

## **SMRT President-Elect**

### **Vera K. Miller, B.S., R.T., (R)(MR), Brockton, Massachusetts, USA**



Vera Miller attended the University of Central Arkansas & the Baptist School of Radiology in Little Rock, Arkansas. She completed Radiology school in the spring of 1981 and her BS in Health Care in the fall of the same year. Vera worked in CT and Ultrasound at the Baptist Hospital and obtained RDMS certification in 1984. When MRI was introduced clinically in 1985 she was chosen as the first MRI Technologist at Baptist Hospital. She was sent to training in Milwaukee and spent several months of preparing via reading and studying, and was well prepared when the GE 1.5T scanner was installed in early spring of 1986. After years of experience gained by on the job training and participation in many MRI educational seminars, Vera began to share her expertise. She took on the added responsibility of training and teaching MR to new technologists and radiology students. When the second system was added in 1988 Vera was promoted to Lead Technologist and Manager of the site. In the winter of 1993, she moved to Massachusetts and accepted a position as a Staff Technologist at the Brockton location for Shields Health Care. Vera has continued her education by completing several courses toward a Masters Degree in Health Care Administration, but her passion has always been education. Vera passed the first MR registry, which was given in 1995. In 1999 she was given the responsibility of protocol development and staff education at Shields, and in 2001 was promoted to MR Application Specialist and Trainer for all 16 sites located throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Vera has developed numerous presentations and has been an invited speaker many times. She has traveled extensively to promote quality education and professionalism. In 2002, Shields introduced an MRI accelerated internship program for RT's which is held once a year utilizing the Shields MRI sites. Vera played a key role in the development and implementation of this program and she continues the management and coordination of the curriculum for this training. Vera has been a member of the SMRT for 10 years. She has served on many committees and in 2002 she was elected to the Policy Board and has been a member of the Executive Committee as Secretary since 2006. Vera is a founding member of the New England Chapter of the SMRT and has been co-chairperson of many regional meetings held in and around Boston, Massachusetts and the New England area. Vera was Program Chair for the SMRT 16th Annual Meeting in Berlin in 2006. She was instrumental in updating the MRI Curriculum guide that the SMRT developed in conjunction with the ASRT, JRCERT, and AEIRS. Vera is true to the SMRT mission of furthering MR education to the global technologist community. As President, Vera would ensure that technologists have the education needed to stay current as technology and the industry changes. She believes the SMRT's efforts should be directed towards more efficient and effective ways to reach technologist globally. Vera would work toward more e-learning and web-based tools for technologists. We must recognize in these economic times technologists are not able to travel and train. We have to find a way to meet the needs of a changing environment.

## **SMRT Policy Board**

### **Richard Scott Dunn, R.T., (MR), Cincinnati, Ohio, USA**



Scott Dunn is one of those first generation, old school MR Techs, fortunate to be dragged into the future of diagnostic imaging, then diving head long into advanced pediatric imaging research and currently focusing on the complexities of high field, preclinical MR studies. He has been an MR tech since 1985, and involved in advanced MR imaging and spectroscopy on multiple platforms and at varied field strengths for 20 years. He regularly reviews basic and advanced MR principles with fellow techs, graduate students and collaborators in order to optimize image quality, lesion conspicuity and makes the most efficacious use of magnet time. Scott is purported not to be self-aggrandizing, but confident in his abilities and secure in his reasoning. His education in MR has been both hands-on and didactic over 25 years, so he can be conversant on many levels. Scott is comfortable and enthusiastic

when talking to groups about MRI, whether it is 6th graders, scientists or philanthropists. This past year, he worked on a successful year long Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative with the Springmill Intermediate School, Mansfield, Ohio, remained the MRI safety section liaison, consulted on new magnet installations with respect to veterinary and laboratory BSLII compliance, and currently co-chairs coordination of a two-day MR educational conference hosted by the IRC, to be held in Cincinnati in September of 2011. His Associate Degree in Radiological Sciences from the University of Cincinnati belies his academic activity. He was originally a member of the SMRM in 1991, and then the SMRT from 1992 until the present. He has presented at both, contributed to a neuroradiology textbook and numerous peer reviewed publications on perfusion imaging, single voxel spectroscopy, functional MRI, and preclinical and companion animal imaging. He is most pleased, though, by being involved in a group over the decades that has taken MR techniques from investigational to clinical usage.

