

## Introducing the New Leaders of the SMRT

**Editor's Note: Signals News is proud to introduce the newly elected leadership of the SMRT. These dedicated individuals will begin their respective terms in May 2012 at the Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia. Appreciation is expressed to Nominations Committee Chair, Julia Lowe for her efforts as she announces the election results.**

### SMRT President 2012-2013

**Vera Kimbrell, B.S., R.T. (R)(MR), Brockton, Massachusetts, USA**



Vera 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. When MRI was introduced clinically in 1985 she was chosen as the first MRI Technologist at Baptist Hospital. 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 offered 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. In 2006, Vera was Program Chair for the SMRT 16th Annual Meeting in Berlin. 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 will 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 technologists and radiographers globally. Vera will work toward more e-learning and web-based tools for technologists and radiographers. She feels that in these economic times technologists and radiographers are not able to travel for training and education. Vera will strive to have the SMRT meet the needs of the changing environment.

## SMRT President-Elect

*Note: The President-Elect candidate becomes the President-Elect at the 2012 SMRT Business Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, and takes office as the President at the 2013 SMRT Business Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Julia Lowe, Chair, Nominations Committee.*

### **Ben Kennedy, B.App.Sc., MMRT, Brisbane, Australia**



Ben Kennedy graduated as a radiographer in 1993 in Brisbane, Australia. Through Radiographer exchange programs with the United Kingdom, in 2000 he headed to London to work in the field of MRI. Since returning to Australia, he has worked at both public and private institutions in roles specializing solely in MRI. Soon after his return to Australia, Ben commenced post-graduate studies in MRI through the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and then continued on to the University of Queensland to achieve his Master's Degree in Magnetic Resonance Technology. Through his studies, Ben was introduced to the SMRT educational materials, the MRI Technologists list server and the benefits of becoming an SMRT member. Ben's current role supervises a private Radiology company's rapidly expanding MRI services, providing him with exciting new challenges in a variety of clinical and administrative directions. He is currently the Treasurer of the SMRT ANZ Chapter, and has been an Executive Committee Member since the Chapter recommenced in 2006. He co-chaired a very successful 2006 Meeting of the SMRT ANZ Chapter in Brisbane, and has been strongly involved in the organization of the SMRT ANZ Chapter Meetings held in Melbourne (2007), Sydney (2008), Adelaide (2009), Auckland NZ (2010) and recently co-chaired the 2011 Brisbane meeting. Ben has attended every Annual SMRT/ISMRM meeting since Seattle in 2006, where he was inspired by the enthusiasm and professionalism of SMRT. He was first elected to the SMRT Policy Board in 2007. In 2008, he was the Program Chair for the 2009 Annual SMRT meeting in Hawai'i. Through 2009, Ben served as the Executive Member for the SMRT, and as part of these duties, organized the Joint Forum between the ISMRM and the SMRT on "Safe Exposure Limits in MRI" at the 2010 Stockholm Annual Meeting. In 2010 he served as the Chair of the Membership Committee, where he worked to improve the value of your SMRT membership, through improvements in access to education and CPD credits, primarily through the SMRT's newly evolving website. In 2010, Ben chaired the Joint Forum in Montreal on Diffusion Tensor Imaging and "is it ready for the clinic." He is currently the Treasurer of the SMRT and actively accounting for the SMRT's financial viability going into the next Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia and beyond. He aims to further SMRT's financial movement with proven successful structures/strategies, maintaining existing relationships with our generous sponsors, as well as creating new long term relationships. As President-Elect, he will continue to seek further improvements in the membership value of the SMRT for all members, and improve the opportunities for recognition of professional societies' professional development programs around the world. He promotes the international exposure of the SMRT, and sees further globalization with local cultural educational flexibility as the future to setting high international standards for educating the MR technologist - worldwide.

## **SMRT Policy Board**

*Note: The newly elected Policy Board members will begin serving at the 2012 SMRT Business Meeting in Melbourne, Australia for a term of three years. Julia Lowe, Chair, Nominations Committee.*

