

Special Edition
Annual Conference 2009
Grafton Beach Resort, Tobago

The Society of Radiographers of Trinidad & Tobago

SRTT DETECTOR



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Support Your Society: Renew or Join Today! ...Founded Since 1973.

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The First stated Objective of the Society of Radiographers according to its Memorandum of Association is:

- “To encourage and promote the establishment and maintenance of high professional, technical and ethical standards in the Science of Medical Imaging and Radiotherapy”



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Annual Conference 2009

By Aleth Bruce, RRR, President, Society of Radiographers of Trinidad and Tobago



A warm Tobago welcome to everyone to the Annual Conference of the

Society of Radiographers of Trinidad & Tobago.

Even before its inaugural meeting in November 1973, Radiographers (Diagnostic & Therapeutic) were very keen on continuous professional development. In those days there were about fifty radiographers in Trinidad and Tobago.

One of my earliest conferences with the Society of Radiographers was held at the Trinidad Hilton on October 9th, 10th and 11th in 1986. At that time I was employed with the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company, (TRINTOC). I was asked to chair one of the sessions.

Some of the topics were:

“The Joys and Sorrows of Bedside Radiography” by Ms. O. Palmer (Jamaica); “An Update on Neurological Examinations” by Dr. R. Adams; “Handling of Geriatric Patients” by Mrs. M. Yates (POSGH); “Quality Assurance” by Mr. T. D. West (Canada/ISRRT Regional Secretary); “Maintaining standards of the Profession” by Mrs. H. Haughton (Jamaica); “Oncology” by Dr. W. Dhanessar (NRC, St James); “A closer look at Ultrasound” by Dr. R. Barrow (Radiologist, P O S G H) ; “Xeromammography” by Dr. L. Roach (Radiologist, POS); “Vascular Surgery” by Dr. V. Narinesingh; and “Rare earth recording system” by Kodak Representative, Rochester, NY.

One of the major features of the 1986 conference was the formation of the **Caribbean**

Association of Radiographers and Radiation Technologists (CARART). A draft constitution was presented with the suggestion that the Headquarters be in Barbados. In October 2004, another group discussion was held at another Society’s conference at the Mt. Irvine Bay Hotel, Tobago, with a favorable response from all present. A decision was made to distribute the Constitution of the CARART to all Caribbean societies and countries. It is my hope that we formalize the CARART and bring our Caribbean Medical Imaging and Radiation Community closer together.

Today, twenty three years later I am very proud to see our Society’s tradition continues with our 2009 Annual Conference in Tobago at Grafton Beach Resort.

From the Executive

The Society of Radiographers hosts its **Annual Conference 2009** at the Grafton Beach Resort in Black Rock Tobago. We know that this year’s conference expects to be exciting as we look forward to a wonderful time in Tobago.



We have recently added a link to the

“World Radiography Education Trust Fund”

on the Society’s website to encourage all to get involved and support the fund. Log on to www.wretf.com and help in the development of other Radiographers around the world.



The Society joined the **Image Gently** campaign on the 1st of June 2009 in support of reduc-

ing radiation exposure to children during CT and X-ray examinations. We encourage you to log on to www.imagegently.org to learn more and to help maintain high standards of practice.



See also “**The Case of the Day**” and our “**Institutions**” Directory at www.soradtt.com.



From the ISRRT...

By Dr. Sandy Yule, CEO, *International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists*



The work done by the ISRRT can only be accomplished by the help of individuals and organizations who give freely of their time.

Most of those who participate in the work of the ISRRT do so in a voluntary basis and without their support the ISRRT could not carry out its work.

The Americas Region is very fortunate in having two dedicated persons on the Board of Management of the ISRRT. Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Vice President, from Barbados is very well known to all

radiographers in the Caribbean and also Dr Michael Ward, Regional Director from the USA.

Communication is an important aspect of the work done by the ISRRT and I am pleased to say that the Society of Radiographers in Trinidad and Tobago is a Member Society which always responds to my communications.

