



## The CSRT Newsline

Volume 1 Issue 1  
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### ***President's Message***

My name is Christina Umlauf, I am your current CSRT president for 2008-09 fiscal year. I was voted into office at our annual conference held September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Cromwell Marriott. In 2008 I served on the CSRT executive board as secretary. I am currently a technologist and I work full time at Yale New Haven hospital. I am also a student part-time at Quinnipiac University's college of professional studies majoring in Organizational Leadership. I look forward to representing you throughout this coming year. I am open to suggestions and feel free to contact me at anytime. You can find all my contact information on our website ([www.csrtinc.org](http://www.csrtinc.org))

The highlight of this year's conference was having Dr. Steve Sobel speak to us about his unique

ideas of bringing more laughter, joy and optimism into your life and into the lives of the people/clients/patients you deal with daily. "Those who laugh, will last, especially when life becomes most challenging". It was a privilege to meet him and learn how to deal with everyday stressors.

I would personally like to thank the CSRT executive board and committees for helping to make the annual conference a success. Every year it is a challenge to bring new features to our conference, but the board and committee leaders do a great job of satisfying our members.

The CSRT is currently focusing it's' attention on recruiting new and old members. As some of you may know, the CSRT is trying to safeguard our profession. The number of members in our society has slowly declined over the past years. There are

over 3,000 registered technologists in the state of Connecticut, and we currently have 170 members. We represent less than 7% of technologists in this state. We would like to represent the interests of the radiologic technologists in Connecticut, but that includes increasing membership. The CSRT will not be able to protect our profession without membership participation.

In closing, we are planning a few lectures within the months to come. Our website ([www.csrtinc.org](http://www.csrtinc.org)) is available for reference on any upcoming lectures we will be hosting. Please fill out the attached membership form and mail it in. Your membership is crucial in the fight to protect our profession.

Sincerely,

Christina Umlauf, R.T. (R)

Email: [CMUmlauf@gmail.com](mailto:CMUmlauf@gmail.com)

Cell: (203) 804-3696

### **CSRT 2008-09 Executive Board**

Officers were elected and installed during the 2008 Annual conference. Christina Umlauf was elected president of the society, Marie Marciano was elected president elect, Bernadette Mele was elected vice-president, Paul Intagliata was elected secretary, and Tania Blyth was elected Treasurer. Alicia Giaimo was elected to Chairperson of the board, and Diane Kosenko will be our senior board member.

Due to conflicting interests, Alicia, Bernadette, and Tania resigned their positions on the CSRT executive board. At a board meeting November 22nd, members were appointed board positions to fill their positions on the board. Sharon Ritton-Holly will be vice-president, and Jacqueline DeNardis will be treasurer, as well as membership coordinator. Diane Kosenko will resume her position as Chairman of the board, and Marie Wilde will join us once again to be senior board member!

## Legislative Information

Dear Fellow Radiologic Technologist,

We are sending you this important letter containing information that could impact your future practice as a Radiologic Technologist in this state.

In the past, many of you have asked the question "What does the Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists do for me"? We have not only sponsored annual conferences providing you with new information and continuing education credits, but we are also a watchdog on state legislative affairs that affect your license to practice. In the past, we have prevented other health care professionals from undermining our scope of practice, ensuring you the ability to practice in hospitals, radiology groups and private physician offices. We have reported many unlicensed individuals and practices that attempted to circumvent the law. It is amazing how many individuals still believe that we are all just "button pushers" and that anyone with minimal training can do the wide range of tasks that we perform. Embrace your skill set, and do not allow others to take anything more away from you! You went to school, and you learned the skills to administer ionizing radiation. Keep this in mind as you move through your career. If this profession is ever going to be something more, RT's need to come together and not grow apart.

It is now our unfortunate responsibility to inform you that this is again happening but on a greater scale. The CSRT has recently discovered that the Physician Assistants have overtly been performing many fluoroscopic procedures in various practices. In fact, they are now ready to submit new legislative language that would include performance of these practices under their licensure law, effectively undermining ours.

The current state law (Chapter 376c) is very specific on who can utilize ionizing radiographic equipment. Those listed include physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, podiatrist assistants (whatever those are), naturopaths, dental hygienists, and veterinarians. Other health care professionals are excluded and are not permitted to utilize our ionizing equipment. This includes PA's, RN's, APRN's and NP's.

If the PA's are successful in changing the language this January 2009, then what is to prevent them from performing many of the procedures that we do on a daily basis? Think it through a bit. Why would a radiology practice hire a technologist if the PA is now allowed by law to perform chests, extremities, etc? This would be the natural evolution of their practice. In addition, what would then prevent the RN's, NP's and others from requesting the same privilege? None of these practitioners have any radiobiology, radiation protection, positioning, etc. in their curriculum or certification examinations. Do you consider "reading an article or listening to a tape" sufficient training? This is what occurs now in those practices that allow the PA to perform procedures. If that is the case, then let's let any janitor or patient transporter into our profession.

