

AEIRS 2019 Annual Meeting

Where remnants of volcanic rock meet pristine waters, this was the picturesque setting of the 2019 AEIRS Annual Meeting held July 11-12 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii. The pre-meeting events began Wednesday evening with open forums provided by Elizabeth Romero, MS, RT(N)(CT)(ARRT), PET, FSNMMI-TS with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and Tracy Herrmann, PhD, RT(R) with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). Members and guests then enjoyed a welcome reception in the open-air atrium, which included hors d'oeuvres and a free ticket for a cool beverage.

Thursday – Welcome, AEIRS Forum, and Education Sessions

The songs of birds nestled in tall palm trees welcomed in the start of a new day as attendees gathered for a full breakfast buffet on Thursday morning. The AEIRS Board of Directors opened Thursday's meeting agenda with an introduction of board members and staff to include Shirley Douglass, MA, RT(R) the AEIRS Event Planner and Julie Gill, PhD, RT(R)(QM), the Director-at-Large who organized the 2019 meeting. Moreover, the AEIRS Board thanked the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) for sponsoring the Honors Lecture. Outgoing AEIRS President, Tiffani Walker, MSRS, RT(R), provided an overview of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, which detailed the vision, mission, values, and goals of the association. Joan Becker, MBA, RT(R)(MR), the outgoing AEIRS Secretary/Treasurer, followed with a presentation of the financial budget. Madison, Wisconsin was announced as the 2020 meeting location with the 2021 meeting set for Jacksonville, Florida. In response to membership feedback, it was relayed that the AEIRS Board will lean towards contracting with corporate hotels over historic ones for future meeting locations, and will be evaluating meeting days, specifically Thursday/Friday versus Friday/Saturday.

Heather Moore, PhD, RT(R) started the education session off with a thought-provoking presentation on "Holistic Admission Use in Radiologic Technology." Holistic admissions aims to diversify the student population by establishing a more balanced approach to weighted admission categories; it is one piece of the puzzle. Unique life experiences can expose students to diversity and support them in building cultural competency. Often, holistic admissions is tied to an institution's mission.

Did you "flip your lid"? Trish Weber, MHA, RT(R)(CT) and Sarah Flanagan, MSW, MPA, LCSW, provided a lecture titled, "When It Rains, It Pours: Way to Survive the Storm." The presenters highlighted how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) impact health and well-being. ACEs may manifest as burn out and fatigue. But through strategies such as meditation, de-escalation (putting your reactionary limbic lid down), and listening, people can manage their behaviors more effectively.

Kori Stewart, MHS, RT(R)(CT)CIIP provided a much-needed lecture on a cutting-edge topic, "Artificial Intelligence in Radiology: Will We Teach Robots Soon Too." Definitions for clinical informatics, imaging informatics, and artificial intelligence were provided to audience members. As the topic of artificial intelligence continues to rise in the profession, it is helpful to understand its impact, use, and ultimate role in radiologic sciences. The presenter offered current and future applications of informatics and artificial intelligence, particularly as it impacts patient-centered care.

Thursday – Business Session

Following a motivational Honors Ceremony and Lecture, the attendees were invited to attend the luncheon and business session. Outgoing President, Tiffani Walker, MSRS, RT(R) opened the session by recognizing the Honors Lecturer, AEIRS Fellows and Life Member inductees, Past Presidents, and Organization representatives and guests. Bylaw changes were introduced and accepted by the membership. Installation of the officers was conducted and scholarship recipients were announced. Ashley Balliet, MEd, RT(R)(M), thanked the membership for receiving the LaVerne T. Gurley Meeting Scholarship to help finance her attendance at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Cynthia Cardoso, MSRS(Ed), BSRT(R)(CT)(MR), was the recipient for the Invest in the Future Scholarship, but was not present at the 2019 Annual meeting. The Research Grant was not awarded for 2019. Nina Kowalczyk, PhD, RT(R)(CV)(CT)(QM), FASRT, FAEIRS, provided the Incoming President's Address, which included an overview of the 5-year strategic plan with emphasis on the current year's initiatives. President Kowalczyk expressed the importance of volunteers who support and promote AEIRS. As is tradition during the business session, Joy Renner, MA, RT(R), "Passed the Hat" for donations in support of AEIRS scholarships. With matching donations from Supertech, private personal donations, and conference attendee donations, a total of \$5440 was collected.