### **Rosemary Fisher, R.T., (R)(CT)(MR), Seattle, Washington, USA**



Rosemary Fisher began her career in Radiology by graduating in 1985 from Columbus Hospital (Benefis) School of Radiologic Technology in Great Falls, Montana. She was given the opportunity to work in MRI in 1987 and hasn't looked back. With over 23 years of experience in MRI, she has held positions as technologist, manager and clinical application specialist in mobile imaging and hospital environments. She was employed by Siemens Medical Solutions Inc., USA in 2000 and moved through the ranks as a Senior MR Clinical Applications Specialist, MRI External Education Manager and MR Education Development Specialist working to train technologists and physicians in MRI. She provided on-site applications training, lead a team of classroom instructors, developed classroom course content, e-learning products and other alternative education programs such as workshops, seminars and fellowships while at Siemens. She was selected as a temporary delegate to the MR Headquarters in Erlangen, Germany where she participated in product development, testing and training. Currently, Rosemary is the Manager of the Breast Center at Evergreen Hospital Medical Center in Kirkland, Washington. A member of the SMRT since 2000, Rosemary has attended several international annual meetings and served on the Ad-Hoc Education Committee for MRI Curriculum for the Primary Pathway to ARRT MR Certification. She has been the leading force in organizing the Northwest SMRT Local Chapter this past year and is currently serving as President for the newly formed chapter. The chapter meets quarterly for networking, exchanging ideas and continuing education with 25 -35 members attending each meeting. She is also leading the team to revive the Northwest Regional Educational Seminar which will be held again in October 2010. Rosemary is honored to have received the nomination to the SMRT Policy Board and feels her years of expertise and passion for education will make her an asset to the organization.

### **Kirsten Moffat, BAppSc, Sydney, Australia**



Kirsten Moffat graduated from the University of Sydney in 1996 and began to work in MRI at her last year in University. After graduating Kirsten worked in all areas of radiography. She began to focus on MRI in 1998. In 2001, Kirsten was employed by Philips Healthcare as an MRI Applications Specialist. In this role Kirsten was responsible for the training of all Philips MR customers in Australia and New Zealand. She was involved in the testing of new MRI applications and the first generation 3 Tesla scanners. After this role Kirsten was employed by Symbion Health as the manager of the Symbion Clinical Research Imaging Centre at the Prince of Wales Medical Research. Kirsten is now employed as the MRI Manager at both St Vincent's Hospital and the Brain and Mind Research Institute.

Kirsten has been a member of the SMRT since 2003. She has attended four Annual SMRT/ISMRM meetings. Kirsten presented on Ultra Short TSE at the SMRT ANZ Chapter meeting in Melbourne and has given many presentations at other MRI conferences. She has also co-authored publications in peer reviewed articles and poster submissions for the ISMRM and Human Brain Mapping. Kirsten is the current SMRT ANZ Chapter President and has been in this role for the past 12 months. She was also the co-chair of the President's regional meeting in Sydney, Australia in 2008 and is the NSW State Representative on the ANZ Chapter. Kirsten is honoured to be nominated as a candidate for the Policy Board and believes her enthusiasm for MRI education worldwide, her experience in running the ANZ SMRT Chapter, and overseeing the successful ANZ SMRT Annual Meetings will be beneficial to the Policy Board and the SMRT membership.

