



Medical Radiation Technologists
Board of Queensland

registrants update



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From the Chair



The Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland is now entering its final year of operation as the national board for the medical radiation professions assumes its responsibilities from July 2012.

It doesn't seem all that long ago that national registration for health practitioners was a twinkle in the eyes of State Health Ministers. Already last July, professions that had a registration board in each State moved to registration at national level under the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency.

The move to national registration will bring with it a lot of benefits for registrants in that there will be no longer a requirement for someone to be registered in each State in which they wish to practise. Other requirements such as recency of practice, continuing professional development and criminal history checking will be mandated, bringing all registrants onto an equal footing.

The Board has been active in trying to get the Regulation regarding the 1824 hours of supervised practice changed to be more descriptive and practical. The Board has also been requested that basic CT be included to the competencies for Medical Imaging Technology so that the SPP program better matches the NPDP of the AIR. These changes were passed by the Governor-in-Council in July and there is an article on Page 5 of this document which outlines all the changes.

The Graduates Annual Presentation Day will be on again this year and run by the Board so come on graduates, get your presentations together for this great occasion as the best paper receives \$2,500 in cash and travel entitlements to a Board approved seminar or conference.

*John Andersen
Chair*

Board member Profile – Dominic Kennedy



Dominic Kennedy is a practicing medical radiation technologist who graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1992 with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Imaging Technology). After graduation, Dominic commenced employment with Queensland X-Ray in Brisbane and continues to work for them as the MRI Coordinator. He has extensive experience in all facets of radiology, including general radiography, computed tomography, angiography, interventional procedures and magnetic resonance imaging.

Continuing education and the professional development of radiographers is the motivating factor behind his past and current involvement on numerous professional committees i.e. Professional Accreditation and Education Committee, Medical Imaging Advisory Panel (AIR) and as the Queensland representative for the Society of Magnetic Resonance Technology. His interest in the professional development of radiographers also extends to students with Dominic employed as a casual lecturer on MRI for third year undergraduate students.

Dominic has been an invited speaker at local, national and international conferences speaking on MRI related topics, with his most recent talks being on Breast MRI, MRI imaging of Perineural Spread, fMRI, Popliteal Artery entrapment and imaging with MRI. He is currently involved in research projects in MRI for clinical areas such as Breast, Wrist, Skull Base and Cardiac and has been a contributor on numerous peer reviewed journal articles.

Dominic has been a member of the MRTBQ since 2006, and currently holds the position of Deputy Chair. Additionally, he chairs the Supervisor Practice Program Committee, whose charter is to maintain and further the high quality, safe and professional educational experience of graduates.

Registration for the 2011-12 year

Many thanks to those practitioners who renewed their registration before 30 June.

If you haven't yet renewed or restored your registration for the 2011-12 year then you should cease practice immediately as you are now unregistered.

You should have received a restoration notice in the mail by now – if not, you may either restore your registration on-line at www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au or download a form from the same website and return it, with full payment, to the OHPRB.

Restoring your registration on-line has the added benefits of being instant and you don't have to complete and return the restoration form.

However you should note that the restoration of your registration is only effective from the time you actually restore – it isn't backdated.

Remember – you only have until 30 September to restore your registration. The sooner you restore, the sooner you can resume practice!

'Are you thinking of Postgraduate Study?'

– extracted from Queensland University of Technology Newsletter – March 2011 and included with kind permission from the authors

QUT Discipline of Medical Radiation Sciences (MRS) now offers discipline specific Higher Degree Research programs for both Masters by Research and PhD. These degrees can be undertaken both part-time and full-time. They enable qualified health professionals the opportunity to engage in high level clinical research in their chosen field. We currently have students placed at all of the major teaching hospitals in Brisbane. These degrees are not subject to fees and there is also a HECS exemption available. In addition, there are opportunities for scholarships for full-time study and limited bursaries for part-time programs. Best of all, you can begin your program at anytime during the year.

For more information please contact Dr Fiona Harden: fiona.harden@qut.edu.au

Grants and Awards

2011 grant and award recipients

The Board is pleased to announce the following projects as successful in the 2011 round of grants and awards.