### **Sheryl Foster, MHSc (MRI), Sydney, Australia**



Sheryl began her radiography career at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, Australia after graduating from Riverina College of Advanced Education. Her life changed forever in the early 1990s when she began a relationship with MRI. In 1995, Sheryl was appointed Senior of the MRI Suite at the new Children's Hospital. Since that time she has concentrated her efforts solely on MR, graduating from the University of Sydney in 2002 with a Master of Health Sciences degree in Medical Radiation Sciences, majoring in MRI. She attended her first ISMRM/SMRT International meeting in Sydney in 1998 and joined the Section for Magnetic Resonance Technologists at that time. Her first poster contribution was made at this meeting. Since then, Sheryl has co-authored and presented posters at SMRT in Berlin (2007), Honolulu (2009) and Montreal (2011) along with a poster presentation at ISMRM in Stockholm (2010). Sheryl was also the winner of the First Prize Research Focus Award in Stockholm (2010) for her presentation "Use of Clinical 3T MR System in Longitudinal Study of Anti-proliferative Drug Treatment in LPK Rodents." Since 2005 Sheryl has been the MRI Research Radiographer at Westmead Hospital. During her lengthy involvement in MRI, Sheryl has seen and experienced the positive changes in our profession brought about by the SMRT. Sheryl hopes that her broad experience and enthusiasm can assist her in making a valuable contribution to the organisation.

### **Kendra Huber (Hasebroock), B.S., R.T. (R)(M)(CT)(MR) Aurora, Colorado, USA**



Kendra began her career in Radiology by graduating in 1994 from St. Anthony Hospital School of Radiologic Technology in Denver, Colorado, USA. After graduating, Kendra worked in all areas of radiology but discovered the fun and challenging world of MRI in 2000. She became an MRI supervisor and loved teaching new technologists about physics, patient care and MRI safety. Returning to school in 2006, she completed her bachelor's in Biology with emphasis in Biomedical Science where she became very interested in research. Kendra's extensive experience with clinical and pre-clinical studies includes MR imaging, spectroscopy, diffusion, perfusion and MRI/PET at field strengths of 0.3T to 4.7T. Kendra currently is the manager of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Cancer Center Core. Kendra has been a member of the SMRT since 2005. She has attended SMRT Annual Meetings and is a Co-chair for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the SMRT. She has submitted 12 abstracts as a co-author to the ISMRM meetings; one was awarded a 2nd place for her work with small particle iron oxide nanoparticles. She is a co-author on five articles published in international journals and has contributed to a Tumor Biomarker Textbook. Kendra is honored to have received the nomination to the SMRT Policy Board. She feels her wide range of expertise and passion for MRI will be beneficial to the great work currently done by the organization.

### **Michael Schlenk, M.S., R.T. (R)(MR), West Columbia, South Carolina, USA**



Michael is a normal everyday MRI technologist who has been working in the field for the past 25 years. He has had the privilege of plying his craft in settings ranging from outpatient clinical facilities to large university hospitals. He has been responsible for the successful start-up of multiple new outpatient MRI centers and lent his expertise to help guide several others to new levels of success. As lead research technologist at Laurie Imaging Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Michael worked hand-in-hand with multiple physicians and researchers on projects ranging from fMRI research to FDA phase III drug trials. However, Michael's true passion is in passing on MRI knowledge to others. He has been responsible for training dozens of MRI technologists in formal academic settings as well as on-the-job situations. Currently Michael is an adjunct faculty member of Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College where he teaches Physics in their MRI Technologist program. Michael has been an active participant on the SMRT List Server since the late 1990s. He has also been a member of the SMRT for the past several years with growing involvement in the SMRT Local South Carolina Chapter. This past year he served as Co-chair and was a speaker for the South Carolina Regional Meeting. Michael also presented a talk on MRI Safety at the recent September 2011 Atlanta Chapter SMRT Regional Meeting.

**Rhonda Walcarius, B.Sc., R.T. (R)(MR), Toronto, Ontario, Canada**



Rhonda began her career as a clinical MR technologist in 1990 at the Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Currently Rhonda is a MR research technologist focusing on cardiovascular MR studies at the Sunnybrook Research Institute in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Rhonda is a long-time member of the SMRT and has attended many SMRT annual meetings. In 2002, Rhonda won Second Place Clinical Focus for her poster, “MR Breast Needle Localization” at the SMRT Annual Meeting. She participated on the 2003 SMRT Annual Meeting Program Committee. Rhonda has also participated on the SMRT Education Committee for three SMRT Annual Meetings acting as an abstract reviewer and poster judge. Since 1997, Rhonda has been actively involved as a volunteer for the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT). She participated in the Committee on Education for MRI which involved maintaining the CAMRT MR Certification examination. She has participated as a quiz writer for the SMRT Home Studies Course Vol.10, No.3, “Techniques in Cardiovascular Imaging.” In 2006 she acted as a Co-chair for the Eastern Canada SMRT Regional Seminar. In 2009, Rhonda won Third Place Research Focus for her poster, “Multi-contrast Delayed Enhancement, Accuracy and Applications” at the SMRT Annual Meeting. Rhonda is currently participating as a member of the SMRT Education Committee and the SMRT Home Studies Committee. Rhonda looks forward to continuing her participation in SMRT activities.