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Consensus Report of MRI Program Directors on Issues Affecting the Future of MRI Education in the United States

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Abstract

A report is presented on the collective agreement among 25 MRI education program directors on subjects related to academic standards for MRI education programs, academic standards for MRI education program faculty, employment of MRI education program graduates, certification of MRI technologists, and the general future directions of MRI education in the United States. Among the 10 key issues discussed by the MRI education program directors, those reaching a threshold of at least 60% ("three-fifths supermajority") agreement of the program directors include: magnetic resonance certification of all MRI technologists (100%); bachelor's degree minimum for MRI education clinical coordinators (84%); master's degree minimum for MRI education program directors (76%); opposing recognition of the ARMRIT magnetic resonance certification (72%); removing radiography from MRI technologist job descriptions (64%); abolishing the ARRT MRI post-primary pathway (60%). The results of this study suggest the need for: (i) required ARRT magnetic resonance certification of all MRI technologists; (ii) high professional standards for MRI education faculty; (iii) further recognition by professional organizations of MRI as a distinct imaging modality requiring specific formal training for technologists.