I appreciate the work done by them to promote the profession of radiography and although a small society the contributions made are valuable and informative. In addition the Trinidad and Tobago website is excellent and up to date and highlights events both local and international. One of the highlighted areas on the web-

site is World Radiography Day and I am sure that this important Day will be celebrated by societies throughout the world.

It is important that our profession is given recognition by the public and this event is an important day on our calendar. I would encourage all officers and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Society to continue with the good work and assure them that the ISRRT greatly appreciates the effort and support given throughout the year. Please accept my good wishes for a successful and enjoyable conference.

From the Radiographers' Board

Greetings from the Radiographers' Board !

The **Radiographers' Board** of Trinidad and Tobago has been functioning since 2005. Our membership has grown over the years and has past the two hundred (200) figure.

Under the Act No.35 of 1985 (Professions related to Medicine) the Radiographers' Board is governed by a Council, three (3) of whose members are appointed by the Minister of Health. At the end of the last general election which was held in April 2009, new council members were chosen as dictated by law. To date the Council is unable to convene because of the Minister's non-response to his choice of members to sit on the Council. This non-re-

sponse means that the business of the boards are at a standstill.

In spite of this, the Boards continue to meet and make plans in the forward movement to improve the professional standards of Radiographers. Policies concerning the application of foreigners have been written and sent to the Ministry of National Security. I am pleased to inform the membership that the Ministry has been very vigilante. Foreign Radiographers who apply for work permits are asked to furnish a registration number in order for the permit to be granted.

It is desirable that all practicing Radiographers in Trinidad and Tobago become members. This is one measure of "weeding out" from the system those

who use X-Ray equipment and are not suitably qualified.

The road is long, and there is a lot to be done. The work ethics for Radiographers has been recently formulated. However, these proposals are to be reviewed by the Council when it finally meets.

I urge you all to uphold the profession and support your professional society as it continues to educate you.

On behalf of the of Radiographers' Board I would like to congratulate the Society of Radiographers of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting yet another successful conference. Good luck to all your future endeavors.

By Shirley Bland-Mohon, RRR, RRUS
Chairman
Radiographers' Board



Radiological Sciences: Past, Present & Future.

Past:

In the late 1980's, Radiography was in its doldrums. Clinical departments were grossly understaffed, few new recruits were returning from Jamaica or further abroad - there was no money for scholarships. In fact, there was a severe recession and public servants including radiographers and radiation therapists were made to forego 10% of their small salaries in order to assist the government of the day in keeping the country afloat. Earlier in the decade however, Act No.35

of 1985 made its final passage in the senate, witnessed by a number of radiographers who were involved in its compilation. This Act was promulgated by the President in 2000 and its operationalisation is still subject to the vagaries of politics.

Another major development at that time was the reclassification exercise in which professions related to medicine earned the right to be considered to have the undergraduate level on entry into the various professions.

By Wilma Collins RRR, RRT,
Chair
Radiological Sciences, COSTAATT



Locally based training:

In May 1992, following approximately 16 months of consultation and planning with the Ministry of Health, the Society of Radiographers, University of the West Indies (UWI) Medical faculty, supported an international funding agency in the person of Dr. Allan Regisford, NIHERST enrolled 16 students in the 3 year, full time Associate in Science Degree Program (Radiological Sciences)...

(continued on next page)

Are you registered with the CPRM / Radiographers' Board? Do you know it is illegal to practice without Registration!

...The fledgling program received support via recognition from external agencies including Caribbean governments, who sponsored their nationals to attend, the ISRRT, the Michener Institute and the Jamaican-based Program. This recognition benefited graduates who were eligible for registration with the ARRT (up till about 1999), post graduate Diploma in Diagnostic Ultrasound (NIHERST/The Michener, Canada) and for advanced standing with the Charles Sturt University in their Bachelor of Sciences Degree completion program.