Published Article Awards:

- Amy Brown and Emma Day - \$1500 - Assessment of motion & field placement verification of the prostate using gold seed fiducial markers: a feasibility study' ;
- Angela Coles - \$1500 - A patient presenting with an advanced squamous cell carcinoma to the left thigh' ;
- Mark Middleton - \$3000 - Successful implementation of image-guided radiation therapy quality assurance in the trans Tasman radiation oncology group 08.01 profit study' ;

- Debbie Watson - \$3000 - Paediatric CT reference doses based on weight and CT Dosimetry phantom size: local experience using a 64-slice CT scanner'.

Research Grant Program:

- Elizabeth Brown – Scholarship grant (\$5,000) and Research Grant Program (\$10,000) - Biologically guided adaptive radiotherapy treatment planning for virally mediated head and neck cancer;
- Tim Deegan – Scholarship grant – (\$5,000) and Research Grant Program (\$10,000) - The role of core beam CT in prostate radiation therapy;
- Kurt Burrows – Research Grant Program (\$8,000) - Mechanical replication of clinical forces on thermoplastic masks in radiation therapy
- Michael Neep – Research Grant Program (\$10,000) – Comparisons of the effectiveness of two types of X-Ray image interpretation education delivery methods; intensive training versus regular tutorials over 3 months.

2012 Application Round

The Board awards grants on an annual basis as part of its function to promote high standards of practice of the profession by registrants.

These awards include those for:

- Research
- Research Implementation
- Peer reviewed publication
- Scholarships

The Board is pleased to announce expressions of interest for awards and grants. Due to the advent of national registration in July 2012, when the state based Board will cease to exist, the closure date for the 2012 round will be earlier than is customary.

Details of awards and grants can be found on the board's web site under policies and publications.

The closure date for applications will be Friday 25 November 2011.

Any queries to the Professional Adviser hollowayf@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Blog from Kurt Burrows – Radiation Therapist Royal Brisbane and Womens Hospital – Recipient of 2010 MRTB Travelling Scholarship- SPP 2010

I completed my SPP as a radiation therapist at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in 2010. During this year I expanded on learned theoretical knowledge and consolidated through the application of radiation therapy principles and practises. As an SPP, I also undertook a small research project to contribute towards my CPD.

I was thrilled when this work was rewarded at the PDY/SPP papers day in 2010 with the Best Paper award which gave me the opportunity to travel to Adelaide for the ASMMIRT





this year, on the MRTBQ Travelling Scholarship. At this conference, I witnessed first hand the direction research can lead and experiences had by others.

Consequently, I resolved to extend my research to an academic standard. In 2011 I successfully applied for and received a research grant by

the MRTBQ to help drive my research forward and lead to my move towards achieving a Masters. My research is entitled Mechanical Replication of Clinical Forces on Thermoplastic Masks in radiation therapy.

As a radiation therapist, I am excited at the prospect of contributing to my profession to benefit oncology patients. I owe a great deal of thanks to the RBWH and the MRTBQ for both the time and support of my research.

QUT Academic Awards Night



Medical Radiation Technologist Board Prize for Medical Imaging – Troy Anderson.

Awarded to the Bachelor of Applied Science (MRT) Medical Imaging Student with the highest grade overall grade point average completing the course in that year.



Medical Radiation Technologist Board prize for Radiotherapy - Jessica Burley.

Awarded to the Bachelor of Applied Science (MRT) Radiation Therapy student with the highest overall grade point average completing the course in that year.



John Andersen, Chairperson, Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland, Jessica Burley and Troy Anderson.

Supervisors workshop report and photos

The Board held its first Supervisors workshop in August 2010 and was a great success! Following on from that, the Board held its second workshop in March 2011 with another workshop to follow in October 2011.

The object of the workshop is to inform supervisors of probationary registrants in the Board's Supervised Practice Program of legislative requirements and assist with graduate education, feedback and assessment techniques. The March 2011 workshop targeted new and less experienced supervisors and those in regional areas, from both public and private sectors.

Further details for the October workshop will be sent to supervisors and posted on the supervised practice program section of the web site.



Workshop Presenters



Workshop Participants



National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) for 2012 Health Professionals Phase 2

The Medical Radiation Practitioners Board of Australia will be established from 1 July 2011.

Phase two of the NRAS commences on 1 July 2011 and completes on 30 June 2012. Phase 2 involves the National Board:

- implementing the transition from State and Territory registration to national registration for the four professions who are regulated locally
- commencing registration of practitioners for the four professions in States and Territories where they are not currently regulated
- developing mandatory registration standards and any other necessary instruments to support the registration of eligible practitioners commencing in the national registration by 1 July 2012.

