

35th Annual Radiation Therapy Conference

October 2 - 4th, 2011 Miami, Florida

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<http://www.ohsu.edu/ohsuedu/academic/som/radmedicine/radtechtrainprog.cfm>

While in Miami I attended five classes and five meetings. The meetings were the annual updates for the ASRT, JRCERT, ARRT, along with the program directors meetings. These meetings are all held after the classes on the first day of the conference.

ARRT [<https://www.rrt.org/>]

The major point for program directors from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) meeting is that the 4th attempt for passing the certification exam will be dropped. Starting in 2013 an applicant must pass the certifying exam in 3 attempts within 3 years of graduation. In the past an applicant had 5 years and 4 attempts before having to repeat all course work. All applicants must also have a degree to apply - certificate programs will be obsolete.

JRCERT [<http://www.jrcert.org/>]

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) reported 82 radiation therapy programs and 16 dosimetry programs currently accredited. They also advised all programs that students may not be in clinic if the university is on official break. This does require a change for our program as students have been allowed to complete missed clinic time on days where clinics other than OHSU are not closed. When I questioned the JRCERT staff at the meeting as to the reason for this rule I was advised that faculty must be available if a student is injured in clinic. I have already advised the students of this new rule and we have made the necessary change to the student handbook.

ASRT [<https://www.asrt.org/>]

The rest of these meetings covered topics such as the CARE bill, Image Gently/Image Wisely, ODIA and RA reimbursement.

The general format of the conference has changed since the last time I attended. The first day all courses are general sessions and covered these topics: Morals and Ethics of Radiation Oncology, Timothy Williams, MD; Survivorship to Thrivorship, Dr. Dupree; and The Willingness of Radiation Therapists to Challenge Physicians , Robert Adams, PhD. The sessions I attended on Tuesday were both for educators and included: problem based learning and interprofessional education. This was a particularly interesting session since we will be moving into the new building and the hope is that courses will be shared as much as possible.

In the exhibit hall I did attend a demonstration of the Vert to see if this was something we would want to consider in the new space. I think this would be a great asset to the program due to the ability to comp students on procedures without needing to take time away from a linac schedule. It would also enable students to practice procedures without risk. This system could also be used for the physics program and training for staff. We will need to investigate grant funds.

While in Miami I was able to spend time with staff from the JRCERT. The time spent now will hopefully speed the accreditation process in March.