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Newsletter of the:

American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists
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Spring 2005

In This Issue:
- ➢ *Korean Society of MRI Techs.*
- ➢ *NCCA Application Update.*
- ➢ *Member Contributions.*
- ➢ *Update Your Information.*

GREETING TO THE KSMRT
March 21, 2005
To: Seung-Hee Han, President
Dear Mr. Han:

The American Registry of MRI Technologists (**ARMRIT**) takes great pleasure in extending its congratulations and best wishes to the **Korean Society of MRI Technologists** on the occasion of your 15th Annual National Meeting.

Our common goal of creating a distinct and particular space in the realm of medical diagnostic imaging is augmented through our mutual cooperation. Equally imperative is our shared thrust of maintaining appropriate standards in the practice of MRI imaging by members of our two organizations. With an eye towards the future, we hope your members can participate in our annual national meetings, and vice versa. The currently planned meeting is on April 20 to 22, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

We therefore look forward to a long time of productive relationship and association with your fine organization. Although we are oceans apart, the distance of geography should not be a deterrent factor, because of the availability of easy communication.

On the occasion of your anniversary we therefore salute your organization, its leadership and members, wish you the best, and may your organization continue to grow.
Sincerely yours,
Wilfrido M. Sy, MD., Executive Director
James F. Coffin, President

NCCA Accreditation Application Update
Practice (Job) Analysis Development & Validation.   March 15, 2005

In an effort to certify healthcare professionals, the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRIT) has since 1991 undertaken the task of developing and implementing certification examinations for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technologists. Since its inception, the content of ARMRIT's certification examination for MRI technologists has been based upon a set of test specifications containing a mix of practice-based and content/curriculum topics. More recently, ARMRIT decided to change the foundation of the examination from this mix of topics to fully "practice-based" content. In so doing, the organization seeks to enhance the legal defensibility of the MRI technologist certification program and, in addition, make it eligible for national accreditation. A necessary first step in the process of changing to a practice-based examination program is to perform a practice (job) analysis identifying the domains of practice, tasks performed, and knowledge required for safe and effective performance on the job. Once in place, these Domains, Tasks and Knowledge Statements form the basis for item (question) writing and examination construction.

On November 6th, 2004, a workshop was conducted in New York, NY wherein a diverse group of 13 subject-matter experts (SMEs) selected by and representing ARMRIT met to conduct the practice analysis for the MRI technologist examination program. (The list of workshop participants can be found in Table 1.) Specifically, the purpose of this meeting was to produce a document delineating the knowledge required for the safe and   (over)

MRVector ⟶

Spring 2005

 effective performance of the tasks carried out by the certification-level MRI technologist. An additional goal of the workshop was to identify weighting factors associated with each Domain and Task. The weighting factors represent the pooled judgments of the SMEs of the relative importance of, and time spent on, each of the Tasks typically performed by the certification-level MRI technologist.

   The product of this role delineation workshop was a draft practice analysis that was subsequently returned to ARMRIT staff and selected panel members for final review and comment. The resulting practice analysis document for the MRI technologist is presented in Table 2.

   Since the product of this workshop represented the work of only XX individuals, the decision was made to validate the practice analysis document by submitting it to a group of 750 professionals, all MRI technologists. This large number was chosen to make the dissemination of the survey as wide as possible, even though it was known that it would result in a lower response rate than a random sample of ARMRIT certificants. In other words, given the particular climate in the profession and the existence of competing examinations, it was decided that it would be politic to include as many MRI technicians in the mailing as possible.

   In addition to the practice analysis document, participants were provided with an introductory letter from ARMRIT, a cover memorandum from Dr. Gerald A. Rosen, Consulting Psychologist, retained by ARMRIT to develop the practice analysis, and a packet of materials containing the following: a list of definitions of terms so that participants would become familiar with practice analysis terminology; a set of

detailed instructions for reviewing and commenting on the practice analysis, and a set of comment sheets containing the survey questions. The respondents recorded their responses to the survey questions directly on the comment sheets. The respondents were asked to review the practice analysis document and: (1) identify those Domains, Tasks and/or Knowledge Statements they would like to eliminate, reword, or revise; (2) suggest any New Domains, Tasks and/or Knowledge Statements that they would like to add to the practice analysis; and (3) confirm or suggest changes to the Domain weights.

Dr. Gerald A. Rosen, Licensed Psychologist

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

   The ARMRIT, like all professional certification organizations, is dependent on the support of its members. It is application and annual renewal fees that establish the yearly budget based on the total number of members and applicants. Yet, it is only because of the additional contributions of our members that allow the important work of the Registry to continue on a steady pace.

   The ARMRIT Board of Directors wholeheartedly thanks all of its members for their support and especially to those who have contributed to the NCCA Application Fund.

Again, Thank You!
ARMRIT Board of Directors.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Name:_____
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Work Phone: _____