



**South Carolina Radiation Quality Standards Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, March 2, 2002  
North Charleston Convention Center – Charleston, South Carolina**

**Call to Order/Attendance**

President Caldwell called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Trustees present were: President Debra Caldwell; Dr. Bryan Davies; Dr. Roxzanne Breland; Renee Benton; Robert Owen; Wanda Hancock; Judy Weathersbee; Karen Sheriff; Dr. Carlisle Hewitt; Elvin Sutton; Dr. Susan Keeshan; and Kim Saenz, Executive Director. Trustee Dr. Ralph Riley was absent.

Guests present were: Shari Lee of Davies Foot Care; Dr. Joseph Menn and Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Tessler of Charleston Podiatry; Aaron Kozloski of the South Carolina Medical Association; and Judy Wright.

For the purposes of this meeting, Dr. Susan Keeshan was given Dr. Ralph Riley's proxy, Renee Benton was present as Gail Alewine's alternate, and Robert Owen was present as Ex-Officio Pearce O'Kelley's alternate.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions were made and the following Freedom of Information Act (FOI) compliance statement was read: "A notice of this meeting, its time, date, and purpose has been posted with the Associated Press and the Governor's Office in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act that the public be notified when the public's business is conducted." A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the FOI compliance statement.

President Caldwell introduced the Policies and Procedures for Open Forum to the Public. These Policies and Procedures are as follows:

1. Anyone wishing to address the Board of Directors must sign in prior to the meeting.
2. All of those who have signed in will be granted five minutes to address only those issues listed on the meeting agenda. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person and will be timed by the Executive Director.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the above Policies and Procedures for Open Forum to the Public.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as written from the October 27, 2001, Board meeting.

**Open Forum to the Public**

Dr. Joseph Menn spoke to the proposed changes in the current Podiatric certification requirements. Dr. Menn believes that the requirements (specifically, the training programs and exam) agreed upon when the law was created seemed to be a good idea for the first stages of the law. Things have changed drastically over time, however. He now feels that the current Podiatric program is one year worth of information condensed into three days. Much of the information being taught is not needed for those taking Podiatric x-rays. Dr. Menn said that many of the students in the current program have been told by the instructors that they will not pass the exam. In his opinion, the current program is confusing. Dr. Menn said that he knows the SCRQSA is here to protect the public and those taking x-rays, and feels that this is not being addressed with the current certification process. The SCPMA is trying to create a curriculum and exam that will help employees and patients while not putting overly extensive or expensive burdens on the Podiatric offices.

Aaron Kozlaski signed his name to participate in the forum but had no comments and deferred his time to Dr. Menn. Dr. Menn had no further comments.

Shari Lee of Davies Foot Care spoke to the proposed changes in the current Podiatric certification requirements. She holds a Temporary B certificate and is required to sit for the state limited exam. She has chosen to take the courses and has been told by the instructor that she will not pass the exam. She informs the Board that the class teaches large scale equipment, grids, etc. that are not used in the Podiatrist's office. The anatomy and positioning information taught is also different than what is seen in the Podiatrist's office. Ms. Lee feels that those in her position need to be offered specialized training specific to the field of Podiatry.

Dr. Hewitt entered the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

### **Teresa Fox Board Opening**

President Caldwell informed the Board that Teresa Fox, South Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists (SCSRT) representative and SCRQSA Secretary/Treasurer, resigned her position. The SCSRT appointed Elvin Sutton as their representative. An official letter of appointment from the SCSRT was presented and read to the Board by President Caldwell. President Caldwell announced that elections for the Treasurer and Secretary vacancies would be held at the next Board meeting.

### **Training for Operators of Combined PET/CT Scanners**

Karen Sheriff reported that there are currently no combined PET/CT scanners in South Carolina but there are plans for some in the future. The SCRQSA must decide who will run these machines and how the operators will be certified. Currently certifications are given separately in Nuclear Medicine and Radiography and there is no combined certification for these two categories. The SCNMS feels that only those certified in Nuclear Medicine by the NMTCB or the ARRT should run the scanners because radiopharmaceuticals and/or contrast media are injected into the patient and Radiologic Technologists are not trained to do this.