Many graduates of the 1990's now provide academic and professional leader-

ship, locally, regionally and internationally.

Present:

Exeunt NIHERST, enter COSTAATT. COSTAATT facilitated the offering of undergraduate degrees, having a college structure with a variety of departments, programs and a heterogeneous student body, with executive management, supervising academic and non-academic activities in the college setting. In 2006, the department of Radiological Sciences received approval to offer the following programs:

B Sc Radiography

B Sc Radiation Therapy

B Sc Degree Completion in Radiography

Health Science Degree Access

Recognition and appreciation must always be given to the practitioners and staff who work at the various clinical sites for their continuing assistance in the training of students to achieve competence.

Future:

Imperatives of change in the advanced technology make necessary the cultivation of competencies in the technical and especially in non-technical aspects. These new competencies include critical thinking and decision making, patient education and advocacy, digital paradigms, professional responsibilities, continuing education and financial competencies.

Radiation Therapy Education in T & T

"Whatever the challenge that faces you, from whatever quarter, place always first that national interest and the national cause. The strength of the Nation depends on the strength of its citizens." (The 1962 Independence day Address Dr. Eric Williams)

In Trinidad and Tobago we are currently on a journey to showcase to the clinical community and the general public, the quality and validity of the new Radiation Therapy (RT) program. This program is paramount to being able to guarantee a future radiation therapist workforce for Trinidad and Tobago. A careful and considered

approach to anything new is always a wise course of action and COSTAATT invites you to scrutinize the program and its content as we are more than confident it will meet quality indicators.

The radiation therapy program offered at COSTAATT is delivered by a dedicated team of clinicians and academics and our collective goal is to create critically thinking, evidence based radiation therapy practitioners who have a strong customer service focus and who will build upon the foundations of radiation therapy services already well established in this country. The academic content was purchased by the government of Trinidad

By Susan Morgan, RRT,
Therapy Program Coordinator
COSTAATT



and Tobago from a Canadian Institution. The teachers of the program are qualified and experienced health professionals and academics. The program was developed with input from the Director of Education for the International Society of Radiographers and Radiographic Technologists (ISRRT) with the intention that it will be successfully benchmarked internationally.

Our inaugural cohort of students is expected to graduate in July 2010.

More information is available by contacting Susan Morgan Radiation Therapy Program Coordinator SMorgan@costaatt.edu.tt

Ultrasound Education at COUS

The College of Ultrasound Sciences (COUS) thanks the Society of Radiographers of Trinidad and Tobago (SORTT) for this opportunity to bring members up to date on developments in education at our institution. The college now runs two types of ultrasound courses as follows:

- A Master class program designed specifically for doctors

- A one-year Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) approved Diploma program in obstetric ultrasound.

Work is in progress towards the submission of another Diploma Course in Gynaecology and Abdominal Ultrasound to ACTT for approval.

This is just the beginning. The College appreciates the move made by the government of Trinidad and Tobago in the establishment of the Accreditation Council and the Ministry of Tertiary Studies. This has allowed institutions like COUS to develop its own curriculum to address local needs. We embrace the opportunity to fill the need in the area of ultrasound and we are looking at other areas.

The COUS is part of The Arima Diagnostic Clinic. The ADC fills the very impor-

By Helen Alleyne, MSc,
Radiographer, Sonographer
Managing Director, College of Ultrasound Sciences



tant role of providing a clinical basis for the training of health professionals. The ultrasound department sees over 8,000 patients a year. It is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and therefore well positioned to provide quality education in many areas in addition to ultrasound. Students on these programs will have the unique opportunity of being able to receive their clinical and didactic training within the same environment.

In the development of its programs the College hopes to allow students to choose to study to the sub-degree or post-graduate level in the area of their interest. The college is looking at expanding its borders and embarking on training in many other areas.