### **Helle Juhl Simonsen, MRT, Copenhagen, Denmark**



Helle Juhl Simonsen graduated as a Biomedical Laboratory Scientist in 1982 in Copenhagen, Denmark. She started at the first MR center in Denmark, Danish Research Center for MR (DRCMR), back in 1987. From the beginning, she was very interested in research and has supported many Ph.D. students with data recording and analysis. She is experienced with both human and pre-clinical studies using MR imaging, spectroscopy, diffusion, perfusion and fMRI at field strengths of 1.0 to 4.7T. She was working on the DRCMR until 2006, where she changed to her current position as research MRT at the Functional Imaging Unit, Glostrup Hospital, University of Copenhagen. Her main research focus areas are neurological diseases as Multiple Sclerosis, Brain Tumours, Ischemia, Tourette, Headache and Schizophrenia. She also has the responsibility to train and examine new students in MR safety. Helle has been a member of the ISMRM, which later on

was changed to a membership of SMRT, since 2001. She has attended 13 ISMRM Annual Meetings, one ISMRM Workshop and 9 SMRT Annual Meetings. She has submitted 12 abstracts as co-author to the ISMRM meetings and 6 abstracts as first author to the SMRT meetings, two of those abstracts were selected as oral presentations and were awarded a 3rd place in the category of Research Focus Proffered Paper. She is co-author on 3 articles published in international journals and she has had a lecture about MR at the Metropolitan University College in Copenhagen. She has organized several courses, one of them as the main organizer and chair. Since 1987, Helle has been a member of the Danish Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (DSMMR) and a member of the Policy Board from 2006 until her term ends in March 2011. It is a great honour for Helle to be nominated as a candidate to the SMRT Policy Board. She hopes that her extensive experience in the MR field and her experience with the DSMMR Policy Board, will help her serve the members of the SMRT, and to continue the great work currently done by the SMRT Policy Board members.

## Crues and Kressel Award



**Cindy R. Comeau, B.S., R.T., (N)(MR), FSMRT.** Since 1998 Cindy has been considered an internationally recognized expert in cardiovascular MRI and has trained applications specialists, MRI technologists/radiographers and physicians from around the world. She currently is the Manager of Cardiovascular MRI at Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging on Manhattan's Upper East Side in New York City and directs a MRI Core Laboratory for a research development company. Cindy has been a member of the SMRT since 1997 and in keeping with the mission and development of the SMRT section has volunteered her time to share her knowledge at numerous SMRT Annual, Regional and Chapter Meetings throughout United States and internationally. She has had the privilege to have worked with many leading professionals in the field of cardiovascular MRI which has allowed her to accomplish many academic endeavors. In

April 2001, Cindy was elected to serve on the SMRT Policy Board and received the President's Award for her Proffered Paper at the SMRT/BAMRR Joint Annual Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland. At that time Cardiac MRI was an emerging clinical application as she realized that there was a need for her to share her expertise and since then she still actively participates in many SMRT committees and educational activities today. She has developed cardiovascular MRI training material, book chapters, authored publications, abstracts and has given numerous presentations at many educational meetings for both technologists and physicians. In October 2002 she worked with the International Center for Postgraduate Education and produced Essentials of Vascular MRA a video lecture series that has received very high reviews. In June 2003 she authored Magnetic Resonance Imaging Cardiac MRI a home study module sponsored by Bracco Diagnostics and Outsource, Inc. Released in June 2004, she coordinated the SMRT Home Study Cardiovascular MRI: Update I and authored Cardiovascular MRI: Update II released June 2005. Assisting in the continued development of Cardiac MRI educational material has always been an important priority for Cindy as she has served as the expert reviewer for the recently released SMRT Home Study on "Cardiac MRI Techniques." Cindy was elected as the 2006-2007 SMRT President and during her presidency she advocated continual development of electronic continuing education offerings to support a growing SMRT membership. She would like to credit the phenomenal support from the Executive Committee and Policy Board members as she truly believes in promoting a team effort! As Past President she led a core group of MRI professionals in the completion of the 2008 MRI Curriculum Guide, a joint effort with the ARRT, ASRT and JRCERT organizations. She is continually striving to promote the SMRT's mission as it has certainly been an honor for her to be able to share her expertise with so many outstanding technologists/radiographers from around the world whom truly appreciate the value of being a SMRT member. She strongly feels the SMRT will continue to grow in membership and she looks forward to serving in future SMRT educational activities globally. It is truly an exceptional honor for Cindy to be considered as a nominee for the Crues-Kressel Award. She is owned by three adorable Shih-tzus, Toby, Simba and Mindy whom support all of her SMRT endeavors!