Government’s mass vaccination program.
Radiology services must be delivered by responsible radiographers with high ethics and morals, whose quality must continuously be improved through continuous education and training, certification, registration, licensing, as well as guidance, supervision, and monitoring, to fulfill a sense of justice and humanity and is in accordance with the development of health science and technology. The scope of the workplace for Radiographers in Indonesia are health service facilities, business and industry owned by the government (Central Government, Regional Government, Armed Forces and Police Department, State-Owned Enterprises), and individuals or foundations.

According to data from Indonesian Society of Radiographers Information System (SIAP PARI) there are 70.7% working in private hospitals and 29.3% working in government hospitals. Radiographers working in government hospitals with status as civil servants have had a clear and standardized career pattern through health functional positions, namely a group of positions that contain functions and duties related to functional services based on certain skills and expertise.

However, government hospitals also have radiographers with non-civil servant status with different names, such as employees of the Public Service Agency and Regional Public Service Agency, contract workers, temporary workers, casual daily workers. Non-civil servants radiographers who work in private and government hospitals so far have not had a clear and standard career pattern setting.

The government, and the private sector together with Indonesian Society of Radiographers develop and implement a career pattern for radiographers in the context of increasing their career and professionalism based on work performance and adapted to the needs of health development which is carried out transparently, openly, and across institutions, through the levels of structural positions and functional positions.

This career path is arranged according to merit system criteria consisting of qualifications, competencies, and performance, evidenced by a career competency certificate that shows the compatibility between abilities, skills and attitudes with the Indonesian National Work Competency Framework. It is required to be able to enter a certain career level and grade. The working period is a consideration to reach the next career level and grade. This career path starts from the competency level at the last education based on the Indonesian National Qualifications Framework, consists of ‘Terampil’ or skilled radiographers, ‘Mahir’ or advanced, ‘Penyelia’ or supervisor, ‘Ahli’ or expert and ‘Ahli
Utama’ or senior expert. Each level has two grades. All linear, vertical from bottom to top. One career path can be taken within a period of 3 to 6 years of work.

This career path targets radiographers who have working experience and want to change their jobs from one facility to another so they don’t need to start their career form the beginning. The new regulation of career path will provide them a mechanism for developing and maintaining competence at every career level.

Career advancement is an increase in the career path of health professionals from a low level to a higher level in accordance with the career scheme of each profession. Career advancement can be carried out after health workers obtain a career competency certificate from the career competency certification process carried out by a professional certification body appointed by the Minister of Health.

Radiographers with the latest education, 3 years diploma based on the Indonesian National Qualifications Framework enter level 5, when they enter the job market, the recognition of their career path is categorized as skilled. Undergraduate radiographers enter level 6, or Advance category. Health professionals graduated from professional education, enter level 7 or supervisor career level in the job market. Radiographers graduate from post-graduate education or specialists, enter level 8 or expert career level and doctoral or sub-specialist education enter the Senior Expert career level.

By increasing the radiographers career and professionalism, it is expected to improve the quality of health and radiology services provided by radiographers to the community, which in turn has an impact on improving the quality of health services and institution performance, increasing public trust in health facilities as well as improving the welfare of radiographers.

Indonesian Society of Radiographers Career Development Team have task to develop a career scheme for Radiographers. They have worked with the Ministry of Health and all Health Professionals Organizations through various meetings, workshops and discussions. This career path scheme is needed by all Indonesian Radiographers.
The COVID-19 pandemic presented an opportunity to develop a new strategy to promote, collaborate and bridge ISRRT Member societies current best practice. Celebrating our one-year ISRRT Facebook live anniversary, the ISRRT is so pleased to have had the opportunity to share targeted webinars in specific practices of medical imaging for radiographers around the world. When the idea was first brought to me for consideration by two our ISRRT Board members, ISRRT Vice president of Asia/Australia Napapong Pongnapang and ISRRT Director of Education Yudthaphon Vichianin, I really had no idea how successful it would become with the 20 Facebook live session reaching over 465,246 members around the world. The two of them came from a region of the world that had previous success with this same type of programming. They proposed that this type of educational programming would be a great opportunity to give our ISRRT members a platform to discuss current trends, practice parameters and practice issues as well as patient related safety issues.

Each webinar was set up using the ISRRT official Facebook page as a free-of-charge delivery platform. All invited speakers were prepared by ISRRT instructions to deliver best presentation quality to members. The presentations were then post-processing using a video editing software to improve video and audio quality for delivery. The delivery process utilized a free software title “OBS Studio” for composing backgrounds, logos, running text, and meeting window as a live scene. The webinar meeting backend was a paid account of Zoom meeting (Sponsored by the Thai Society of Radiological Technologists: TSRT). Each episode took a process of approximately ten days for preparation process. Instructions were sent to speakers in advance with zoom meeting link unique for each episode regarding meeting security. Audiences were able to view the live webinar on the ISRRT on the scheduled date. The full list of Facebook live programs titles is listed below. Now, all live episodes are available for members to access at www.facebook.com/isrrt.org/live_videos/ or on the ISRRT Website www.isrrt.org under the education tab, achieve of fb live videos. There is a wealth of targeted education and best practice free of charge which our members can access and incorporated within their countries to help elevated healthcare for our patients.

As President of the ISRRT and on behalf of the ISRRT Board of Management a special thank-you to all the member speaker experts from around the world that participated in our webinars. Your presentations shared new technology, optimization, quality assurance, quality control, safety and patient safety best practices which is so valuable to our members and patients around the world. This targeted education, reinvented a way for our members societies to still connect and bring back information that could help elevate healthcare within their own countries. The ISRRT Board of Management pitched in as well helping to find speakers, presenting and serving as panelists during these Facebook live sessions. It has been true commitment for several people involved including our ISRRT Director of Public relation Alain Cremp who developed the promotional material that was used for the almost every two-week episode programming schedule rounding out our one-year anniversary episode with our 20th episode. Also, the time commitment from our ISRRT Director of Education Yudthaphon Vichianin who programed the pre-recorded talks and ran the technical aspects during the Facebook live sessions. This commitment and technical talent have helped create the success
of the program. ISRRT Vice President of Asia/Australia Napapong serving as our host and committed to being available for all of the 20 episodes. His formatting style and professional atmosphere made our member experts feel at ease which allowed best practice questions to be answered from our audience from around the world during each episode. As your president, I was also very committed to the success of this program and participated in 19 of the 20 episodes. I was sorry to miss one episode but my day job had me working on one of the Facebook live sessions. I helped welcome our member experts, co-hosted with our member societies presidents during our featured society sessions, served as a panelist representing the ISRRT global view and helped with the presenting of questions to our member experts when needed during the session. This core team did a fantastic job bringing these educational webinars to our members.

Interestingly, our members drove the direction of the programming asking for different types of education as needed. Some educational sessions were very targeted and served a smaller population of members around the world while others meet the needs of larger audiences.