Looking for a Radiological Centre in Trinidad & Tobago? Check out our Institutions Directory at www.soradtt.com/

News and Comments from across the “Regionals”

SWRHA Mrs. Vidya Ramsubhag, RRR, Chief Radiographer, SFGH / SWRHA

Greetings to the Society of Radiographers and everyone on behalf of the Radiology Department at the San Fernando General Hospital. Recently, we have received a milestone in service delivery in ALL imaging studies with the implementation of the Picture Archiving and Communication System in Medicine (PACS). In 2009 we received the following recognition and awards from the South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA):

- Waiting Time Reduction Award
- National Quality Team Award Nomination
- National Innovation Project Award Nomination

As we continue to grow, the Radiology staff hopes to fly the flagstaff for the South West Regional Health Authority. Best wishes to all.

NWRHA Ms. Jasmin Hodges, RRR, Chief Radiographer, POSGH / NWRHA

Congratulations to the Society of Radiographers of Trinidad and Tobago on its 36th year as a Society and in organizing yet another Annual Conference. The determination of this executive and previous executives to promote the profession is commendable since these meetings encourage respect and admiration for Radiographers and also add to the Radiographers' professional development.

Let us try to continue to bond as Radiographers and eliminate the selfishness that seems to be pervading the profession. Remember the old adage “Unity is Strength”.

The Radiographers at the Port of Spain General Hospital/North West Regional Health Authority, in offering their support to the Society, recognize their importance as members of the Healthcare team and continue to thrive towards providing an excellent service.

We all take this opportunity to wish the Society well in all its future endeavors.

NCRHA Mr. Deonarine Prashad, RRR, Chief Radiographer, EWMSC / NCRHA

It is with extreme pleasure that I convey greetings to the Society of Radiographers of Trinidad and Tobago in once again planning and overseeing its annual conference.

This year under the theme “Overcoming our Challenges” the conference promises to be unique. It is being held in scenic Tobago and it is coming very close to Radiographer's Week 2009.

The Society of Radiographers has made great strides since I became a member in 1991, especially under the current executive. It continues to provide quality leadership in the professional development of Radiographers and I am certain that this conference would not be any different.

Once again on behalf of the Department of Radiology, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex and the NCRHA, I wish the Society of Radiographers of Trinidad and Tobago a successful annual conference.

God Bless!

ERHA Mrs. Debra Ealie-Bastaldo, Radiographer 2, RRR, SGH / ERHA

The Eastern Regional Health Authority's Radiology departments have continuously strived to be exemplars in the field of Radiology. Interest has always been paid to detail by trying to follow protocol as closely as possible. Being part of the Society of Radiographers of Trinidad and Tobago is one of those protocols that continue to be upheld yearly. The Society to us means a deepening of our education and skills in a field that is ever changing in terms of technology. Their yearly regime of CPDs and conferences play a major part in ensuring that these changes are realized. We at the ERHA expect no less for the future. We foresee a deeper involvement by other radiographers throughout the region and a constant flow of information from the Society to all via the Society's website.

TRHA Mrs. Joan Forde-Solomon, RRR, RRUS, Manager, Medical Imaging Department TRH / TRHA

Perched high above sea level and hugged by the relic of Fort King George, Scarborough is the Tobago Regional Hospital/Tobago Regional Health Authority. Its doors were opened in 1856 and operated an X-ray Department, which was manned by one radiographer and a darkroom attendant. Today, not only has the name been transformed to the Medical Imaging Department, but the department has expanded to two x-ray rooms, one mammography suite and an ultrasound suite and it is staffed by a team of thirteen (Five are Radiographers). Services at the MID include general radiography, digital fluoroscopy, mammography and ultrasoundography.

Currently the department is in a transitional mode as we await the completion of the new hospital. However major challenges that the department would face in the near future are major technological change involving the paradigm shift from analog to digital imaging and also taking the department to a new level as it seeks to gain accreditation. With a closer look into the future, it is the department's vision and goal to have radiographers cross trained and develop their capabilities to perform CT, Ultrasound and Mammography examinations which will consequently improve the services.