Elvin Sutton suggested asking other states that currently use the machines in what area of the hospital the machines are housed and who operates them. Judy Weathersbee stated that, to her knowledge, Nuclear Medicine Technologists are currently running the machines. Ms. Weathersbee also informed the Board that the machines are not always housed in the Nuclear Medicine Department due to space issues. Robert Owen of DHEC suggested creating a separate certificate specific to those operating the combined PET/CT machine. He said that the training for this certificate should be machine-specific. Mr. Owen added that it should be clear that Nuclear Medicine Technologists with this certificate would be allowed to operate only the combined PET/CT scanner and no other CT equipment.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to table the issue until the SCNMS and NMS meet to further discuss the issue. Dr. Hewitt and Ms. Sheriff will report the information gathered at these meetings to the Board at the next meeting.

### **Bone Densitometry Requirements**

Dr. Keeshan reported for Dr. Riley. Dr. Riley asked that the issue be tabled until the next Board meeting so he can be present to give the Board a full report. A motion was made, passed, and seconded to table the issue until the next Board meeting.

### **Bone Densitometry Exam**

Kim Saenz reported that the SCRQSA does not currently have an exam in place for those with Temporary B and Provisional Bone Densitometry and Limited Bone Densitometry-Peripheral certificates. Presently, there are no exams available to adopt. The ARRT is working on a state level exam that will be ready in January 2003 at a cost of \$100 per exam. The SCRQSA will set the education standards and determine who is allowed to sit for the exam, much like they do for the other state exams offered by the ARRT.

The ISCD has offered to come to Columbia and give its full certification course and exam. This two-day program would cost participants \$550. Participants would have to submit proof that they had completed a minimum of 100 DXA scans prior to registering for the course. Upon completion of the course, each participant will have to submit proof of five spine and five hip scans that he or she has taken. The ISCD also offers the exam without the course but Pam Schmeer, Head of

the Technologist Education Committee for the ISCD, feels that a majority of our certificate-holders would not pass the exam without the education course prior to the exam. She informed Ms. Saenz that this exam is on the level of the ARRT exam and most likely only those who have passed the ARRT exam would be able to pass the ISCD exam. The exam alone would cost each participant \$250 and a minimum of 30 people would be required to sit for the exam for the ISCD to offer the exam in Columbia.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to extend for one year Temporary B and Provisional Bone Densitometry and Limited Bone Densitometry-Peripheral certificates expiring June 30, 2002, through June 30, 2003. This will allow the certificate-holders time to sit for the ARRT state exam once it is available. Ms. Saenz will draft a letter to these individuals to inform them of their revised dates of expiration.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Assia Solh Case**

President Caldwell reported that Ms. Solh has requested a Permanent Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate based on her prior education and work experience. Ms. Solh graduated from the American University of Beirut Medical Center in Lebanon. She has 21 years experience in the radiology field. Ms. Solh worked at the Hospital of American University of Beirut from 1979 to 1989 and at Tawam Hospital from 1989 to 2001. She currently lives in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Elvin Sutton had questions regarding Ms. Solh's grades at the American University of Beirut Medical Center. Dr. Breland felt that her 21 years of experience in the field of radiology should allow her to pass the state Limited exam. A motion was made, seconded and passed to allow Assia Solh to sit for the Limited Practice Radiographer-General state exam. Upon passing the exam, she will be granted a Permanent certificate. Ms. Saenz will notify Ms. Solh of the Board's decision and send her an application for the exam.

### **Jonalyn Duque Case**

President Caldwell reported that Jonalyn Duque has requested a Permanent Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate based on her education and work experience. She is currently living in the Philippines and is currently employed as a Radiologic Technologist at the Quezon City Medical Center and Colleges. Ms. Duque is a registered Radiologic Technologist in the Philippines. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology from Emilio Aguinaldo College in the Philippines. Ms. Duque's sponsor in the United States is Marian Pavy of Global Services, Inc. President Caldwell felt that the curriculum Ms. Duque completed is equivalent to a two-year program in the United States. President Caldwell informed the Board of their option to allow Ms. Duque to sit for the Radiography state exam rather than the Limited state exam based on her schooling.