The most popular program was our third episode which reached more than 79,860 people. This was called “Radiographers are we really front liners during the COVID-19 pandemic?” In this episode experts from each of the regions shared their experience as radiographers and showed how they were frontline worker during the COVID-19 pandemic and how best practices could be implemented as presented in their own countries.

Our very first program in June 2020 called “Role of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists during COVID-19 pandemic; International perspectives” had more than 57,851 viewers which helped the ISRRT Board of Management understand the importance of this type of education for our members. Discussion happened among the Facebook live subcommittee and how to best address member societies requests for target education in specific modalities while still keeping a balance of wider education that would meet a wider audience of ISRRT members. One particular request for MR Safety education became our third most popular program reaching 36,292 members around the world. This 40-minute session presented by Anne Porte Blankholm and the Denmark Society on “Role of Radiographers in MR Safety: International Perspectives” gave excellent strategies to incorporate into your MR practice to ensure the patient and healthcare staff remain safe when performing MRI procedures.

As the ISRRT Board of Management reviewed the success over the last year you can be assured this type of programming will be provided in the near future for ISRRT members again. Our new program will begin in September after the ISRRT World Congress. As an ISRRT Board of Management we are dedicated to providing valued programs to our members.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Episode</th>
<th>Episode Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>People reach</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Role of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists during COVID-19 pandemic: International perspectives</td>
<td>May 31, 2020</td>
<td>57,851</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Response to what the members need: Role of radiography professional organization during COVID-19 pandemic</td>
<td>Jun 6, 2020</td>
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<td>Radiographers are we really front liners during the COVID-19 pandemic?</td>
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<td>Quality Control of Radiological Equipment as a Role of Radiographers</td>
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<td>Patient dose monitoring and management in clinical practice</td>
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<td>Role of Radiographers in radiation protection</td>
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<td>Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Safety</td>
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<td>WHO-Radiographers and Radiological Technologists Celebrating World Patient Safety Day</td>
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<td>Role of Radiographers in MR Safety: International Perspectives</td>
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<td>Overview of the current status of artificial intelligence (AI) surrounding the field of radiological medical technology</td>
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<td>Artificial Intelligence (AI) in radiography practice; International Perspectives</td>
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<td>Updates on Covid-19 pandemic: what have we learned?</td>
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<td>The Radiologic Technologist Accepting the Challenges of Today’s Cath Lab</td>
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<td>Role of Radiographers in Interventional Radiology safety; International Perspectives</td>
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<td>ISRRT meets new and provisional members societies</td>
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<td>Radiation safety culture trait talks</td>
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<td>Radiographer’s Mammography education, training and professional practice requirements: Taiwan's experience</td>
<td>Mar 21, 2021</td>
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<td>Role of Radiation Therapists in Patient Safety on Advanced Radiotherapy Technology</td>
<td>Apr 18, 2021</td>
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<td>The Role of the Nuclear Medicine Technologist (Radiographer) in Patient Safety and Quality using Advanced Nuclear Medicine Technology</td>
<td>Jun 13, 2021</td>
<td>5,177</td>
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7TH SOUTHEAST ASIA RADIOGRAPHERS & TECHNOLOGISTS

JUNE 27, 2021

REPORT BY PEACHY S. LUNA,
SECRETARY-GENERAL, PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS, ISRRT COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE PHILIPPINES
Successful 7th Southeast Asia Radiographers & Radiological Technologists Conference (SEARC) was held online June 27, 2021. The 7th SEARC with the theme: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and New Technologies in Radiology and the 6th Asia CPD were hosted by the Vietnam Association of Radiological Technologists (VART). This was surprisingly participated by more than 3,000 registrants according to its President Thai Van Loc. He added that the success of the conduct of the said events is credited to its organizing committees, sponsors, and the technical expertise of the Asia CPD IT team.

The eventful conference was supported and participated by the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists President Donna Newman and Vice President for Asia Australasia Dr. Napapong Pongnapang as speakers, Regional Director Check Wee as Moderator for Radiation Therapy room, and Regional Coordinator of Professional Practice Naoki Kodama as a panelist in the Radiologic Imaging room.

Due to the spread of COVID-19, there was the suspension of the face-to-face conduct of the 7th SEARC in 2020. And with the continuous efforts of member societies and developments in the conduct of programs using online platforms, the VART was determined to host the said event this year offering free registration to all qualified participants. And in 2022, the Singapore Society of Radiographers (SSR) with the leadership of Ms. Denise Choong will host the 8th SEARC in conjunction with the 9th Asia Radiotherapy Symposium on March 25-27, 2022. This conference will be held virtually and is themed: Leadership in Radiology: Preparing Today’s Professionals for Tomorrow.
CPD ASIA LAUNCHED AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

REPORT BY PEACHY S. LUNA,
SECRETARY-GENERAL, PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS, ISRRT COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE PHILIPPINES
While each member societies continuously provide its members’ online conferences amidst the pandemic, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) ASIA, was conceptualized during the initial meeting held last September 17, 2020. Presidents of five societies of radiologic technologists in Asia, Fernando Kok of Macao Radiological Technologists’ Association, Thai Van Loc of Vietnam Association of Radiologic Technologists, Giek Sugiyanto of Indonesian Society of Radiographers (known as PARI), Khin Maung Tin of Myanmar Society of Medical Radiation Technologists and Rolando Banares of Philippine Association of Radiologic Technologists and along with their officers, Peachy Luna (Philippines), Lee Van Tan, Le Thanh Throng (Vietnam), Chin Chun U, Jeri Pedro Lei, Marco Lam (Macao), Putu Irma, Gatot Santosa (Indonesia) assisted with the support in the technical and logistics of the online CPD program. It was during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic when most of the meetings, seminars, and conferences were held online. While there is continuing demand to acquire and develop competencies as well as learn new techniques and evidence-based practices, CPD Asia was founded. A memorandum of understanding was prepared by the MRTA headed by President Fernando Kok. Soon after rigorous meetings, careful reviews, and revisions by participating Presidents and National Officers, the CPD Asia MOU was unanimously approved and signed by society presidents on November 8, 2020.

With the consistent technical support of Vietnam VT Healthcare and the valuable technical skills of Marco Lam and Le Thanh Throng, the conduct of the first-ever CPD Asia hosted by the Macao Radiological Technologists’ Association last November 29, 2020, the second was hosted by the Indonesian Society of Radiographers last January 10, 2021, while Philippine Association of Radiologic Technologists (PART) successfully hosted the 3rd, CPD Asia, last February 21, 2021.

