

The Central Ray

A QUARTERLY NEWLETTER FROM
THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF MENTORS &
STUDENTS IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY: DAVID POON

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- Welcome
- C.A.R.E. Bill- Why you should "Care"
- Dear Central Ray- Advice to students in the RT Program

The California Society of Mentors & Students in Radiologic Technology is a social group uniting mentors & students in the Radiology Community

WELCOME TO THE CENTRAL RAY

Dear Reader: I am happy to welcome you to the California Society of Mentors & Students in Radiologic Technology (CSMSRT). The CSMSRT was created to promote mentoring and guidance to new students entering the radiologic technology field. The hope is to unite & strengthen the radiology profession.

The number of people that have become members on this Facebook site has grown exponentially! In just few short weeks, the site has grown to over ninety members- and its still growing!

These members come from a diverse background. Some are just starting a Radiology Program while others have been in the profession for over thirty years. Members are also sign-

ing up from different States. While a majority of our members are from California, we have members from coast-to-coast. From Washington to Virginia.

The CSMSRT currently has a discussion board on its Facebook website where students and/or mentors can post discussions. These discussions can be about anything radiology related. If the discussion happens to be a question from a student, it is usually answered within twenty-four hours by members who see it on the discussion board. There are future plans to post helpful resources for students. Resources such as anatomy websites that are imaging specific, etc. We will also post links to other resources that students

can go to in assisting their success in the Radiology Program.

As a student in a Diagnostic Medical Imaging Program, I can attest that the program is very demanding. Furthermore, any life changes such as having a child, getting married, getting divorced, purchasing a house and/or moving can compound these issues causing success to be virtually

Impossible.

The hope of this site is to have a support system on the web so that mentors and students can come together and share positive experiences in the radiology community. Please help spread the word about CSMSRT!

C.A.R.E. BILL - WHY SHOULD YOU "CARE?"

As a student in a diagnostic medical imaging program, it never occurred to me to be involved with legislation in radiology. I said to myself, "ehh, I'll let the radiologic technologist handle it." Then, an instructor in my program challenged me to apply for the "RT to DC" Scholarship grant given by the California Society of Radiologic Technologist. The recipients of this scholarship gets to go to Washington D.C. and experience the legislative process.

The hope is to get the students involved so that they become advocates in the imaging profession.

After submitting the paperwork, I waited anxiously for the news. Unfortunately, I was not selected to be a recipient for this scholarship.

However, I began investigating and researching the CARE legislation.

I was shocked to learn the information I found. For example, eight States and the District of Columbia do not have standards in place for education and credentialing of imaging professionals. This means that if you unfortunately get injured in these States

(Con't- "CARE")

CSMSRT

DEAR CENTRAL RAY...

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I am currently a second semester student and I need advice! I am in my clinical rotation and I can't seem to get the courage to ask someone whose of child bearing age if they are pregnant. Specifically, someone young, say 14, 15 or 16 year olds? What advice do you have for me?? How can I conquer my fear?

-Signed,
Dazed, Confused
and Scared

Dear Dazed, Confused and Scared: Discussing personal issues with a patient is never easy. However, having said that- patients look to us as their advocates. Being a "patient advocate" starts off by being professional. Treating the young lady whose 14, 15 or 16 for that matter, should be no different than treating someone whose 35, 40, or 50.

In the radiology program where I'm at, we've been taught to have a routine down. By having a routine down the question may not be so daunting. For me, I always ask women with the age range 14-60 if there is any possibility they might be pregnant. I start off by asking them the two patient identifies (first name and D.O.B) then I preface by saying, "I have to ask all women of child bearing age, if there is a possibility you might be pregnant?" I think this might help your situation. Practicing and asking it over and over will come natural to you. Let me know if this helps!

C O N T I N U E - C A R E

it could potentially be anyone off the street, with no education in radiation safety taking your x-ray.

Remember, as a patient, you would have no way of knowing if the person taking your radiograph has any education in radiology at all. They could simply be the front desk clerk who was directed to just point, shoot and hope for the best! What type of patient care is that?

We all entered the healthcare field because we are compassionate, empathetic individuals who want to provide excellent patient care. How can we provide patient care to those who need it when we don't have the proper

legislation?

This is why we need to "care" about the CARE Bill. We need to say, enough is enough with politics and tell Capitol Hill we stand behind patient care. We need to show in action and in letters that the imaging community not only cares about this bill, but we seek resolution that all 50 states including the District of Columbia will have minimum standards when it comes to requiring a qualified individuals administering ionization radiation to patients.

Do you "Care" now? I invite you to join me,, Lorenza Clausen, Vice President of California Society of Radiologic Technologist, (CSRT) and Diane Garcia,

Director at Large for CSRT to inform everyone about this important legislation, getting involved and write to your congressional representatives!!

We need everyone participation if you want to see change. Form letters are available on the CSMSRT Facebook page. Please join us in the CARE campaign! If you have additional questions regarding the CARE Bill, please email me at:

DavidnSF@yahoo.com