Elvin Sutton asked about the status of Ms. Duque's citizenship in the United States. Specifically, he wanted to know if she had applied for a Green Card and if this certificate was the only thing she is lacking to become a U.S. citizen? Mr. Sutton pointed out that, given Ms. Duque's qualifications, she should be seeking national certification and not merely state certification. Mr. Sutton asked whether she had applied for reciprocity with the ARRT. He felt that Ms. Duque is lowering her work standards by requesting a Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate. Dr. Breland and Ms. Hancock suggested that the Board needed the answers to Mr. Sutton's questions before making a decision on Ms. Duque's request for certification. A motion was made, passed and seconded to table the decision on Ms. Duque's request until further information is obtained on the status of her U.S. citizenship and eligibility for reciprocity with the ARRT. Ms. Saenz will draft a letter to Ms. Duque requesting the information.

### **Ramon Echevarria-Martinez Case**

President Caldwell reported that Ramon Echevarria-Martinez has requested a Permanent Radiography certificate. Mr. Echevarria-Martinez currently resides in North Carolina and is employed by McLeod Regional Medical Center. He has national certification in Puerto Rico that is current until February 2005. He attended the Inter American University of Puerto Rico from 1992 to 1996. This facility was not accredited at the time he was in school. President Caldwell noted that she has explored the curriculum Mr. Echevarria-Martinez completed and it appears to be in line with that of a two-

year school in the United States. Mr. Echevarria-Martinez is currently in the Army but did not receive his initial Radiography training and education through the Army.

Ms. Hancock questioned his transcript and asked for clarification on the courses that Mr. Echevarria-Martinez completed. Mr. Sutton is acquainted with the director of the program at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico and informed the Board that students completing that program are not eligible to sit for the ARRT exam. President Caldwell stated that the facility is currently applying for accreditation. Ms. Hancock suggested that, if Mr. Echevarria-Martinez is able to pass the state exam, then there would be no question as to his knowledge. A motion was made, seconded and passed to allow Mr. Echevarria-Martinez to sit for the state Radiography exam. Upon passing the exam, he will be granted a Permanent Radiography certificate. Ms. Saenz will draft a letter informing Mr. Echevarria-Martinez of the Board's decision. She will also send him an application for the state Radiography exam.

#### **Aldene Dorn Case**

President Caldwell reported that Aldene Dorn has requested a Permanent Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate. She has experience taking x-rays since 1963, but does not qualify for grandfathering due to a position she held from 1986 to 2001 in which she did not take x-rays. Ms. Dorn is near retirement and will be working only two more years. She does not feel that she should have to complete the full-year Limited Practice Radiographer-General program or sit for the exam based on her experience. Ms. Dorn feels that these requirements would be excessive given that she is only planning to work for two more years. A motion was made, seconded and passed to deny Ms. Dorn's request. She is able to obtain a Provisional Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate and complete the corresponding continuing education and exam if she chooses. Ms. Saenz will notify Ms. Dorn of the Board's decision.

#### **Kevin Pickell Case**

President Caldwell reported that Kevin Pickell has requested a Permanent Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate based on his education and training in the Navy. Mr. Pickell trained in the Navy Radiology program from 1990 to 1991. This program was not at the time but has since been accredited. President Caldwell informed the Board that the military Radiography programs are shorter in duration but still cover the same material as a two-year civilian Radiography program. President Caldwell also informed the Board that, within three years of completing this military program, individuals are eligible to sit for the ARRT exam. Many choose not to do so because the military does not require registration via the ARRT. Mr. Pickell is eligible for the state Radiography exam based on his Navy training.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to allow Mr. Pickell the following two options: (1) sit for and pass the Limited Practice Radiographer-General state exam and obtain a Permanent certificate; or (2) sit for and pass the state Radiography exam and obtain a Permanent certificate. Ms. Saenz will inform Mr. Pickell of the Board's decision and his two options.