There is a growing interest of the founding societies to invite more radiologic technologists in Asia. During the recent CPD Asia post-program meeting of the PART and societies, three active societies in ASIA confirmed their participation as member societies to host the next CPD Asia programs. President Chun Yuan Tu of Taiwan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (TAMRT), President Sophea Ly of Association of Cambodian Radiologic Technologists (ACRT), President Wan Shiu Bun Nelson of Hong Kong Radiographers’ Association (HKRA). And in June 2021, the Singapore Society of Radiographers has confirmed and accepted the hosting of the next CPD Asia.
LAUNCH OF THE INDONESIAN DIAGNOSTIC REFERENCE LEVEL (I-DRL)

REPORT BY INDONESIAN SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS

Indonesian Ministry of Health and various representatives of organizations relevant including Indonesian Society of Radiographers.
To optimize radiation protection and patient safety when given medical exposure for diagnostics. In accordance with Indonesian Government Regulation Number 33 of 2007 concerning Radiation Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and Regulation of the Indonesian Nuclear Energy Supervisory Agency Number 4 of 2020 concerning Radiation Safety in the Use of X-Ray Modalities in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology a Diagnostic Reference Level (DRL) is highly required, so patients can receive the safest and most appropriate radiation dose.

DRL can help hospitals or clinics optimally applying radiation doses to patient. The determination of Indonesian DRL (I-DRL) is carried out through the results of a national patient radiation dose survey using the Patient Dosage Data Information System (Si-INTAN) application, a quantitative calculation process, as well as technical discussions with experts from Indonesian Ministry of Health and various representatives of organizations relevant, such as: Hospital Accreditation Commission (KARS), Indonesian Hospital Association (PERSI), Indonesian Clinical Radiology Specialist Association (PDSRKI), Indonesian Society of Radiographers (PARI), Indonesian Medical Physicist Alliance (AFISMI), Jakarta Health Polytechnic II, Semarang Health Polytechnic, Department of Physics, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Indonesia, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Diponegoro University, and several vertical hospitals.

The I-DRL value was officially determined and launched with a ceremony by the Head of BAPETEN accompanied by the Deputy for Nuclear Safety Assessment, Deputy for Licensing and Inspection of BAPETEN, Chairman of the Association of Indonesian Clinical Radiology Specialists and Secretary of the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, and signed a joint commitment to implement I-DRL according to the roles and duties of each agency, in Jakarta on May 25, 2021.

In his remarks, the Head of BAPETEN said, “This level of diagnostic guidance or DRL is a manifestation of BAPETEN’s presence in an effort to protect radiology patients, which is generally for patient safety. This DRL should later become the attention of Radiations Professionals in the field, especially medical and health professionals in the radiology field in providing radiation doses to patients.”

General Secretary of the Indonesian Society of Radiographers (PARI) Hidayat Agus Sabarudin said, “We are Indonesian Radiographers ready to improve services and implement them. It is a matter of pride for Indonesia to have DRL guidelines.”

All Indonesian Radiographers are ready to welcome I-DRL for the best service to patients.
I AM PLEASED to report that ISRRT continues to play an important and pivotal role in representing the radiography profession on the world stage. ISRRT is constantly engaged in various activities of the WHO and the IAEA helping to shape the safety culture and professional standards for all our diagnostic and therapy radiography professionals. This has been particularly true and important during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

At the time of writing ISRRT representatives have continued to have been active in producing and circulating a number of helpful guidance documents, taking part in many virtual meetings and contributing to many WHO and IAEA initiatives.

This report highlights those activities and involvements.

World Health Organisation (WHO) – Informal meeting with non-state actors (NSAs) in official relations, Member States and WHO Secretariat April 20-22, 2021

I attended this meeting for three days which was held in response to address a number of issues and to give non-state actors more meaningfully engagement in the debate of topics discussed and debated at World Health Assembly meetings. Member States voices have the priority in these debates.

The agenda for this meeting was crafted to consider the provisional agenda items for the upcoming 74th WHA May 24 - June 1.

The meeting was opened and closed by the WHO Director General with topics discussed WHA agenda topics including:

17.1 COVID-19 response
17.3 WHO’s work in health emergencies
18. Mental health preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic
14. Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
15. Health workforce
16. Committing to implementation of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016−2030)
22.1 Social determinants of health
23. WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children

The meeting concluded with a long debate as to how non-state actors can be corporate in making joint statements on specific agenda items up to a maximum of 5 statements. The changes will not stop individual non-State Actors making statements, however for the 74th WHA these will not be delivered on the floor but posted. Further information will be available regarding the proposed changes.

WHO - Invitation to Non-State Actors (NSAs) meeting before Executive Board (EB) and 74 World Health Assembly (WHA) meetings, May 18, 2021

Both Dimitris Katsifarakis and I represented the ISRRT at this meeting called to give NSAs a greater voice to organisations such as ISRRT who are officially recognised by the WHO as NSAs.

We attended this meeting with other NSAs instigated by Adriana Velazquez and co-hosted by Maria Perez for the purpose:-

This meeting is taking place just before the WHO Executive Board (EB) meeting and World Health Assembly (WHA) and the idea is to have an opportunity to share information and review the status and activities in the area of medical devices, in vitro diagnostics, medical use of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, hospitals, biomedical engineering and HTA.

I have been interacting with some of you regarding the upcoming triennial review for re-designation (which some other NGOs passed last year): this will require bilateral follow-up with each of
Both Adriana and Maria gave presentations outlining some of the forthcoming WHO initiatives and projects. Stewart gave a short presentation on the work of the ISRRT over the past three years focusing on the WHO-IAEA COVID-19 related activities and ISRRT COVID-19 response guidelines and publications. Additionally, he highlighted those ISRRT committed activities with the WHO to maintain our WHO Non-State Actor status.

Medical devices are indispensable to prevent, protect, screen, diagnose, monitor, palliate or rehabilitate population in different settings. Medical devices range from syringes, sw, IVDs, med equipment, imaging to complex radiotherapy systems...

From home to specialized care

One of the slides presented at the meeting focusing on the importance of medical devices.
74th World Health Assembly (WHA) meeting which consisted of morning and afternoon sessions
May 24-27 May and June 1

I attended this meeting virtually using a live stream which had the theme ‘Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world’.

Sessions have been held daily with morning and afternoon packed agendas. In addition to the plenary sessions two committees were established to consider a range of topics with Committee ‘A’ dealing with health matters and Committee ‘B’ addressing WHO managerial, administrative, staffing and governance structurers with some health matters transferred to the committee.

Central to the initial discussions were matters relating to COVID-19 and the experience of Member State counties in dealing with the pandemic and expressing their ideas for future actions and how lessons learnt and can be employed for a future virus pandemic.

Committee ‘A’ considered a range of health issues making recommendation and decisions which were approved by the Assembly. The agenda was structured in accordance with the WHO’s Pillar Goals which support their Universal Health Coverage goals:

**Pillar 1:** One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage

**Pillar 2:** One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

**Pillar 3:** One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

**Pillar 4:** More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries

Topics discussed included:
- Global vaccine action plan
- Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem
- Ending tuberculosis
- Epilepsy
- Neglected tropical diseases
- Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property
- WHO’s work in health emergencies
- Influenza preparedness
- Cholera prevention and control
- Poliomyelitis with emphasis on polio eradication and polio transition planning and polio post-certification

For those interested access to all the sessions can be found at Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly [who.int](http://who.int)

**WHO non-state actor (NSA) engagement briefing on the 71st WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC71) and working together for the implementation of the European Programme of Work**

I had the privilege of attending a virtual meeting on June 16 along with Hakon Hjemly ISRRT Vice President for Europe and Africa and Tim Agadakos ISRRT Regional Director Europe.