Further details including the members of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia can be found on the web site www.nras2012.ahpra.gov.au

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has announced the appointees to the new National Boards for the 4 professions transitioning to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in July 2012.

The MRTBQ would like to congratulate all national Board members on their appointment and wishes the national Boards every success in the endeavours ahead. The MRTBQ would particularly like to congratulate Ms Myrtle Green; a foundation member of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland, on her appointment to the national Board for Medical Radiation Practice.

The communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council, including the names of the appointees can be found on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/Ministerial-Directives-and-Communiqués.aspx>

2012 Supervised Practice Program

The 2012 Supervised Practice Program (SPP) will commence on Monday 9 January 2012.

On 1 July 2012 medical radiation technologists will transition to national registration under the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (MRPBA), administered by the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Agency.

In July 2010 when ten health professions moved to the national scheme registrants with conditions transitioned with these conditions. It is anticipated that this will occur for medical radiation technologists. The graduates who have general registration with probationary conditions will complete their Queensland supervised practice program under the national scheme.

Further information will become available prior to the commencement of the 2012 SPP.

Graduate Presentation Day 2011

The Board will be running the annual Graduate Presentation Day in early December 2011.

As part of the supervised practice program (SPP) graduates must undertake research and professional development activities. The Board requires that each graduate makes a presentation in the SPP year.

The Graduate Presentation Day show cases these presentations. An expression of interest will be sent out to graduates and supervisors in August 2011. Guidelines and Hints are to be found on the Boards Website in the graduates section www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au follow links to SPP section.

There is a report from the 2010 plus some photos posted on the web site too.

The prize for the winner is a Board Traveling Scholarship to the value of \$2500

The Presentation Day has been very well supported in the six years that it has been running. Attendance at the presentation day offers not only a professional experience but a chance for the graduates to catch up with their peers at the end of the supervised practice program year. There will be guest speakers plus a lunch time fun competition. Traditionally this has been a yo-yo event and the radiation therapists have swept the board. Refreshments are provided throughout the day by the Board and sponsors.

This year the Board is going to expand the presentation day by offering graduates the opportunity to submit a poster, there will be a prize offered for the best poster plus a 'peoples choice' prize. Guidelines will be posted on the web site.

The Board encourages all graduates to submit an abstract for either the presentation or poster section of the presentation day. There will be funding available for a number of graduates from regional practices.

On Call and Shift Work Provisions - Supervised Practice Program and National Professional Development Program

The Professional Adviser has received some enquiries in regards to the provisions for shift work and on call after successful completion of the initial 24 weeks of the graduate program and approval of the report form by the Supervised Practice Program Committee.

The requests have concerned the provisions of the SPP and the National Professional Development Program (NPDP, run by the Australian Institute of Radiography), and whether graduates are able to fulfill the requirements of both organisations in the second half of the program with regards to on call and shift work.

The SPP Guidelines state that:

In the second half of the SPP a probationary registrant can have access to working on call and shift work, with a reduction of the normal supervision ratio provided that another person is a designated back up on call, and is able to be contacted by telephone and to come into the practice if required; or is available somewhere in the professional



practice setting. The primary supervisor or SPP coordinator must have signed the progress report form to indicate that the probationary registrant is competent to carry out the on call and shift duties required by the practice, with a reduced ratio. The amount of on call and shift work undertaken by graduates is monitored by the Board.

The NPDP Guidelines state that:

Following submission to the AIR of the second NPDP Graduate Review, the NPDP graduate may practice without direct supervision but with access to supervision in those professional practice experience areas where all elements are identified as “competent” in the second (or subsequent) NPDP Graduate Review.

Access to supervision requires that one medical imaging or radiation therapy professional who possesses a current Validated Statement of Accreditation is on-site at the clinical centre and available to provide direct supervision if required.

After discussion with Ms Sharon Brackenridge, the Director NPDP Review, it has been confirmed that the provisions of the Board’s SPP for on call and shift work, which is acknowledged by the AIR as a monitored program, would suffice for the NPDP as well.

Ms Brackenridge asked that if any NPDP Liaison has enquiries in regards to any aspect of the AIR program could they please contact her: npdp@air.asn.au

Any enquiries in regards to the SPP to Francesca Holloway, Professional Adviser:
hollowayf@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

or refer to www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au and follow links to Supervised Practice Program guidelines.

