2017 AEIRS Annual Meeting Overview

The 2017 AEIRS Annual meeting was held July 13 & 14 at The Chase Park Plaza in Saint Louis, Missouri. This meeting marked the 50th Anniversary of AEIRS and The Chase Park Plaza was chosen for 2017 because it was the site for the first meeting in 1967. The 2017 annual meeting opened with a 50th Anniversary Champagne Reception hosted by the Networking Committee and Board of Directors on Wednesday evening, July 12, following the JRCERT pre-conference accreditation and site visitor workshops. We had over 200 in attendance, including many past presidents and nine conference partners/sponsors.

The attendees were welcomed bright and early on Thursday morning by Nina Kowalczyk, PhD, RT(R)(CT)(QM), FASRT - 2017 AEIRS Annual Meeting Chair. The first educational session entitled Exploring and Engaging our Students’ Leadership Development was presented by Kenya Haugen, DM, RT(R). The session focused on helping students to become professional leaders in our profession and the healthcare community through a discussion of the Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner Student Leadership Challenge. This was a very inspiring and innovative session with a very clever association with Minecraft. Gene Frank and Terri Ann Ryan presented the second CE session on Thursday, a very well received discussion of Radiography Lawsuits. Gene and Terri Ann shared their experiences serving as expert witnesses for cases involving radiographers, radiology managers and program directors. They also provided suggestions on how educators and students may avoid legal issues resulting in a courtroom appearance.
The annual business session luncheon, including an announcement of the first Laverne Gurley Scholarship award recipient, Heather Schmuck, Clinical Asst. Professor of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences, University of Southern Indiana; and a presentation of acknowledging all AEIRS past presidents was held following the 2017 Honor’s Ceremonies. We were delighted to have Joy Renner in attendance and she resumed her role of the original Pass the Hat initiator to raise funds for the various AEIRS scholarships and grants. Due to generous matching donations from Jordan and Joy Renner and Judy McNitt - Supertech, a total of $3460.60 was raised to support this cause.

The Thursday morning sessions ended with More than Diet and Exercise: Building Campus Well-being, a wonderfully thought provoking discussion of the correlation of student’s well-being with mental health and academics presented by Patricia Weber, RT(R)(CT) and Sarah Flanagan, MSW, MPA.
The afternoon educational sessions included two sessions with a global focus. Mari King, EdD, RT(R), FAEIRS and Carole South-Winter, EdD, ND, RT(R), CNMT, FAEIRS facilitated an energetic and inspiring discussion sharing examples of global engagement of AEIRS members throughout its history. They also shared their experiences with faculty-led study abroad programs that included a research component.

This was followed by a session entitled Overview of Education, Licensing, and Practice of Imaging Sciences in Latin America, a discussion of the levels of technology in practice and radiography education offered in Central and South America, presented by José Moscoso-Alvarez, PhD, MPR, FAEIRS.

Ann Obergfell, JD, RT(R), ARRT Board President and Barbara Smith, MS, RT(R)(QM), FASRT, FAEIRS ended the educational sessions with an update from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in the ARRT Open Forum. Thursday’s activities concluded with a poster session held in the same room as our conference partners, where light appetizers and beverages were served.
AEIRS is proud to announce that the following excellent posters were presented:


*Diversity Gaps in Healthcare Workforce: Links to Health Disparities- Heather Moore, MEd,RT(R); Tracy Herrmann, Med, RT(R); Carlee Simon, PhD

*Optimal Use of Digital Imaging Technology- Shannon Alexander, MHA, RT(R)(T); Trina Koscielicki, MEd, RT(R)

*Analysis of an iPad Initiative- Cheryl DuBose, EdD, RT(R)(MR)(CT)(QM)

*Scaffolding the Transition: Technologist to Clinical Instructor- Ellie Miller, BS, RT(R)(CT),RDMS, RVT; Christina Gregg, BS, CNMT, RT(R)(N)(CT); Tammy Webster, MPA, RT(R)(M)

*Designing for Learning: Collaborating for Professional Presentations- Pamela Rowntree, GradDip(TertEd),DipAppSc(DiagRad),FIR,SFHEA(UK),RT; Deborah Starkey, Med(HigherEd), MAppSc(MedImag), DipAppSc(DiagRad), FIR, SFHEA(UK),RT