Details of this meeting is given in a separate report in this edition of the newsletter.

**WHO – Launch of WHO list of priority medical devices (PMDs) for management of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes**

June 30, 2021

Donna Newman, ISRRT President, attended the virtual launch of this important book.

This publication was developed in response to the need for a reference list of priority medical devices required for management of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), focusing on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, especially for low- and middle-income countries to support universal health coverage actions. The current list complements the WHO List of priority medical devices for COVID-19 published in 2020, the WHO list of priority medical devices for cancer management published in 2017 and the Interagency list of medical devices for essential interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health published in 2015.

Objectives of this publication were to:
- determine and select the medical devices required for priority...
interventions to manage cardiovascular diseases and diabetes aligned with WHO guidance, policies and evidence-based guidelines;

• expand the WHO Priority Medical Devices lists, these now include reproductive, maternal, new born and child health, the ones for cancer management and the most recent ones for COVID-19, to those for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, which will become global guidances that Member States can use as a reference to define their national medical devices lists;

• provide guidance to countries, national and regional health departments, and health facilities to prioritize medical devices for procurement or reimbursement to manage NCDs in their settings.

This publication is intended for Ministries of Health, public health planners, health technology managers, disease managers, researchers, policy-makers, funding and procurement agencies, and support/advocacy groups for patients suffering from cardiac diseases, stroke and diabetes. It serves to inform policy-makers and technical decision-makers on the selection of medical devices required for the package of benefits and interventions for a target population in the context of universal health coverage.

ISRRT contributed to relevant sections, such the Medical Imaging chapter, and a copy of the book can be found at WHO list of priority medical devices for management of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS REPORTS

The ISRRT Regional Coordinators for Professional Practice continue to monitor and report on activities in their respective Regions. I am pleased to include a report from Christopher Steelman, Regional Coordinator for The Americas.

The Americas
Regional Report Christopher Steelman (USA)
ARRT issues statement on Gonadal and Fetal Shielding

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) is the world’s largest organization offering credentials in medical imaging, interventional procedures, and radiation therapy. The ARRT certifies and registers technologists in a range of disciplines by overseeing and administering education, ethics, and examination requirements.

The ARRT has stated on the issue of gonadal and fetal shielding in clinical practice and in short, their position is that:

• Health care institutions may adopt varying degrees of gonadal and fetal shielding recommendations.

• Schools with imaging programs should teach students about shielding and the effects of fetal and gonadal radiation exposure.

• ARRT’s exams may not specifically refer to gonadal and fetal shielding.

Stewart and a number of the participants at the PMD for Cardiology Diseases and Diabetes launch webinar – June 30, 2021.
shielding procedures, but they will include topics on patient radiation exposure and protection.

- Students and R.T.s have the ethical responsibility to act in the best interests of each patient.

The ARRT shares that the “statement comes as a result of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) statement concluding that the shielding isn’t necessary during routine abdominal and pelvic radiography. The revision of NCRP’s recommendations was a result of American Association of Physicists in Medicine’s (AAPM) evidence-based recommendation to discontinue gonadal and fetal shielding. Other organizations, such as the American College of Radiology, endorsed AAPM’s position.”

The entire ARRT statement can be viewed here: www.arrt.org/pages/r-t-update/rt-update-arrt-issues-statement-on-gonadal-and-fetal-shielding?fbclid=IwAR1hhk0sGhudLNuLjW8NN_ed1LJ_cDbPjAzfNh0CLGkkekZ7cQ11gMgC0

MARCA Bill would improve access to radiology care

Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives June 1, 2021. Known as the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act or MARCA would amend the Social Security Act to provide for payment for services of radiologist assistants under the Medicare program. The radiologist assistant is a certified radiographer who has completed advanced education, clinical experience and certification to be able to expertly and safely perform radiologic assessments and certain procedures that traditionally were performed only by radiologists. Medicare is a national health insurance program in the United States, that primarily provides health insurance for Americans aged 65 and older.

Currently, Medicare pays for services performed by a radiologist assistant following the state’s scope of practice, supervision rules and licensure requirements. MARCA will ensure that regardless of the setting in which the service is performed, hospital, critical access hospital, ambulatory surgical center or any other facility setting, that complete Medicare reimbursement is paid. The adoption of this language would allow RAs to practice to their full ability and enable radiologists to devote more focused time to reviewing and interpreting complex medical images or urgent cases.

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the Society for Radiology Physician Extenders are working together to support enactment of the measure.
THE ISRRT-WHO FCTC on this year of 2021 was the “Keep the next generation in radiography a non-smoking profession” This campaign is part of the ISRRT supporting the WHO’s framework convention on the tobacco control (WHO FCTC). In 2020, more than 200 people from around the world engaged in this annual activity during last week of May while more than 3000 people reached on ISRRT’s post of this non-smoking profession activity.

The campaign was started by sending invitation letters to all ISRRT members as well as posting the invitation on the ISRRT Facebook at www.isrrt.org/Keep-the-next-generation-in-radiography-a-non-smoking-profession

The campaign was activated from May 28 to June 4, 2021 by inviting radiological technologists and radiographer around the globe to share themselves photos with the campaign poster that has been prepared on ISRRT website. The we urge the participants to include two hashtags #ISRRT and #ISRRTNONSMOKE on their post message. The campaign activity momentum could be observed by searching on Facebook search-box using the hashtags [#ISRRT or #ISRRTNONSMOKE] to see activities around the world around the two keywords.

After the campaign ended, information was drawn from the ISRRT page statistic. We found that during the campaign week, ISRRT post engagement was increased by 259% (7,787 post engagements).

According to the definition from the digitalshiftmedia.com, the post engagement means “the number of times people have engaged with anything posted on your Facebook Page”. This mean that radiological technologists and radiographer around the world are actively participating in the 2021 ISRRT-WHO FCTC campaign.

The ISRRT-WHO FCTC campaign gained popularity and increased about 20.65% referring to the information presented in figure 2. Figure 3 indicates raw data that were collected from ISRRT-WHO campaign in term of Facebook posts during May 28 – June 4, 2021.
“Keep the next generation in Radiography a non-smoking profession”

The following two pages are screen captured images taken from the ISRRT Facebook posts during the ISRRT-WHO FCTC campaign.
Thanks to the students at the radiological technology program at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

"Keep the Next Generation of Radiographers in a Smoking-Free Profession!"