The use of social media and networking sites by registrants

The Board recognises that social networking sites are used extensively as a communication tool by the community at large. Information placed on these sites is however in the public domain and registrants need to consider whether the information posted is appropriate to share, particularly in reference to patients, colleagues and incidents at their place of employment.

The Board would like to emphasize the responsibility that registrants have to uphold high standards of professional practice. These standards are laid down in the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*¹ (the Act). The objects of the Act s6 include:

- (a) to protect the public by ensuring health care is delivered by registrants in a professional, safe and competent way
- (b) to uphold the standards of practice within the health professions
- (c) to maintain public confidence in the health professions.

The Board also endorses the Australian Institute of Radiography’s Code of Professional Conduct, aspects of which are relevant to the issue of confidentiality and

¹ <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealthPraProA99.pdf>

maintenance of public confidence. These can be accessed via the Board web site www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au

There have been publications on this issue for health professionals see links below. Queensland Health and other employers have relevant publications or policies which can be accessed by employees.

Focus on standards – social networking sites In Focus Health Professions Council Issue 34 – April 2011 accessed 2 May 2011

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/assetsdocuments/10003481HPCInFocus-Issue34.pdf>

Mansfield Sarah J et al Social media and the medical professions MJA Rapid Online Publication 1 June 2011 accessed 2 June 2011

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194_12_200611/man10874_fm.html

Website Update

A new page has been added to the website for probationary registrants currently undertaking their Supervised Practice Program. This page provides registrants with important information regarding the Supervised Practice Program. All the relevant forms that must be submitted throughout the year can be downloaded from this page, as well as a list of important dates.

The page also includes a section on Continuing Professional Development activities. Probationary registrants are required as part of the Program to undertake professional development. In order to facilitate this, a list of upcoming CPD activities is available on the website.

The new page is available at <http://www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au/supervised-practice-probationary.htm>.

Amendments to Regulations for Supervised Practice Program - CT Competency and Leave

The Board sought two amendments to the *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Regulation 2002* (the Regulation) in order to streamline the leave calculations for the graduate program and to include CT as a mandatory competency for medical imaging graduates. These amendments have been passed into legislation.

1. Time period for supervised practice program

The Regulation section 14 has been amended to include within the minimum period of 48 weeks:

- 5 days or less bereavement or sick leave taken during the minimum period: and
- Any public holidays occurring during the minimum period

2. CT as a competency for the supervised practice program

The Regulation sections 19 and 26 now include routine computed tomography and section 25 includes a computed tomography scanner.



Date of Application

The leave and public holiday amendment will apply for graduates currently in the program.

The CT competency does not apply to the graduates who commenced prior to July 2011, only to those graduates who commence from July 2011 and thus will need to be included in the programs submitted for consideration for 2012.

Guidelines and Report Forms

The Supervised Practice Program Committee (SPPC) is developing indicators to underpin the CT competency and these will be released later in the year. The competency will mirror that of the Australian Institute of Radiography's core practice experience for CT in the National Professional Development Program.

The 24 and 48 week forms and the guidelines for the Supervised Practice Program (SPP) will be amended accordingly and posted on the web site.

The Regulation amendments can be sighted on government's legislation web site

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/SLS/2011/11SL117.pdf>

If you have any queries in regards to the amendments please contact the Professional Adviser
hollowayf@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Guidelines regarding use of hybrid imaging systems by nuclear medicine technologists

Hybrid imaging such as PET/CT and SPECT/CT are recognised by the Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland

(the Board) as part of the practice of nuclear medicine technology. In these circumstances CT for attenuation correction purposes is current practice for nuclear medicine technologists, this being reflected in undergraduate and post graduate courses for nuclear medicine technologists.

However if a nuclear medicine technologist is undertaking diagnostic imaging using CT, whether on equipment within a nuclear medicine department or in a medical imaging environment, this would be viewed by the Board as holding out as a medical imaging technologist/radiographer and in breach of s136 *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Act 2001* (the Act).

It is acknowledged that hybrid imaging is a rapidly developing area in the three professions currently regulated by the Board. The Board will continue to monitor the situation.

Contacting the Board

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179 Turbot St Brisbane Q 4000

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07 3225 2467 (conduct and health)

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