Also to consider is, what happens to our fledgling Radiologist Assistants that are trained to perform those advanced procedures and are now just beginning to graduate from programs and will be actively seeking employment?

Organizations that have the most influence and provide the most opportunities also include members with dedication, energy, vision and perseverance. Failure to move our local organizations forward is simply a failure of our group to be invested and proactive. Decisions are made by those who are involved. If you love being an

RT, then protect you profession. Your voice, your letters and your activism are critical now. There are over 3,000 licensed RT's in this state and that can be a strong voice. We strongly urge you to contact your state representative and senator and ask them to vote NO to this proposal. WE NEED YOU! A strong CSRT membership is critical to our success. As you are familiar with the political system, you should know that the CSRT hired a lobbyist to work on our behalf. This will cost money that the CSRT does not have. Please, join today. You can download an application form from the [www.csrtinc.org](http://www.csrtinc.org) website. Your \$25.00 can go a long way to defeating this bill. You can also contact any officer or board member for the application and / or volunteer to help.

We also encourage you to report to your supervisor or to an officer of the CSRT any violations of this law that you observe in your facility. According to the ASRT Code of Ethics, you are required to do so. This is a crucial time for us in this state. Don't sit back and watch it happen. The next technologist job lost may be yours.

## Gail Pitkin Award

The Gail Pitkin Award is presented to an outstanding lecturer at our annual conference, whose presentation has been approved by the ASRT for continuing education credits.

The CSRT named the award after Gail Pitkin, an educator, who was killed in an auto accident many years ago. She was an active member who believed in education and lectures as opening doors for us. Education and lectures help us keep up with the many paths of advancement in the field of Radiology and is a source for advanced knowledge.

It was our pleasure to present the 2008 Gail Pitkin award to Wendy Tolman-Andrews BS, RT(R) (BD), CDT(ISCD). Wendy informed us of the importance of determining a person's BMD, and who is at increased risk for osteoporosis-related fracture. We were fortunate to have Wendy speak at our conference, and hope she will join us again at future conferences.

## Upcoming Events

### -2009 Annual Conference

October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

Courtyard Marriott, Cromwell

### -Come meet our lobbyist!

Have a chance to listen and ask questions about what the CSRT is planning during the 2009 legislative session: Thurs. January 8, 2009 6-8pm

North One Conference Room  
Middlesex Hospital

### WANTED

The CSRT is trying to arrange lectures which will be held in different areas of our state. If your facility would like to host an even please contact a board member. These lectures will be free of charge for CSRT

*\*\*Currently seeking volunteers for the conference committee. We need help finding speakers and coordinating this event.*

### **CSRT Lobbyist**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008, the CSRT executive board and committee chairmen held a meeting. We were accompanied by Josh and Carroll Hughes of Hughes and Cronin public affairs strategies Inc. Hughes & Cronin - Public Affairs Strategies has been effectively representing corporate clients, associations and nonprofit organizations since 1974. The CSRT board members have decided it would be in our best interest to hire them to represent us as we go forward in protecting the RT's in this state. Both Carroll and Josh assured us that their experience in governmental relations would help us develop and implement success in Connecticut. We look forward to working with Josh and Carroll Hughes in the upcoming legislative session in January 2009.

## **Membership Contest**

In an effort to boost membership, the CSRT board is having a contest for the 2008-2009 membership drive. Whenever you encourage a colleague to become a new member in the CSRT, ask them to supply your name on the application where it states 'Referred By'. All application received between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 will be included in the membership drive. The CSRT member who refers the most new members will receive a gift certificate to Scrub Warehouse. In the event of a tie, a winner will be chosen at a random drawing. All new members must be a registered technologist and/or licensed by the state of Connecticut OR a student currently enrolled in a Radiologic Technology Program.

# Membership Application

Please print this application and submit it by mailing to the address below along with your check.  
Please fill out completely. Please print or type.

**I hereby make application for membership in the Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists and  
agree to support the Bylaws of the Society.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Middle Initial Last Professional Initials (BS, RT)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and Number                      City                      State                      Zip

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home    Business

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Position Type:**

( ) Staff Technologist ( ) Student Position ( ) Educator ( ) Supervisor/Manager ( ) Inactive

**Discipline/Specialty:**

( ) Radiography ( ) Mammography ( ) CT ( ) Ultrasound ( ) Radiation Therapy ( ) MRI

( ) CV ( ) Nuclear Medicine

**Committee you wish to serve on:**

( ) By-Laws ( ) CSRT Publications ( ) Educators ( ) Annual Conference

( ) ECE ( ) Commercial ( ) Meeting Planning ( ) Legislative ( ) Nominations ( ) Membership

**Please Check:**

( ) New ( ) Renewal ( ) Active \$25.00 ( ) Supporting \$25.00 ( ) Student \$10.00 ( ) Honorary ( ) Life

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are for fiscal year Oct 1, 2008 through Sept 30, 2009

Make check payable to: **CSRT**

mail to: **Jacqueline DeNardis**  
**540 Halliwell Ave.**  
**Orange, CT 06477**



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