#ISRRTNONSMOKE... See more

Thanks to the Director of radiological technology program at the Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Let’s all together support the Tobacco free profession campaign! Upload your photo along with with the ISRRT poster

Bright Otiso-Manteaw » WRET - World Radiography Educational Trust Foundation
Students from the Department of Medical Imaging, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, University of Cape Coast and radiographers of the Ho Teaching hos... See more
World Radiography Educational Trust Foundation Appoints New Trustees

The World Radiography Educational Trust Foundation is proud to announce the appointment of Evelyn Wasike (Kenya) and Mohammed Abdalghani (Palestine) to its Board of Trustees. WRETF Trustees bring their unique background and skills to fulfill our mission of cultivating a global culture of volunteerism and increasing access to medical imaging education throughout the world. Ms Wasike and Mr Abdalghani have provided strategic leadership during the Ambassador program's exceptional growth. They will continue working closely with WRETF Ambassadors throughout the world to design and implement projects, and to enhance our organizational performance and capability.

Ms Wasike is a member of the Society of Radiographers in Kenya (SORK) and the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT) and serves as secretary to the SORK Radiographers Scientific Committee and Electoral Board and is an executive board member of Catholic Justice and Peace Commission.

Mr Abdalghani is the vice president of the Palestinian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (PAMRT) and is a representative of the association to the ISRRT and EFRS. He also serves as a Council member at the Arab Federation of Radiology and Medical Imaging Specialists Associations.

Senior Ambassadors Announced

The World Radiography Education Trust Foundation is also proud to announce the elevation of Stephen Samson Mkoloma (Tanzania) and Adam Francis Zuberi (Tanzania) to Senior Ambassadors. This honor is bestowed upon Ambassadors who have made significant contributions to fulfilling the WRETF’s mission. As active and engaged Ambassadors, Mr Mkoloma and Mr Zuberi have proven to be exceptional project leaders and will ensure the continued success of the Ambassador program.

“The Changing Role of Educators and Technologies Amidst the COVID 19 Pandemic - a report by the Ambassadors of the WRETF”

Technology has impacted almost every aspect of life today, and radiography education is no exception. Technology is increasingly becoming a more important part of education and the integration of digital technologies in education has been gradually modernizing the learning experience globally. When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world in 2020, schools closed and education was moved to students’ homes. The COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the integration process, placing digital technologies at the center of education and training, and completely disrupting education systems.

Consequently, many countries faced the challenge of an unanticipated and accelerated move to online learning. This special issue presents how countries worldwide responded, the changing role of teachers, opportunities, and considerations; and what was learned moving forward for the contemporary role of technology in education in times of crisis.

Peachy Luna, RRT, MAED
WRETF Ambassador to the Philippines

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), have also had to adjust to the new situation where face-to-face interaction and mass gatherings are prohibited. HEIs found innovative ways to fulfill tasks and adjusted to work-from-home arrangements and conduct emergency online learning. From the confines of their homes, teachers and administrators were put to the task of revising and adapting course syllabi and requirements as they shifted to alternative or remote teaching modalities, both synchronous and asynchronous. In some instances, these arrangements became unsustainable and some universities had to suspend remote or online
classes because the uneven socioeconomic status of students affected their access to these modalities of learning. Also, concerns regarding the mental health of both students and teachers affected by the uncertainty became another reason to suspend online classes.

HEIs were involved in enhancing the capabilities and competencies of members of the academe, by sharing their knowledge, skills, and expertise on relevant topics. Training activities, mentoring sessions, and webinars were organized by various colleges and universities using Zoom and Google meet. Topics covered in these activities include online teaching technologies and competencies to identify and implement digital teaching methods and tools, adjusting teaching practices for online interactions and engagement, COVID-19, and psychosocial aid and support for students and faculty.

With the anticipated lifting or relaxing of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in many parts of the country after 15 May, sustaining the delivery of quality education continues to be a major challenge. With the restrictions on the movement of people, the need to practice physical distancing, and prohibitions on mass gatherings in schools, face-to-face classes, community engagements of students, internships, practicum activities, and other forms of experiential learning methods can no longer be employed for as long as the pandemic persists.

Bismark B. Ofori-Manteaw
WRETF Ambassador to Ghana

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the academic and clinical activities of educational institutions in Ghana. The shutting down of schools in a bid to mitigate the spread of the virus widely disrupted personal, professional, and academic activities. In-person teachings were widely replaced by virtual learning to deliver lectures to students during the peak period. However, this was challenging with the lack of access to stable and affordable internet connectivity.

Also, students and faculty were not conversant in handling online teaching delivery and did not find the virtual platform user-friendly. All clinical placement of students was also suspended hence making it difficult to achieve the number of clinical hours required by the students and how to assess them. Currently, academic work and clinical activities have resumed fully in Ghana. However, fear of the pandemic continues to exist among students and faculty which affects their interactions and psychological well-being. Teachers have taken up the extra role of counseling students to assuage such fears characterized by the pandemic. The pandemic despite its negative effect has also presented a great opportunity in learning new things and adapting to changing trends as a teacher.

Stephen Samson Mkoloma
WRETF Ambassador to Tanzania

Like other countries in the World, Tanzania experienced a challenging moment. The 2019 episode saw all classes closed for three months. After the reopening and start of classes, anxiety was all over. Lectures continued as usual except that access to class was allowed only to people who wore masks, all student consultations were done telephonically. The situation helped us to see the value of online training where zoom classes were encouraged.

In hospitals, we had a lack of PPEs for radiographers and students. Surgical masks and gloves were the common PPEs we depended upon; good that we did not experience losses, however, few radiographers contracted the virus and have recovered.

In the situation we are now; more collaboration with the advanced department is needed. Online and virtual education is not a common practice, our tutors and clinical instructors need more training on it. All in all, Tanzania is grasped to be among the least COVID-affected nations in the World and so our practice has no big change so far.

Blmali Sanjeevani Weerakoon
WRETF Ambassador to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has abruptly transformed the conventional learning platforms favoring online distance mode after closing its higher education institutions in response to the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of that, all the higher educational institutes which are providing radiography education in Sri Lanka have been trying to adhere to the novel technology, enabled online education as a core method of teaching. However, conducting laboratory classes and clinical training, evaluating student engagement, and having credible online examinations will remain challenging.

Hussien Abdelrhmaan, MSc Ph.D.
WRETF Ambassador to Sudan

COVID-19 hit Sudan considerably like other African countries statistics shows, alongside Sudan was at the beginning of the translation period after the civilian revolution. As coronavirus cases increased, the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health (SFMOH) authorities acted very quickly with guidelines and precautions recommended by world health organization (WHO) to conquer infections; with complete lockdown, social distancing and forced mask wearing. Sudanese reflect good collaboration with these decisions and instructions given at this hard time.

The Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research (MOHE) ordered all universities (governmental and private) to follow SFMOH instruction, so face-to-face classes were prohibited and also clinical training stopped at the beginning. Some universities turned to online learning methods to continue their classes. They depended on the non-professional application like mobile social communication application WhatsApp and telegram groups to send lectures or communicate with students during lockdown with clinical training stopped.