Thursday – Education Sessions Continued

Dawn Coakes, BS, RT(R) kicked off the afternoon education session with a presentation titled, "If Only I'd Known: The Red Flags of Student Suicide." Dawn bravely talked about her personal experiences with students that committed suicide, the warning signs, the statistics, and some mechanisms in which to assist students in times of need. Faculty tend to have regular interactions with students which create a baseline for student behaviors and attitude. Some common signs to look for when a student may be struggling include: a drop in grades, evidence of self-mutilation, participating in unhealthy peer relationships, and volatile mood swings to mention a few. What can faculty do? Faculty may ask questions in a tactful manner, be persistent, be prepared to act, and use institutional resources.

The final education session of the opening day was provided by Elena Felipe, PhD, MSW, RT(R). "Professionalism in Radiology: Multiple Case Studies" was a compilation of Dr. Felipe's original research related to qualitative themes around ethics, competence, and respect generated from faculty and student cohorts. The research showed that students do not always feel safe being compassionate with patients. The presenter reminded the audience that, "My Students Hear Me".

Thursday - Poster Presentations

AEIRS Annual Meeting attendees enjoyed refreshments in the open-air promenade while learning from the research provided by eight poster presentations. The conference setup allowed members to view the posters throughout the conference agenda, which enabled ample time to examine the valuable outcomes of the research conducted, to ask questions of the presenters, and to inspire networking and future collaborations. Below is a list of the presenters and their body of research.

Faculty Participate in a Digital Community of Practice: A Pilot Study

Elwin Tilson, EdD. R.T.(R)(M)(QM)(CT), FAEIRS

Roles and Responsibilities of the Health Care Team

Debra Smith, MSRS, RT(R)(MR)

Walking in Their Shoes: A Case Study of Using Unfamiliar Language to Develop Empathy

Thomas Oshiro, PhD, DABR ; Jennifer Little, MS, CRT(R)(MR)(CT) ; Kristopher Pashko, BS and; Anita Slechta, MS, FASRT

Improving Our Exam Questions: A Quality Control Process

Deborah Starkey, DipAppSc(DiagRad) MAppSc(MedImagTech) MEd(HigherEd) FASMIRT SFHEA and Pamela Rowntree, FASMIRT, FAEIRS, SFHEA

Integration of Undergraduate (US) and Graduate (GS) Students and Faculty (F) in Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) in Puerto Rico: The University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MSC) and Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC) Experience

Jose Rafael Moscoso-Alvarez, LT, BsSc, MPH, EdD, FAEIRS and Edgardo L. Rosado, LT, BHE, MPH

Peer Review of Course Design: Because Quality Matters

Tiffany Roman, MAEd, RT(R)(CT)(MR)

Service-Learning in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences Education in the United States

Mari King, EdD, RT(R), FAEIRS; Denis Anson, MS, OTR/L and; Leamor Kahanov, EdD, ATC/LAT

Growing a Student Into a Professional

Gregory Mehrer, MBA, RT(R)(CT); Tammy Webster, PhD, MPA, RT(R)(M), FAEIRS and; Ellie Miller, BS, RT(R)(CT), RDMS, RVT

Friday – Welcome, ASRT Open Forum, and Education Sessions

A delicious full breakfast buffet welcomed returning attendees to a new day's agenda. Friday's agenda included opening announcements, a silent auction, an ASRT open forum, and six education sessions. Oh, and thanks to MIC, do not forget...ice cream!

The AEIRS Board of Directors announced the silent auction, which included premier seating for two at the Hilton Waikoloa Luau and thanked volunteers (Julie Gill and Vicki Braithwaite) and conference partners (Supertech, Imaging Science Applications Processing, Midwestern State University, MIC, ASRT, JRCERT, and Kettering) for their support. AEIRS relies on the support of conference volunteers and partners to create a positive, fun meeting experience for its membership. A sincere "thank you" to these valuable partners and volunteers! Here are remarks from some conference partners...

