

NLAMRT
Annual General Meeting
May 2009, Corner Brook, NL

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It has been my pleasure to represent this association on the Board of Directors of CAMRT this past year. Your professional association has been very busy with a host of issues and initiatives, most of which members have been kept apprised of through the organization's publications (newsletter) as well as updates posted regularly to our website. Some of the most recent activities are highlighted here:

Governance

CAMRT is now operating based on its new 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan, which is available on the members' only section of the CAMRT website. Look for it in the middle of the left-hand list on the members' only home page.

Following-up from the AGM in June08, there will be one by-law change proposed to members. It relates to the standard article in by-laws regarding the potential (but in our case totally unforeseen) dissolution of CAMRT. The change in wording will ensure that such a decision would reflect the will of the broad-base of the membership. This proposed change will, as usual, be distributed to the PMA's for discussion at the PMA AGMs prior to coming to the CAMRT AGM.

The board decided to use one of the two remaining at-large positions to bring a younger perspective onto the board by appointing a member who has less than 10 years in the profession. A call for suggestions led to 18 young members being recommended. The board has accepted the Nominating Committee's recommendation that Caitlin Gillan, a radiation therapist from Toronto be appointed.

A revised National-Provincial Agreement has been signed by CAMRT and the provinces.

In 2009, the CAMRT board held a teleconference meeting on February 25 and will meet again, in person, at the AGC in Vancouver, during the first week of June and on November 21 and 22.

Strategic Direction #1 – Certification, Education and Professional Development

CAMRT Board has set the requirement for access to the CAMRT certification exam for graduates of Canadian MR programs as successful completion of an educational program in MR that has been accredited by the CMA Conjoint Accreditation Services.

The CAMRT will no longer require graduates from an accredited MR 2nd discipline program to have a previous CAMRT designation or an RDMS designation in order to access the CAMRT certification exam. Graduation from the MR 2nd discipline program will be sufficient.

There is continued strong registration in CPD programs, with 569 registered to date for courses so far in 2009. Over 1,700 participated in CAMRT CPD programs in 2008.

Work continues on the development of an interventional radiology specialty certificate program. It is hoped a portion of this program can be ready for release in 2010.

CAMRT has conducted a survey of francophone technologists, including a mailing list from Quebec, to identify quick self-study courses that would be of most interest. These courses will be made available in French.

The Dosimetry 3 course has been released for the winter 2009 term. This completes the series of didactic courses for the specialty certificate program.

The CT Operation Gap Analysis Task Group has recently completed the 2nd draft of a paper that defines the additional training that technologists need in order to conduct CT procedures typically performed by other disciplines. This draft is currently under review and will be revised based on reviewer feedback, for presentation to the CAMRT Board of Directors at its June 2009 meeting.

Strategic Direction #2 – Member Services

The CAMRT honorary and competitive award programs moved to on-line submissions.

Strategic Direction #3 – Professional Practice

The CAMRT Board decided to endorse the ‘Disclosure Guidelines’ of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI). These have been developed to address how health care professionals should handle talking with patients about adverse events. The full text of the guidelines can be found on the CPSI website at:

http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/uploadedFiles/Resources/cpsi_english_april28.pdf

Materials to support members regarding occupational health and safety will be posted soon on the CAMRT website.

The CAMRT Professional Practice Advisory Council met on Jan. 15-16 and addressed the continuum of practice from aide positions to advanced practice needs, identified further directions to take regarding occupational health and safety, and volunteer needs within professional practice and how technology can assist us as we move forward.

Strategic Direction #4 – Advocacy

In their November meeting, the PMA and CAMRT presidents and chief staff officers participated in a session about rebranding the medical radiation technology profession and the possibility of applying this concept to the work of both the CAMRT and PMAs. They and the CAMRT Board agreed that this would be a worthwhile initiative to investigate further. The CAMRT board has approved a plan to move forward with this and staff will be following up with PMAs regarding how to move forward with this in a collaborative fashion.

CAMRT has been monitoring developments regarding the availability of medical isotopes in Canada.

Other Activities/Initiatives

ACMDTT has been able to secure funding from the Albert government to partially reimburse CAMRT for the expenses it has absorbed to date in the development of certification exams for the 1st discipline MR program at NAIT.

2009 Annual General Conference preliminary program is available on the CAMRT website:
http://www.camrt.ca/english/events/annual_genconf.asp

Image Gently

Following-up on the email exchange and decision of a few weeks ago, this is to let you know that we are now members of the Alliance for Radiation Safety and Pediatric Imaging, which you may recall is known by its tag-line, 'Image Gently'. This is the multi-organization initiative started in the US that aims at reducing radiation dose and is focusing at this point on reducing pediatric imaging dose. The URL for their website is:

<http://www.pedrad.org/associations/5364/ig/> We have started discussions with them and the CAR, which is also a member, about ways that we can assist the initiative.

Conclusion: A Personal Note

Please be advised that I wish to tender my resignation from the position as Director three months early (September instead of December 2009) due to current work commitments in the Middle East. After much lobbying and deliberation, the Canadian Medical Association has announced their willingness to offer accreditation to Canadian programs being delivered off-shore. The Medical Radiography program at College of the North Atlantic–Qatar will likely be the first program to apply for CMA accreditation under this new agreement. I am interested in playing a role in support of that effort, and therefore feel it is in the best interest of all stakeholders that I resign from my position on the board prior to returning to Qatar in the Fall. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve a term on the Board of Directors, and will be happy to offer support to the new director over the summer months during this transition period.

Respectfully Submitted,
Irene O'Brien, AC(R)., MDE