The education facility started to purchase professional E-learning platforms, especially the private sector, and they trained their instructors to use it for theoretical teaching and group tutoring, it’s not easy but gradually becoming successful and with time SFMOH will allow face-to-face for a small group with restrictions of following the safety guidelines precaution.

Students and teachers were not ready to accept E-learning in the beginning, but once time obstacles were solved the feedback shows very good acceptance of use and its utilities which simulate class activities. Regarding clinical practices, students were allowed to be training in non-COVID-19 hospital centers which have high safety
and checking triage systems, those students are grouped in small groups to maintain social distance.

Regardless of adapting to E-learning many challenges arose due to the country’s economic status with inflation causing unstable power supply and internet service but students and teachers are trying their best to fulfill the curriculum calendar in time. Enhancement of training virtual programs and simulators can help filling the shortage of training hospitals, this was one recommendation of radiography faculties Dean’s webinar meeting.

Sudan is affected by COVID-19 in the quality of radiography education but the efforts of teachers and students are well appreciated seeking more ideas to continue the process of education.

Evelyn Wasike
WRETF Senior Ambassador to Kenya

Kenya isn’t any different from the rest of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic caught us unprepared especially with the online classes. Most radiography training here is done on-site. The situation completely changed how things are done. Universities and colleges had to quickly invest and adapt to online classes to continue with students as others were waiting to join the courses.

In our national teaching and referral hospital, the number of patients had to be reduced to observe the COVID guidelines. The isolation wards had to be equipped with portable units for general X-rays and ultrasound. Then schedules were made for CT and MRI COVID patients to be brought at the end of the shifts. The hospital had already invested in a PACS system that allows the radiologists to do online reporting. All patients coming to radiology for invasive procedures had to undergo a mandatory COVID test before the examination.

The situation currently has improved, and we are now accepting students from universities and colleges in the department for their clinical practice.

Adam Francis Zuberi
WRETF Ambassador to Tanzania

In India the pandemic didn’t put a stop to learning. The classes, lectures, assignments, and exams are all online. Students still contact all the teachers through chat groups and emails. Accommodating, flexible and knowledgeable teachers make online learning easier and fun amidst challenges in adapting online learning. Also, learning resources are gathered from international and local radiographic organizations such as ISRRT, TARA, ECR, WRETF, and AOCR, etc. for endless support on the social media platform such as Facebook by providing us short courses, case studies, examinations, competition with low cost and sometimes free. The technical advantage of online classes is allowing the students the opportunity to graduate on time. Current students are vaccinated for free and the COVID-19 infection rate is low, so we hope soon will be back to physical classes.

Christopher Steelman
Chairman
**NEW ZEALAND**

The New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technologists (NZIMRT) is delighted to report that the joint ASMIRT / NZIMRT Revision Conference held at the beginning of June 2021 was a huge success. While back in March planning was still hoped to be for a hybrid event, it was not to be and a full virtual event was staged. While the true joy of meeting friends face to face, networking and sharing ideas will always be missed, the ease in which members were able to participate virtually was fantastic. The layout of the ‘conference’ was fun, the speakers interesting and informative and all seemed to have adapted to the new format as if it was the usual. The NZIMRT wishes to acknowledge the hard work put in by all conference committee members.

On a similar theme the NZIMRT recognises the disappointment and no doubt frustration that the ISRRT / Dublin conference team may well be feeling as they prepare for a hybrid event. Our world is certainly a different place than that when we all celebrated together in Trinidad & Tobago. Despite the differences there are many positives to the virtual event capabilities and it does result in the learning opportunities being opened up and available to many more than may have been able to afford to attend in person. The NZIMRT is encouraging members to register and become involved as many will not have had the privilege of participating in an ISRRT event before.

Mid-winter finds the NZIMRT preparing for the annual conference and across the country all of the regions are preparing for their own Annual General Meetings (AGM). At this stage we are hoping to be able to hold a face-to-face meeting – “Growing with the Flow in Queenstown” September 4-5, 2021. The theme is recognition of how COVID-19 has changed the world of the healthcare worker and acknowledging how radiographers & radiation therapists have had to adapt and ‘go with the flow’. Queenstown is New Zealand’s winter wonderland so members across the country are looking forward to being together for the first time in two years. The ISRRT Council Meeting in Dublin will be my last Council Meeting as I am stepping down from the NZIMRT Board at this year’s AGM. Succession planning is vital for the survival of any organisation and it is time for new faces and new ideas. I have been part of the NZIMRT Board since 2002 and participation in my professional organisation has been as rewarding as practicing my craft of radiography has been. It has been a privilege to represent New Zealand on the world stage and I was humbled with the generous response from colleagues around the world who participated in the NZIMRT World Radiography Day poster campaign to encourage membership of ISRRT.

Radiography has truly been the most wonderful profession and I will be forever grateful for the amazing opportunities this profession has presented. The friendships I have made are a testament to the caring and resilience displayed by our profession, such special people that will always have a place in my heart.

Ko te pae tawhiti, Whaia kia tata; ko te pae tata Whakamaua kia tina

Seek out distant horizons and cherish those you attain

Kathy Colgan
NZIMRT ISRRT Director

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**INDONESIA**

PARI Indonesia celebrating World No Tobacco Day 2021

The Indonesian Society of Radiographers is participated in a joint campaign with ISRRT and WHO to commemorate World Tobacco Free Day in 2021 with the theme ‘Keep the next generation in radiography a non-smoking profession’. This campaign is ISRRT’s support for the WHO framework convention on tobacco control (WHO FCTC).

The campaign is carried out through the publication of photos on social media from May 28 - 31, and celebrations on main date May 31, 2021. All radiographers in Indonesia celebrated World Tobacco Free Day.
SRI LANKA

PeRRAA Webinar Series
Participation in continuing education (CE) in the field of radiography and radiotherapy is one of the substantial components to assure high standards of professional conduct and competence. Peradeniya Radiography and Radiotherapy Alumni Association (PeRRAA) of Sri Lanka is conducting regular free educational webinars since 2020 covering various aspects of medical imaging and radiation therapy for radiographers, radiation therapists, undergraduate and diploma radiography/radiotherapy students. The third and fourth sessions of this webinar series were held on 05th and 27th June 2021. Insert 4 x slides

Dr B. S. Weerakoon (President)
Mr L. Thasanth (Secretary)
Peradeniya Radiography and Radiotherapy Alumni Association, Sri Lanka

THE AMERICAS

AMERICA

ASRT 2021 Election Results
Members of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists have elected four officers to serve on the 2021-2022 ASRT Board of Directors.

• Daniel L. Gonzales, M.S.R.S., R.T.(R), FASRT, was elected to serve as ASRT’s president-elect. Gonzales is director of diagnostic imaging at Carlsbad Medical Center in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He served as treasurer on the ASRT Board of Directors in 2018-2019 and as vice president in 2020-2021.