"I thought the conference was great and encourage other vendors to participate. The setting was perfect!" Jana Larsen, Kettering Program Director

"I'm really glad Supertech was represented at the AEIRS meeting in Hawaii. Beautiful setting, enthusiastic attendees, great Honors lecture. See you next year in Madison." Judy McNitt-Mell, Supertech

"As my first time at AEIRS as a vendor, I'm excited that we were represented and felt it was a valuable experience. It was a beautiful setting and I look forward to Madison." Shirley Cherry, Managing Partner for Imaging Application Processing

Please consider being a conference partner for the 2020 AEIRS Annual Meeting, or helping to support AEIRS by offering an item for the silent auction or serving as a conference volunteer. The silent auction generated \$1,547 in funds that will be allocated to scholarship awards.

Janet Akers-Montgomery, MEd, RT(R)(M) opened the Friday education session with a presentation titled, “Web 2.0 for the Radiology Classroom.” Every tool presented was free! Janet emphasized that as different types of learners enter the classroom, technology becomes more essential. She presented an overview of various technology tools such as Prezi, Pictochart, Wiki pages, Poll Everywhere, Mindmap, and Diigo to mention a few.

No one is immune to making mistakes; it happens to even the well-intended. Kevin Kindle, MBA, RT(T) talked about “Learning from Our Mistakes: Error Reporting in Radiologic Science Education.” The reported statistics suggest that patients have a 1 in 300 chance of being harmed while receiving healthcare services. With no surprise from these startling statistics, there is a movement in the ASRT curriculum guidelines to integrate incident reporting. The speaker provided error traps, reasons for not reporting, and strategies to minimize mistakes like implementing a safety checklist and process map symbols, conducting a root cause analysis, and supporting daily huddles.

Catherine Cooper, MS, RT(R)(CT)(M), followed with a presentation on “Transforming Traditional Lecture-Based Courses into Interactive Learning Environments.” Pear Deck, Edpuzzle, and the 3P Model for Multi Learning were highlighted during her education session. Pear Deck provided different assessment formatting, while Edpuzzle can be utilized to flip a classroom with voice over and knowledge check features. The 3P Model for Multi Learning highlights **Prime** for active learning, **Portion** content for logical segmenting, and **Probe** for transfer to long-term memory.

The Friday education session offered a late morning break for the ASRT Open Forum provided by President, Stephanie Johnston, MSRS, RT(R)(M)(BD)(BS), FASRT. President Johnston reported 96 participants in the Student Leadership Development Program, membership of approximately 155,000 for fiscal year 2018, an 88.26% retention rate, and an estimated 60,000 members enrolled in the DR Flex account. She invites members to join the various ASRT Communities for ongoing content-specific dialogue and networking opportunities. The Member Services department extended its hours from 7am to 4:30pm Mountain Time. The ASRT will participate in the AAPM Task Force and continue to evaluate the research provided by the AAPM. ASRT will celebrate their 100th Centennial Celebration in June 2020. The celebration will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Following a lunch break, Doris Abrishami, EdD, MA, RT(R) spoke on “The Impact of Cultural Competency Education on Radiography Students.” The speaker stated that the Hispanic population is expected to grow to 119 million in 2060. Her research suggests that a majority-minority shift in cultural demographics is on the horizon. Diversity can be associated with many aspects from how one thinks, to how they look, gender, and income to list a few. To this point, there is a need for cross-cultural education to be integrated into training. The original research findings imply that attitudes and life experiences are the most important factors when achieving the highest levels of cultural competency.

“Document, Document, Document: Dealing with Problem Students and Faculty” by Paulette Peterson, MEd, RT(R)(M)(QM) and Katherine Gress, MEd, RT(R) highlighted up to 50 employee relations issues administrators should be documenting. Documentation should be timely and detail clear expectations. With that, the documents need to be specific, clear and factual, avoid emotion, and state consequences.

The presenters provided real-world scenarios in which adequate documentation played a central role in the outcome.

After an ice cream break provided by MIC, the final education session titled, "Teaching Techniques: Classroom Cloud Strategies for Student Engagement and Collaboration" by Cheryl Young, MS, RT(T) & Zemirah Lett, MLIS was presented. The team of presenters highlighted the functionality of synchronous connection across multiple campuses. The benefit of the traditional, face-to-face learning environment is the enhancement of student engagement, while the online format provides less interruptions and scheduling conflicts. Suggestions for educators considering a distance education approach would be strong IT support, proper equipment, invite and assess learner feedback, and establish equitable learning experiences.

As evidenced from the depth and breadth of knowledge gained from the diverse presentations, it was a wonderful 2019 Annual Meeting! Aloha until 2020 in Madison, Wisconsin!