#### **Bobbie Lynn Frye Case**

President Caldwell reported that Bobbie Lynn Frye has requested an extension of her Provisional Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate, which expires July 1, 2002. Ms. Frye is currently enrolled in the Radiologic Technology curriculum at Florence Darlington Technical College. A letter from the Program Director stated that Ms. Frye must complete two courses to be placed on the waiting list to enter the Radiology Technology program. President Caldwell informed the Board that even if Ms. Frye has completed the two courses entered the Radiology Technology program, it will still be two more years until she completes the full program. Her certificate, therefore, would need to be extended for a minimum of two years. Ms. Frye does not qualify for grandfathering.

A motion was made, passed and seconded to deny Ms. Frye's request for an extension. Upon completing her first year in the Radiography program, Ms. Frye will be allowed to apply for a Temporary certificate. Ms. Saenz will notify Ms. Frye of the Board's decision.

#### **Dionne Brown-Mincey Case**

President Caldwell reported that Dionne Brown-Mincey has requested an extension of her Provisional Limited Practice Radiographer-General certificate, which expires August 15, 2002. Ms. Brown-Mincey has attended Module A of the 24-hour grandfathering course. She is in the process of enrolling in the two-year Radiology Technology program at

Armstrong University in Savannah, Georgia. Ms. Brown-Mincey's certificate would have to be extended for a minimum of two years.

A motion was made, passed and seconded to deny Ms. Brown-Mincey's request. Ms. Saenz will draft a letter to Ms. Brown-Mincey outlining the steps she must take to convert her certificate to a Permanent certificate.

### **Scope of Practice for Limited Practice Radiographer-General**

President Caldwell stated that she has received many concerns regarding trauma and portables in reference to the Limited Practice Radiographer-General scope of practice. The current scope of practice does not define whether an individual with a Limited General certificate can perform portables and trauma radiography. A forum was held during the SCSRT Annual Meeting for those individuals to voice their concerns. It was suggested that trauma must be defined in the scope of practice. Wanda Hancock states that the Limited General certificate was intended for small-scale trauma, such as a sprained ankle, seen in a doctor's office. Multiple fractures were never considered in the scope of practice for the Limited General certificate. Robert Owen of DHEC feels that the scope of practice must be specific in order for it to be enforced. The Limited General curriculum covers trauma extremities, trauma c-spine, trauma shoulder, and trauma hip. Portables are not covered in the Limited General training. Many Limited General certificate-holders working in hospitals are being asked to perform large-scale trauma radiography, which they are not necessarily trained for since trauma is not defined in the scope of practice for the Limited Practice Radiographer-General.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to add the following statement as #12 to the Limited Practice Radiographer-General scope of practice: "At no time is the Limited Practice Radiographer-General to perform exams in the emergency department, operating room, or with portable or fluoroscopic radiography equipment." Kim Saenz will send the revised scope of practice to all Limited General certificate holders and post the scopes of practice on the website.

### **Proposed Changes in the Podiatric Certification Requirements**

Dr. Bryan Davies presented a proposal from the South Carolina Podiatric Medical Association (SCPMA) to create an alternate method of certification for Limited Practice Radiographer-Podiatric individuals. The proposal calls for eight hours of classroom instruction to include Radiation Protection & Principles, Dark Room Procedures, Safety & Operation of the X-ray Machine, and Foot & Ankle Anatomy & Positioning. Following the classroom instruction, the individual would be required to pass the SCPMA exam. The SCPMA would inform the SCRQSA of who passed the exam and the individual would need to submit documentation of attendance at the class to receive a Permanent certificate.