• Brandon A. Smith, M.B.A., M.S.R.S., R.T.(R)[VI], CIIP, was elected ASRT’s vice president. Smith is a radiology applications trainer at GE Healthcare in Houston, Texas. He is a former president and board chair of the Texas Society of Radiologic Technologists. He currently serves as treasurer on the ASRT Board of Directors.

• Heather Moore, Ph.D., R.T.(R), was elected as secretary. She is an academic unit head and associate professor at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. Dr. Moore previously served as treasurer on the ASRT Board of Directors in 2019-2020.

• Amy Hofmann, M.B.A., R.T.(R)[ICT], RDMS, CRA, FASRT, was elected to the role of treasurer. Hofmann is the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program director at Trinity Health in Minot, North Dakota. This is her first term on the ASRT Board of Directors.

• President-elect Kristi Moore, Ph.D., R.T.(R)[CT], was elevated to serve as ASRT president for the 2021-2022 term and President Michael Odgren, B.S., R.P.A., R.R.A., R.T.[R][CT], was elevated to chair of the Board.

• Michael Odgren, B.S., R.P.A., R.R.A., R.T.[R][CT], immediate past president, will serve as the ASRT Chairman of the Board for the 2021-2022 term. Mike is an advanced practice radiographer for Diversified Radiology of Colorado, P.C. in Lakewood, Colorado.

• Daniel DeMaio, M.Ed., R.T.(R)[CT], was elected speaker of the House on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists’ 36th annual Governance
and House of Delegates meeting. This is DeMaio’s first term as speaker. He formerly served two terms as vice speaker. DeMaio is director of the radiologic technology program at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Connecticut.

- Shellie Pike, M.S.R.S., R.R.A., R.T.(R) (CT), was elected vice speaker of the House of the House on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists’ 36th annual Governance and House of Delegates meeting. This is also Shellie Pike’s first term in the role of vice speaker. She serves as a registered radiologist assistant in the radiology department of Radiology Consultants of Iowa in Cedar Rapids.

ASRT Foundation Awards More Than $265,000 in Scholarships

The ASRT Foundation, philanthropic arm of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, has awarded $265,500 in scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year. This year’s 87 recipients include practicing professionals working toward new certifications and degrees along with entry-level students at colleges and universities throughout the United States. Scholarship awards range from $500 up to $5,000 and are funded by the ASRT Foundation through partnerships with corporations, non-profits and generous ASRT members. The ASRT Foundation is believed to be the largest single provider of medical imaging and radiation therapy scholarships in the world. ‘We’re proud to lead the way in supporting students and professionals with new opportunities for advancement’, said Steve Hardy, M.S., R.T.[R(T)](CT), CMD, chief operating officer for the ASRT Foundation and executive vice president of development and corporate relations for ASRT.

‘Offering these scholarships is a powerful tool to develop new leaders and a way to give back to this vital profession. We couldn’t do it without the generosity of our donors and corporate supporters. Thank you.’

Distinguished author award winners named

The ASRT has announced the recipients of its distinguished author awards, recognizing the best peer-reviewed articles published in ASRT’s scientific journals in 2020. Presented annually, the awards are chosen by members of each journal’s respective Editorial Review Board after a comprehensive review of all scholarly articles published in the journals during the previous calendar year. The Radiologic Technology Distinguished Author Award in Honor of Jean I. Widger goes to Tammy L. Webster, Ph.D., R.T.[R(IM), FAEIRS, and Kevin R. Clark, Ed.D., R.T.[R(QM). Their article, ‘COVID-19 Planning Among Radiologic Science Programs: Response Mitigation Activities,’ was published in the November/December issue of Radiologic Technology. In addition, this year the Radiation Therapist Distinguished Author Award in Honor of Harold Silverman goes to Rosann Keller, M.Ed., R.T.[T], and Amy A. Heath, M.S., R.T.[T], for their article, ‘Cognitive Biases and Errors in Radiation Therapy,’ which was published in the fall 2020 issue of Radiation Therapist.

ASRT names 2021 Fellows

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists bestowed the status of Fellow on five members during the 2021 Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting held online in June. The Society’s newest Fellows are Annette Coleman, M.A., R.T.[T], Cheryl DuBose, Ed.D., R.T.[R](CT)(MR)(QM), Kelli Welch Haynes, Ed.D., R.T.[R], Amy Heath, M.S., R.T.[T] and Ryan Smith, D.H.Sc., M.B.A., CNMT. The ASRT established the honorary Fellow category in 1956 to recognize members who have made outstanding contributions to the profession and ASRT. Fellows have volunteered in leadership positions at the national and local levels, written articles for publication, presented at professional meetings and helped advance the radiologic technology profession.

ASRT 2021 Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ASRT cancelled the annual educational symposium. An abbreviated, special meeting of the House of Delegates was convened to elect the speaker and vice speaker. In 2021, the ASRT moved forward with a totally virtual educational symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates meeting. On June 17, 2021, six hours of continuing education was presented and participants could also post questions for the speakers. The Annual Governance and House of Delegates meeting took place virtually June 18-20, 2021. A full agenda of business was conducted including adoption of bylaw amendments and practice standards. The meeting culminated with the retiring of the 2020-2021 ASRT Board of Directors and installation of the 2021-2022 Board.

Donna Long Council Member

ASRT Foundation Names Recipients of Education Journey Awards

Three ASRT members have been selected to receive this year’s $4,000 Siemens Healthineers Education Journey Award to attend the educational or professional conference of their choice. The award promotes peer-to-peer education and supports professional development in the radiologic technology community by covering conference registration fees, travel and lodging for three ASRT members.
The recipients of the 2021 Siemens Education Journey Award are:

Christopher Daza, M. Ed. R.T.[R](CT), a full-time faculty member in radiography and computed tomography at Houston Community College will attend the 2022 United Kingdom Imaging and Oncology Congress to be held July 4-6, 2022. The location is still to be determined at this time.

Justinian Gologan, R.T.[R], a staff technologist at Northside Duluth, will attend the 2022 United Kingdom Imaging and Oncology Congress to be held July 4-6, 2022. The location is still to be determined at this time.

Larry Martin, MACPR, R.T.[R][MR], a program director at Ohio State University, will attend the 2022 Siemens Innovations for Imaging Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Final conference dates are still to be determined.

Siemens Healthineers is proud to align with the ASRT Foundation to demonstrate our commitment to fostering continuing education opportunities for radiologic technologists, said Nanci Wozniak, B.S., R.T.(N), CNMT, Vice President of Education & Workforce Solutions at Siemens Healthineers. “It is our hope that receiving this grant will facilitate the development of new professional skills and improve workplace efficiency for recipients, which will translate into higher quality patient outcomes in the future.”

Steve Hardy, M.S., R.T.[R][T][CT], CMD, chief operating officer for the ASRT Foundation and executive vice president of development and corporate relations for ASRT said, “We are honored to partner with Siemens Healthineers again to offer this opportunity to the medical imaging and radiation therapy community. The generous support of Siemens is pivotal to ensuring a brighter future for the profession by facilitating knowledge sharing among professional colleagues.”