*MRI Safety- Debra Smith, MSRS, RT(R)(MR)

*Holistic Review in Admissions: Is Your Net Capturing Your Ideal Graduate?- Stephanie Vas, BS,RT(R)(CT)(MR); Tammy Webster, MPA, RT(R)(M)

*Following the Growth of Sarah’s Baby: An IPE Activity for Medical Nutrition & Diagnostic Medical Sonography Students- Tanya Custer, MS, RT(R)(T); Kimberly Michael, MA,RT(R), RDMS, RVT
Friday morning, July 14th opened with the annual silent auction and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Open Forum. Craig St. George, MS, RT(R)(VI)- ASRT Director of Education provided an excellent overview of the ASRT Compliance Suite and other educational materials for radiologic and imaging students. Following the ASRT Open Forum, AEIRS Board Chairman, John Eichinger, welcomed attendees and awarded the 2017 AEIRS Research Grant to Tanya Custer, MS,RT(R)(T) and Kimberly Michael, MA,RT(R), RDMS, RVT from University of Ne-

The Friday morning educational sessions began with an interactive and lively discussion facilitated by Joy Menser, EdD, RT(R)(T) regarding benchmarks that best predict student retention in selective admission programs. The participants enjoyed sharing thoughts and “lessons learned” with others educators in attendance. Interprofessional education (IPE) was a “hot” topic at the 2017 Annual Meeting and participants heard about two different IPE experiences on Friday.

Cindy Saylors, MEd, RT(R)(CT), Katy Warren, MEd, RDH, and Lisa Rhoden, Med, CNMT, RT(R)(M) shared their experiences utilizing an interprofessional educational approach to teaching radiation safety jointly to radiography and dental hygiene students attending the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Kori Stewart, MHS, RT(R)(CT), CIIP provided a wonderful overview of the current and future state of healthcare informatics, as well as sharing specific examples of how informatics and imaging can be seamlessly integrated into the patient care curriculum to ensure future radiologic science graduates are prepared to work in a modern healthcare environment.
Following the Friday lunchbreak, Tracy Herrmann, MEd, RT(R) shared her expertise regarding cultural humility in the curriculum. She provided valuable information, recommendations, and suggestions for curricular and pedagogical approaches to incorporate cultural humility concepts into the medical imaging and radiologic science curricula. She also provided a framework for personal reflection on cultural humility and educational practices in the classroom and clinical settings.

Cherie Pohlmann MS, RT(R), RDMS and Leigh Minchew, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC presented the second IPE session in which they discussed their approach to creating an interdisciplinary module for sonography students and women and infant nurse practitioner students. This IPE activity included web-based learning, a classroom lecture, and an ultrasound examination simulation laboratory. Most attendees agreed that IPE is definitely popular across many colleges and universities and felt it was helpful to share examples of successful activities.

As always, MIC sponsored our Friday afternoon ice cream break in concert with the closing of the 2017 silent auction. Thanks to all who donated items and participated in the 2017 silent auction which raised $1398.00 for AEIRS Scholarships and Grants.
The educational portion of the conference ended with a fantastic discussion of the creation, development, and analysis of test questions. Austin Turner, MS, CNMT, PET, RT(MR) provided an innovative and very informative over-view of evidence-based information reading test writing. Attendees enjoyed Austin’s engaging approach to the sub-

The final event of the 2017 Annual Meeting was held Friday evening in the private River Camp area of the St. Louis Zoo. The River Camp event was sponsored, in part, by Trajecsys and an anonymous donor. This was a great away to close the 50th anniversary meeting allowing all participants the opportunity to visit the St. Louis Zoo, relax and enjoy some great live music, appetizers, desserts, and beverages while spending time networking and reconnecting with old and new friends. Thanks to the many volunteers, speakers, poster participants, conference partners & sponsors, Valerie Christensen - AEIRS executive secretary, Carole South-Winter- AEIRS meeting planner, and AEIRS Board Members for helping to make the 50th anniversary a meeting to remember! Please make plans to join us for the 2018 Annual Meeting to be held July 12 & 13, 2018 at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina!