



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST**

- President's Message
- Airport Whole Body Scanning Systems
- Rad Tech Week 2012
- 2013 MSRT Executive Board Nominations



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## President's Message



I have been reading a lot about organizational change. What it takes, the vision behind it and the people who lead the change. Change can be very difficult for most people. We get comfortable in our present situations or take the attitude if it isn't broke don't fix it, but change happens all around us and if we don't jump on board we will be left behind.

This year the MSRT has begun to do just that. The Executive Board and a group of volunteers are beginning to put our changes into effect. The marketing committee is working on obtaining group discounts on uniforms for our membership.

The bylaws are being updated and will go out for membership approval. The ASRT has joined forces with us helping us to learn how to grow and be prosperous and we are looking at other benefits for our membership.

In February we will be offering a half day seminar in the western part of our state. We will continue to make strides, slowly but steady and we will always keep the membership in the know.

Please remember all executive board meetings are open to our members and we welcome all comments.

Have a wonderful holiday and a safe New Year.

*Lisa*

# The Safety of Airport Whole Body Scanning Systems

By Frank Ascoli, MS, FACR

Chief Physicist for Shields Health Care



**B**y now most people have been subjected to airport security screening by

whole body imaging. It is generally accepted by the public as a safe screening method and there are rarely protests by travelers who are made to undergo this type of screening. There are actually different technologies used to produce whole body images; one uses x-ray and the other uses radiofrequency waves to scan the individual.

Let's start with the non-ionizing technique, called "millimeter wave". These scanners do not contribute any radiation dose since they do not use ionizing radiation. There are over 500 of these scanners in use today. Front and back rotating antennas emit and receive microwaves and a 2D surface image is formed based upon whatever items on the passenger's body scatter the radiowaves. Think of this as "radar for the body". Power levels are extremely low and considered very safe, even for pregnant passengers. Because of concerns over "virtual strip searches" The Transportation and Safety Administration (TSA) has recently changed the software to project objects on a generic Gumby-like cartoon sketch.

The other, and slightly controversial, scanner is the "x-ray backscatter" system. There are about 300 of these in use. Now we're talking real x-rays! Typically, 100 kVp x-rays are produced from tungsten target tubes, again both front and back of the passenger are scanned simultaneously. From your physics you remember that Compton scatter is produced when the incident energy exceeds the k-characteristic binding energy of the absorber. Some of this radiation is backscattered and received by an electronic imager and converted into a 2D chalky image of the object scattering the radiation. The radiation dose to the skin is real, albeit minuscule. The Health Physics Society estimates that a person undergoing a backscatter scan receives approximately 0.05  $\mu\text{Sv}$  (or 0.005 [mrems](#)) of radiation. That's about an extra 10 minutes of background radiation in the United States. Let's try to put this amount of radiation into perspective and approximate the ill effects of these scans.

The radiation levels at the altitudes which commercial flights travel at are considerably higher than at ground level due to the increasing intensity of cosmic radiation. For example, during a 6 hour flight, someone would receive 20  $\mu\text{Sv}$  (2 mrems), or 200 to 400 times larger than a backscatter x-ray scan. The TSA claims the potential for dangerous radiation exposure from the backscatter machine is low and that it doesn't pose a significant risk to pregnant passengers. The agency says each scan emits less than 1/1,000 of the radiation given off in a standard chest X-ray, or the equivalent of two minutes of high-altitude flight. Compared to a typical CT scan, a person would have to undergo 200,000 backscatter x-ray scans to receive an equal amount of dose. In other words, if you were scanned front and back every day of your life you would still receive only one tenth of a typical CT scan dose. Arguably dose from backscatter scanners is extremely low. But what does this low dose mean in terms of excess cancer, which is really the concern in the long term? Estimates vary and are always subject to criticism by other experts. A recent article in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* projected that for every 100 million passengers who flew seven one-way flights, and scanned for each flight, there would be one additional cancer. Keep in mind that the natural incidence of cancer among the same 100 million passengers is 25 million cases. As for pregnant women, there is no evidence of increased risk for miscarriage or fetal abnormalities from backscatter scan doses. However, there are fewer backscatter scanners than millimeter scanners and busy airports have started switching over to millimeter scanners because they are faster.

As a final thought, should operators of airport backscatter x-ray scanning systems be registered radiographers? I don't think so. A radiographer is highly skilled and educated in anatomy and positioning and is responsible for the safe use of much higher levels of radiation where the potential for harm is greater. The TSA trains its operators exhaustingly on how to detect dangerous items, not diagnose disease. Better to let each one do what they do best.

## BUILDING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOMES FOR SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS

866-7-TROOPS



We are Homes for Our Troops, a national non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2004. We are strongly committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries since September 11, 2001.

It is our duty and our honor to assist severely injured veterans and their immediate families by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor and to coordinate the process of building a specially adapted home that provides maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently. The homes provided by Homes for Our Troops are given at NO COST to the veterans we serve.

**IT'S ABOUT PATRIOTISM, PRIDE & GRATITUDE** • HFOT HQ: 6 Main Street, Taunton, MA 02780

## HOLD THE DATE!

The MSRT will host a 1/2 Day Seminar on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at Whidden Hospital. The following lectures will be held:

- *"Implanted Cardiac Pacemakers in Clinical Magnetic Resonance Imaging"* with Lori Nugent
- *"Become the Change you Want to See: Making a Difference in Your Professional Organization"* with Susan Celata MacIsaac, R.T.(T), RN, MSN
- *"Lecture TBA"* with James Lampka, MS RT(R)(ARRT)
- *"Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster – Long Term Effects & Lessons Learned"* with Frances Keech, MBA, RT(N), FSNMTS

If you are interested in attending, please download a registration form from our website Calendar Section and mail to the MSRT office or Pay Online. Please contact the MSRT office if you have any questions or suggestions.



Cambridge Health Alliance

*Special Thanks to Cambridge Health Alliance  
for sponsoring the Continental Breakfast*

# MSRT Executive Board Meeting

MCPHS-Boston • November 14, 2012

**Meeting Called to Order:** 5:40 PM

## Members Present

Lisa Fanning, Victoria Glassman, Cheryl Hollyfield, David LeClair, Chris Mercurio, Mary-Anne O'Donovan, Nancy Sutcliffe & Pat Willett

Via Conference Call: Karl Ellison & Nancy Garcia

## President's Report

- Affiliate Development Program Meeting-will try to schedule for 1/12/13 or 2/23/13 Board Meeting. Seventy Five Percent (75%) of the board needs to be present.

## State Delegates

- Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) will sponsor the continental breakfast at our 1/12/13 Half Day Seminar at Whidden Hospital.
- Medical Imaging Systems (MIS) will sponsor the continental breakfast at our 2/23/13 Half Day Seminar at Children's Hospital Boston.
- Bay state Medical in South Holyoke has agreed to do a host a Half Day seminar on 2/9/13.
- Nancy Sutcliffe has many speakers- question was raised if we could use some of these speakers at the annual conference.

## Conference Committee

- Need a Buzz Bowl Coordinator and volunteers
- All board members are responsible to find 1 speaker for the conference by next meeting in January.
- Need sponsors for cocktail hour and snack approx \$500.00 per sponsor
- President of ASRT will be Keynote speaker at conference

## Scholarship Committee

- Application needs to be updated
- Will ask for 1 letter of recommendation from faculty and student will submit a unofficial transcript
- Must be a MSRT member by 1/1/13
- Pat will revise and send via email to board for review- vote will be done electronically
- Application deadline is 2/12/13
- Technologist/ Presidential Scholarship
  - Remove all financial info
  - Must be active member of MSRT

## Scholarship Committee

- Looking for local business to offer discount to our members. We agreed to release membership ID # only as no personal info attached. No email lists will be released
- Welcome packets for students being put together looking for ideas