Sharon Wartenbee
Regional Director of America’s

CANADA

CAMRT • ACTRM

In May, CAMRT held its virtual meeting “CAMRT 2021”, with two full days of education, discussion and networking for MRTs. Sessions were streamed live and are now available on demand.

In all, 38 diverse sessions are available online for streaming on-demand. Find the available on-demand sessions arranged by theme at: www.camrt.ca/blog/2021/05/18/camrt-2021-on-demand-sessions/

ONLINE EDUCATION
New education on artificial intelligence
CAMRT has just launched a new course designed specifically for practicing radiation technologists and radiographers, entitled “Artificial Intelligence and its Application in Medical Radiation Technology”. This course provides a foundational understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) as it applies to their field, as well as how emerging AI strategies will impact medical imaging and radiation therapy practice into the future. The full course consists of 40 credit hours, or 14.5 Category A credits. For more details, visit the CAMRT continuing education catalogue: https://camrt.force.com/CPBase__store?site=a0a1a00000AMdCoAAL

More than 200 high-quality courses and webinars
Topics from across all disciplines of medical imaging and radiation therapy. All CAMRT Online CPD is available to professionals anywhere and is approved for category A credit, in the CAMRT catalogue: https://camrt.force.com/CPBase__store?site=a0a1a00000AMdCoAAL

JOURNAL OF MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIATION SCIENCES
MRS Narratives format now open for submissions
The format is for anyone with something to share related to any aspect of medical imaging and radiation therapy, including patients, families, health care leaders, policy makers, and MRTs. Submissions are not restricted to any particular format—we are open to personal stories, poems, photographic essays, or any other method that can communicate your narrative. Author instructions are at https://www.jmirs.org/content/authorinfo, including a “Steps to Submit” document for new authors, and links to published examples.

Calls for Papers
JMIRS has two calls for special issues to be published in 2022:

• “Palliative Care” content deadline November 1, 2021
Palliative care can provide relief from pain and other symptoms of a serious, long-term or life-threatening illness. Symptoms can be physical, psychological, social or spiritual. We are seeking submissions in any of our formats, related to your research, practice, policy, theory or narratives in this crucial topic.

• “Leadership” content deadline May 1, 2022
Leadership has never been tested more than in 2020/2021. Across the radiation sciences leaders are guiding teams through perhaps the greatest challenges of their careers. All of us can lead from where we stand, regardless of our role, and we’d like to hear your insights about the dilemmas, ambiguities and complexities of leadership in our profession.

Submissions should be sent online at: www.jmirs.org/ but informal contact about ideas can be discussed with the editor at any time. Email us your ideas or questions at editor@camrt.ca

JMIRS Podcasts
JMIRS latest podcast features Dr. Ian Boon, one of the authors of a recently published Commentary, Digital healthcare and shifting equipoise in radiation oncology: The butterfly effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Available here: https://anchor.fm/jmirs

Canadian MRTs in the news
Hear the BBC World Service interview Megan Brydon, lead author of the paper: «Virtual Reality as a Tool for Eliciting Empathetic Behaviour in Carers: An Integrative Review.” Interview available here: www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09j6x8r
Support for those interested in working in Canada

The CAMRT encourages those thinking about working as MRTs (radiographers) in Canada to check out its two learning modules for Internationally Educated Medical Radiation Technologists (IEMRTs). The first module on describes practice/employment in Canada. The second is a module providing education on "How to Write a Competency Based Exam". Both are available in the certification section of the CAMRT website www.camrt.ca/certification/

EUROPE

FINLAND

SORF has had a very different year like many of us. Our office has been closed since March 2020 and both our employees have been working from their homes the past 18 months and now, we will most likely keep this way of working at least till the end of the year. Everything has run smoothly, and this distancing has taught us new ways of working. In many ways it has turned out to be very encouraging, successful, and productive phase.

In Finland there is around 4,000 working age radiographers, about 84% of them working in the field of diagnostics, therapy, nuclear medicine, or industry. 80% of the radiographers are members of the society and appr. 10% are radiography students.

At the present there is shortage of radiographers in Finland, and it is hard to get enough work force from aboard as one of the requirements is Finnish language skills. Six UAS are producing around 150 new graduates each year, but that is not cover the need at the moment. Yearly we have around 100 radiographers retiring from the profession.

SORF is active CPD educator not only for medical imaging professionals but also to the other staff, who is assisting the doctors in charge of the use of radiation. These professionals are among the others: emergency medical technicians, dental nurses and hygienists, cardiology nurses, veterinary clinic assistants etc. In a normal year SORF organizes around 20 full day CPD seminars and courses from plain imaging to advanced level multi slice imaging courses. All the courses are recognized and approved to meet the set criteria. All the radiographers in Finland are required by the national legislation to have minimum on 6 hrs of radiation related CPD a year + additional 30 hrs (five days) profession related CPD.

Annual congress Radiografiapäivät was postponed 2020 and is due to be held in September 2021 as a hybrid congress.

SORF publishes together with the Finlands Radiographical Research Society the Clinical Radiography and Radiotherapy, which is a peer review journal published 1-2 times a year.

At the end of 2020, the Council approved the new Code of Ethics. The Code is available only in Finnish.

GREECE

A successful seminar was organized by Greek Society of RTs, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, in April, during the third wave of pandemic. The title of this seminar was "Radiation Protection for patients and RTs from A to Z". This seminar was separated in ten sessions in which the speakers were also RTs. The number of participants were unexpected huge, so deliberately the number of participated RTs was limited, during the lessons, because as society, we preferred the lessons to be more communicative and direct between the audience and the speakers. The same seminar will be organized again, in the autumn, for the RTs who could not participate in the first one, because of the large number of participants.

In May, Greek Society of RTs, as a member of ISRRT, participated for the second year in the campaign "Keep the next generation in radiography a non-smoking profession". This campaign reminds us to fight and end the epidemic of tobacco use that continues to kill more people than any other preventable cause. The good news is that nowadays, all of us know which strategies work best, such as this extraordinary campaign. I am pleased to say that Greek RTs were present, photographed with the poster...
of the campaign and posted it on their Facebook account. By applying, every year, this campaign more fully and more aggressively, we move closer to the goal of making the next generation tobacco-free.

On June 28, 2021, the day I wrote this article, in my country, the daily epidemiological surveillance report for the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19) by EODY, was the following: The new laboratory-confirmed cases of the disease recorded in the last 24 hours are 362. The new deaths of patients with COVID-19 are 8 and the number of patients treated by intubation is 215.

In Greece, the vaccinations will continue during the summer period. Greek people will have the opportunity to choose the vaccine that they prefer to be vaccinated. Let us hope the fourth wave of the pandemic does not bring a new lockdown in autumn and finally return to normalcy again.