Individuals may instead choose to complete the current 24-hour x-ray program (Modules A, B and C), the six-hour Anatomy and Positioning, and the six-hour Clinical Competencies, then sit for the SCPMA exam. Individuals who complete the SCPMA education course will not be eligible to sit for the ARRT Limited exam for Podiatric radiographers. The current certification pathway for Limited Practice Radiographer-Podiatric would remain an acceptable method of certification.

Dr. Davies and the SCPMA presented 12 major arguments in support of the proposed, including: better training, aligning South Carolina requirements with those of neighboring states, the dental exception in the current law, minimal patient exposure, infrequent x-rays taken in podiatry, minimal machine output, and decreased costs for Podiatric offices. The SCPMA proposed eight-hour program and exam were designed at the Chicago School of Podiatric Medicine. The SCPMA will provide the courses, instructors, exam, statistical analysis, and exam results.

Dr. Breland was concerned that all the information cannot realistically be taught in eight hours. President Caldwell said that, although Dr. Davies made some valid points, she does not want the curriculum watered down to fit into eight hours. Ms. Hancock suggests adopting the education program that the SCPMA has proposed and keeping only the current ARRT exam. Dr. Davies felt that this is a problem since many of the candidates for the test cannot pass the exam with the information they are learning. He said that the Podiatric radiographer does not need a majority of the information on the ARRT exam because the information is not specific to their field. Dr. Hewitt questioned how the SCPMA compares to the current standards and if the standards being met. President Caldwell stated that one of the SCRQSA standards is competency-based and she did not see this in the SCPMA proposal. Dr. Davies felt that this could be worked out. Ms.

Sheriff would like assurances that the exam information will not be shared as the SCPMA is creating and teaching the classes, as well as creating and administering the exam. Mr. Sutton felt that it is unethical to create and instruct the class and administer the exam and asked if the exam would be secure. Ms. Hancock responded that the ARRT exam is the secure exam because it is conducted by a source outside of the SCRQSA.

A break was taken from 2:20 p.m. until 2:31 p.m.

Dr. Davies pointed out that the law clearly states that the SCPMA will submit an exam for the Podiatric radiographers. President Caldwell explained that the exam was to have been created within one year of the law taking effect and, although a year has passed, no exam has been presented. She also clarified that an exam may be submitted by the SCPMA but approval of the exam is not guaranteed. Dr. Davies asked the Board to make a decision on this issue soon since many certificates expire July 1, 2002.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to grant a one year extension to Temporary B and Provisional Limited Practice Radiographer -Podiatric certificates expiring July 1, 2002, through July 1, 2003. Ms. Saenz will draft a letter to these individuals informing them of the extension. Mr. Sutton felt that the Board must see the validity of the exam. Ms. Sheriff suggested administering the SCPMA exam to those with Temporary A Limited Practice Radiographer-Podiatric certificates to begin compiling statistics on the exam. Ms. Weathersbee suggested creating an *ad hoc* committee to further explore the exam. She would like to look at the programs that other states, such as Florida and North Carolina, are using for Podiatric radiographers.

Dr. Breland exited the meeting at 3:15 p.m. and gave her proxy to Wanda Hancock.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to create an *ad hoc* committee to explore a Podiatric exam and the curriculums associated with it. The *ad hoc* committee will consist of Dr. Davies, Judy Weathersbee, Elvin Sutton and Robert Owen.

Ms. Weathersbee exited the meeting at 3:21 p.m. and gave her proxy to Elvin Sutton.

#### **Consumer Member Board Vacancy**

Dr. Hewitt has nominated Cynthia Waystack as the Consumer Member. No other nominations were made. Dr. Hewitt stated that Ms. Waystack was previously his business manager and explained that she is in favor of the law and is well versed in Radiology. She currently is employed by Orangeburg Radiology. Ms. Waystack is very active in the Radiology Business Management Association.