## New Business

- **Swank:** David LeClair will ask to see if a lawyer / tech he knows will agree to review the contract. We will not submit for review until we receive the updated contract from Swank with the 90 day escape clause and fees written into it.
- We will revisit the SWANK topic after mtg with ASRT advancement committee in January
- **Care Bill:** Crucial time for this right now. We need senate bill ramped up and for people to contact Sen Kerry's office. Sen Brown has signed on. Still need to get house Keating/Frank/ Tierney to join on.
- ASRT student leadership program. Application being revised it will be cleaned up and emailed to board. The chosen students will be acknowledged at the annual conference. Darren will compile a list of volunteer opportunities in the MSRT
- Advanced Certification has finally been approved by Bob Gallagher at Mass Radiation control board. Goes into effect 1/1/13 and worth 24 CEU's- still will be responsible for 2 radiation protection credits.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:50pm

# What Did You Do For Rad Tech Week 2012?



**The MSRT** requested a formal Proclamation from Governor Deval Patrick recognizing November 4-10, 2012 as Radiologic Technologist Week . The Governor granted the requested and mailed an official proclamation to the MSRT office. The proclamation will be on display at our Annual Conference



**Congratulations on  
your retirement  
Professor James V.  
Lampka, MS, RT(R)  
(ARRT)**

Thank you for many years of  
dedicated support not only to the  
MSRT but to our profession !

We wish you the Best of Luck!

Do you know a Technologist who stands  
out above the rest? Yes you do & here are  
your nominations.....

## Brigham & Womens Hospital

*Victoria Glassman* for her excellent work with students

*Tiffany King*

*Danielle Maalouf*

*Abdu Yriberri*

## Mass General Hospital

*David Brennan*, CT Technologist, nominated for his exceptional patient care. Dave has shown exceptional care with all his patients which has been reflected in multiple letters from patients expressing their gratitude for his kindness, patience and professionalism during their encounter. Once Dave meets a patient, the patient's comfort, quality of care and advocating for the patient is his top priority as it was his own family member. Dave is an outstanding patient advocate as he ensures to notify the radiologist of emergent cases. He is an all-around, great technologist!

## MSRT

Thank you to *David LeClair* for his hard work with the CARE Bill & many dedicated years of service to the MSRT!

# NEWS & ALERTS

## Advanced ARRT Certification for Continuing Education Credits

**Effective 1/2/13** the Massachusetts' Radiation Control Program (RCP) will now grant technologists 24 continuing education credits for successful completion of an advanced certification exam offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

When audited by the Radiation Control Program a technologist must provide a notarized copy of his/her ARRT certificate, which indicates the date that the certificate was issued by the ARRT, for the technologist to be eligible to receive these credits.

Technologists are still required to meet the RCP's current biennium continuing education requirements, i.e.: 2 credits in Radiation Safety/Radiation Protection credits, as well as, meeting the specific continuing education credits for the area/s in which they are licensed (i.e., 8 CE credits in Radiography or Nuclear Medicine or Radiation Therapy in a biennium; 12 in Mammography, etc.

## HOLD THE DATES!

In addition to the upcoming 1/2 Day Seminar on January 12th, the MSRT is offering the following 4 credit 1/2 Days Seminars:

<b>Feb 9, 2013</b>	<b>Baystate Health Education Center</b>
<b>Feb 23, 2013</b>	<b>Childrens Hospital Boston</b>

Please check the Calendar Section of our website for updated information.



*Special Thanks to Medical Imaging Systems for sponsoring the Continental Breakfast at our 1/2 Day Seminar at*

# NEWS & ALERTS

## Call for Nominations!

The MSRT is looking for volunteers to serve on the 2013-2014 Executive Board. A list of open board positions are listed on our website. We are also looking for volunteers for various committees for the upcoming membership year. If you are interested, please email the MSRT Office at [msrt-ma@comcast.net](mailto:msrt-ma@comcast.net).

Applications for the ASRT Student Leadership Program are now available under the News & Alerts section of our homepage.

## Registry Review

Lawrence Memorial/REGIS College Radiology Program will be hosting a Registry Review April 27-28, 2013. For further information, please contact Michael Farah, Program Director.

