

Meet Your New SMRT President



"Our professional society faces the same challenges that we face in our own lives: tough economic challenges, rapid technological advances, and increasingly complex problems requiring well thought-out solutions."

Charles Stanley, R.T., (R)(CT)(MR)

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Charles Stanley began his term as SMRT President during the Annual Meeting in Montreal. *Signals News* asked him questions so that you can get to know your elected leader.

Signals News: Charles, when did you first become involved with MR?

My very first exposure to MRI was in fact, when I was still a student in 1985. The hospital that I was working at was fortunate to get the very first MRI scanner in the state and our very own *Cindy Hipps* was selected to be the first technologist. I was one of the first test patients to be scanned—I'm pretty sure they left me in there for about six hours! I actually first started working in MRI in the early 1990s for a company that was doing mobile CT and MRI in South Carolina. Later I relocated to Virginia and continued working in MRI for 10 years there.

Signals News: What led to your involvement with the SMRT?

Well it was again our very own *Cindy Hipps*! As my career continued to progress I had the pleasure of working with Cindy in the late 1990s and knew about her involvement in the SMRT, but still I didn't make the

jump myself. Later when I relocated to work at the University of Virginia, Cindy kept urging me to get involved and I finally did about 2003. I then ran for and was elected to Policy Board in 2004.

Signals News: You have been very active within the SMRT, how will that experience help you to lead the organization?

When I joined the Policy Board in 2004 I hit the ground running and immediately became involved in several key committees and projects. I had the good fortune to work with a number of people that were very dedicated to the SMRT and had a passion for what the SMRT was trying to accomplish. *Cindy Hipps, Wendy Strugnell, Anne Sawyer, Maureen Ainslie, Julie Strandt-Peay, Julia Lowe* and others; these were some of the people that I just looked at in awe as to the level of dedication they brought to the society. I was inspired to try and give the SMRT my best as I see that effort from each of them. I was fortunate enough to be selected as *Cindy Comeau's* Executive Member and then Co-Chaired the External Relations Committee with

Gina Greenwood for four years. I learned from them that a lot of what you do at the Executive Board level is not for "fame and fortune" but rather because the work has to be done, and that is the bottom line. I also gained a great appreciation for the breadth and depth of experience from the SMRT's leadership; it helped me understand that it takes more than just energy and a desire to do good things. It takes a perspective, understanding of all sides of a problem, looking at the implications of a decision, and always keeping in mind that what we do is for our members and future members.

Signals News: Do you have any specific goals for this year?


One of my goals for this year is to work with a couple of committees I put together or revitalized and deliver a Strategic Plan to the membership. This is picking up on some work that was done several years ago and updating and further developing to reflect the needs of our society today. Our professional society faces the same challenges that we face in our own lives: tough economic challenges, rapid technological advances, and increasingly complex problems requiring well thought out solutions. The leadership must be good stewards of the time, money, and energy provided to us by our members. There are many good things that "could" be done but that doesn't mean they

"should" be done by us as we may not be the best resource to accomplish that. A strong Mission and Vision statement, which we developed at the beginning of this year, combined with a Strategic Plan, will help keep us focused on doing what we should do for our members and doing it well.

Another goal that I have for the coming year is to expand our collaborative efforts with other like organizations. I am very excited that we had a representative of the CAMRT (Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists) at our Montreal Annual Meeting; SMRT is in the initial stages of developing a stronger relationship with them. I am also excited that we have started a dialogue with the SNMSTS (Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists Section) regarding MR-PET and how our respective societies can provide a consistent and inclusive message to our members regarding the

roles of technologists/radiographers in this emerging field. Lastly, along with others, I would like to accelerate our online delivery of educational content. We desire to be a leading global organization and provide resources to technologists/radiographers around the world; obviously online content delivery is a perfect vehicle to do so.

Signals News: What needs to be done in the future to expand or enhance the SMRT?

Our Mission and Vision statements talk about how we strive to be the leading professional organization for technologists and radiographers in the field of MRI and to do so throughout the world. I feel to accomplish that goal we must continue to expand our online presence and seek ways to show the value of being a part of this great organization. I also feel we need to expand our collaborative efforts with other like professional societies; as they have lessons we can learn that will allow us to maximize the resources we have. We are a relatively young organization and are fortunate to be representing an industry that still has tremendous growth potential, it is imperative that we remain focused on providing value to not only our members but to the field of MRI as a whole. 



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