Ms. Hancock suggested that there is a conflict of interest. President Caldwell asked Mr. Aaron Kozloski, Legal Counsel for the South Carolina Medical Association and visitor to this meeting, his legal opinion. Mr. Kozloski stated that the word conflict must be defined in this situation. He pointed out that the Consumer Member must be concerned with public health and the quality of care given to patients. Mr. Kozloski further stated that if the Consumer Member joins the Board with that in mind, the conflict is gone. He felt that the Board must presume Ms. Waystack's intentions are honorable as she has given them no reason to think otherwise. Dr. Hewitt stated that Ms. Waystack would do her job and be impartial and that she would represent her position. He said he did not believe that their association would cause any problems.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept Cynthia Waystack as the Consumer Member of the Board. Ms. Saenz will notify Ms. Waystack of her appointment.

#### **The Recertification Process**

In July, many certificates will come up for renewal. Following the current process, a new certificate will be issued to each individual who pays his or her renewal fee and meets the continuing education requirements. Ms. Saenz was asked to investigate the cost of creating a seal to send in place of a new certificate. The seal would be placed on the old certificate over the current expiration year. The seal would contain the SCRQSA logo along with a line stating "Valid through 2004," much like the ARRT seal. Pricing for the seals is as follows: 1,000 seals are \$105 plus tax and 2,000 seals are \$160 plus tax. The seal may be white or gold foil with black lettering. Ms. Hancock requested information on the cost of

printing a wallet card for each certificate holder. Mr. Owen said that a pocket card would be a good idea, especially for those who travel to different offices. A motion was made, seconded and passed to investigate sending a higher quality certificate, biennial expiration seal, and pocket card to everyone upon renewal of their certificate.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Kim Saenz reported that the SCRQSA entered into an agreement with Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) to administer the exam for Invasive Specialists. The contact at CCI is Julia Hillier (800-326-0268). The exam fee is \$175 and the exam dates are March 23, 2002, June 22, 2002, and September 21, 2002. CCI will distribute all applications. All fees and completed applications must be sent directly to CCI to register for the exam. Upon passing the exam, the individual will be RCIS certified and he or she will submit a copy of their RCIS card to the SCRQSA to receive a Permanent certificate.

Ms. Saenz presented the certification report to the Board.

Ms. Saenz updated the Board on the current continuing education classes listed on the website. Ms. Hancock questioned who was to approve these classes. Ms. Saenz stated that it was her understanding that any program that was equivalent to the SCRQSA approved curriculum was automatically approved. Further, Ms. Saenz understood that any program with a curriculum that varies from the SCRQSA approved curriculum was to be approved by the Board. President Caldwell verified that this was the correct procedure.

Ms. Saenz asked all Board members to review the contents of the website and report any changes or updates to her via email, fax, or telephone by March 15, 2002. She will contact the website host company to make the needed changes. Ms. Saenz informed the Board that the SCRQSA has a new contact at 1k.com, the website host company. This contact has been able to complete requests in a much more timely fashion than the previous contact person.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kim Saenz presented the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for the Board's review. Ms. Saenz reported that the association was in sound financial standing.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Davies asked that a breakdown of scores earned on the state exam be sent to each examinee following his or her exam.

Dr. Keeshan stated that she has received some concerns from rural Physicians in reference to supervision of Radiology Technology students. She explained that many Physicians are not allowed to supervise Radiologic Technology students in their competency-based curriculum. As a result, they are sending their Radiography employees/students to other clinics to complete their training since their curriculum states they must be supervised by a registered Radiologic Technologist. A Podiatrist or Chiropractor is allowed to provide supervision, but not a Physician.

Dr. Keeshan stated that this is a violation of the law that licensed physicians cannot be limited or restricted. Licensed physicians can supervise employees, treat, diagnose, and prescribe. President Caldwell stated that many Podiatrists and Chiropractors take their own x-rays. Many Board members agreed that Physicians do not often take their own x-rays and tend to have limited knowledge in the area. Mr. Sutton asked who is putting this requirement on the students? The SCRQSA did not set this requirement. Rather, the JRC, which accredits the college Radiology programs, set this particular requirement. Mr. Owen suggested presenting this problem to the Program Directors at the various technical colleges that have Radiologic Technology programs.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for July, 13, 2002.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.