**Lawrence Memorial/  
REGIS College  
Radiography Program**  
170 Governors Avenue  
Medford, MA 02155  
Office: 781-306-6753  
FAX: 781-306-6710  
e-mail: [mfarah@lmh.edu](mailto:mfarah@lmh.edu)  
Web Site: [www.lmregis.org](http://www.lmregis.org)

**Eric McAdam**, MSRT State Delegate pictured below with the winners of our \$25 Gas Card Door Prize Raffle at our October 20th, 2012 Half Day Seminar at Lawrence General Hospital. *Special Thanks to LGH for sponsoring the Continental Breakfast.*



The ASRT has made it easy to Take Action. Simply click the Support The CARE Bill icon on our homepage, enter your zip code, contact information & a form email will be sent to your



# Job Openings



**Harvard Vanguard  
Medical Associates**  
Atrius Health

## **PACS Systems Analyst III**

**Division:** Information Technology

**Location:** Needham 2, MA

**Job Type:** Full Time

**Schedule:** Monday - Friday @ 8:30 - 5-00

The PACS Analysts primary responsibilities are to provide project management assistance, technical support and operational services in the implementation and maintenance of the Picture Archiving and Communication System. The PACS Analyst will provide day-to-day work-flow analysis and design as well as take a lead role in identifying opportunities for the improvement and maximization of existing functionality of current system(s) and operational workflows. Working in conjunction with the PACS Administrator, the PACS Analyst will perform the following functions and activities:

- Day-to-Day operations of PACS equipment
- Daily system monitoring
- Systems analysis and project related tasks
- Storage media management
- User management
- Network management
- Quality control and performance monitoring
- Study and patient information management
- Training and consulting new & ongoing users
- Security
- Providing technical administration, planning, consulting, coordination and documentation

At least 5+ years of progressively more responsible experience in complex system administration and analysis.

Have had experience in system configuration, upgrades, designing business processes, testing methodologies, and user training.

Knowledge and understanding of systems operations within the Radiology discipline, information flows, and sound practices to ensure credibility of the system. Excellent interpersonal skills to interact effectively with all levels of personnel in discussions and explanations of complex systems. Strong communications skills, including effective oral presentation skills and excellent writing skills. Able to effectively work in a team environment. Proficiency with other business related software applications (i.e., MS Word, MS Project, Access, Excel, etc.)

*If you are interested in these or other positions we have open, please apply online to [www.harvardvanguard.org/jobs](http://www.harvardvanguard.org/jobs) or you can email [Brenda\\_Thompson@vmed.org](mailto:Brenda_Thompson@vmed.org) with your inquiry.*

PACS Systems Analyst III link <http://sh.webhire.com/servlet/av/jd?ai=655&ji=2602521&sn=1>

If you are interested in these or other positions we have open, please apply online to **[www.harvardvanguard.org/jobs](http://www.harvardvanguard.org/jobs)** or you can email [Brenda\\_Thompson@vmed.org](mailto:Brenda_Thompson@vmed.org) with your inquiry.



**Harvard Vanguard  
Medical Associates**  
Atrius Health



# 2012-2013 Executive Board

## President

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POSITION VACANT

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*Our Executive Board Meetings are held in conjunction with our 1/2 Day Seminars. If you would like to attend or if unable but would like to add something to the agenda, please contact the MSRT office.*

## Our Mission

The Massachusetts Society of Radiologic Technologists (MSRT) is a not for profit organization dedicated to the professional growth and development in the Radiologic Sciences. The Society is committed to the advancement of radiologic technology by promoting high ethical standards, improving the quality of patient care, maintaining the standards of education, and providing quality continuing professional development opportunities for all medical imaging and therapy professionals. Our mission shall not be restricted by any consideration of nationality, race, color, sex or creed.



# 2013 Annual MSRT Conference Will Be Held!

## APRIL 3-4, 2013

Westford Regency Inn & Conference  
219 Littleton Road, Westford

BUZZ BOWL 2013 Begins on 4/2/2013