AEIRS 2018 Annual Meeting Overview

The 2018 AEIRS Annual Meeting was held July 12 & 13 at the Francis Marion Hotel located in the heart of downtown Charleston, South Carolina. The meeting was well attended, with 200 educators registered. The meeting kicked off with a cash bar and appetizer Welcome Reception hosted by the Networking Committee and Board of Directors. JCERT preceded the Annual Meeting with a preconference workshop on July 11 to discuss the first draft of the revised standards. This workshop provided an opportunity for participants to provide input, ask questions to JCERT staff, and make recommendations for Draft 2.

A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to Debra Poelhuis, MS, RT(R)(M), AEIRS Annual Meeting chairperson; Kenya Haugen, DM, RT(R), operations manager; and the AEIRS Board of Directors for making the meeting an unforgettable experience.

New this year, two research and writing breakout sessions were offered to attendees on Friday. The topics were “Managing Literature with Citation Management Software” presented by Jennifer G. Chiu, EdD, MBA, RT(R)(CT), on Thursday and “Research and Publication in the Radiologic Sciences” guided by a collective team of researchers: Laura Aaron, PhD, RT(R)(M)(QM), FASRT; Tracy Herrmann, Med, RT(R); Mari Phillips King, EdD, RT(R), FAEIRS; and Nina Kowalczyk, PhD, RT(R)(CT)(QM), FASRT, FAEIRS. These breakout sessions were well received by attendees and are likely to be offered in future meetings as space accommodations and planning permits.

Thursday, July 12, Conference Events

Attendees were greeted with a full breakfast buffet and welcome remarks from Debra Poelhuis, MS, RT(R)(M), AEIRS Annual Meeting Chair. The opening educational session, “Faculty & Student Incivility in Medical Imaging Education” was co-presented by Kevin Clark, EdD, RT(R), and Jessyca Wagner, MSRS, RT(R). The presenters highlighted common challenges resulting from disruptive behaviors and the implications for learning. The behaviors were examined on the basis of severity and frequency. Each audience member was provided with a ribbon, #WeAreCivil, to signify support of civil behaviors.
Rebecca “Becky” Farmer, MSRS, RT(R)(M), provided the second session of the day. Becky remarked on the generational differences often confronted in the educational setting and the value of a mentoring program. Mentorship offers benefits to both the mentor and the mentee.

The third session presented on the opening day of the conference was “Team Teaching: Positives & Pitfalls” by Stasha “Katie” Fulton, MS, RT(R)(VI), and Kelly Eaton, MS, RT(R)(CIIP). Katie and Kelly enlightened the audience with various strategies for using team teaching effectively. Evaluation analysis, collaboration, and proper planning are some of the key ingredients to a successful outcome. The presenters shared their experience with putting the strategies to work in an effort to optimize learning.

Following the Honors Ceremony and Lecture, the AEIRS business luncheon was held to conduct association business by-law changes and budget reporting. During the meeting, new AEIRS officers were introduced and inducted. Nina RT(R)(CT)(QM), FASRT, FAEIRS, will serve as president-elect and Charles Drago, DHEd, RT(R)(CT), will serve as director-at-large. Scholarship and Grant awardees were highlighted at the business meeting as follows: José Rafael Moscoso-Alvarez was awarded the International Scholarship Travel Funds; Rowdy Volmar received the Invest in the Future Scholarship; DeAndria Green received the Dr. Laverne T. Gurley Annual Meeting Scholarship, and Mari King was awarded the AEIRS Research Grant.

Once again this year, AEIRS was honored to have Joy Renner “Pass the Hat” for audience contributions to the various AEIRS scholarships and grants. As a result of generous luncheon attendees, an anonymous donor, and matching donations from Jordan and Joy Renner and Judy McNitt from Supertech, a total of $7,682 was raised to support this cause. Thanks to all who donated to AEIRS. Your contributions make a big difference to AEIRS!

Afternoon Sessions

The first session of the afternoon was co-presented by Theresa Gunn, BSc(MRS), GCAP, FHEA, and Vicki Braithwaite, B.App.Sc(MIT), PGDipHsc, Med(Higher) of Australia. The presenters emphasized how academic
preferences, available tools, and the individual learning needs of the student all impact the effectiveness of teaching. The preferred method of teaching utilizes a number of activities so the student can learn according to his/her individual strengths. Some of the learning activities may include: theory, tutorials, phantoms, virtual reality simulation, role play, and self-directed learning.

The final session of the opening day of conference was “The Use of Standardized Patients in Radiography Education” by Yasser Jahami, MS, RT(R). Yasser provided real-world examples and video excerpts on how standardized patient exercises, as an instructional tool, can enhance the learning environment. These practice moments help students prepare for real-world application in a safe, controlled setting. Concurrently, with this final education lecture, a break-out session titled “Managing Literature with Citation Management Software” was conducted by Jennifer Chiu, EdD, MBA, RT(R)(CT). This session proved valuable for audience members embarking on research efforts involving manuscript preparation.

Barbara Smith, MS, RT(R)(QM), FASRT, FAIERS; Lisa Bartenhagen, MS, RT(R)(T); and Ann Obergfell, JD, RT(R) provided an ARRT Open Forum for audience members. The primary focus of the forum was the Continuing Qualifications Requirements (CQR) process.

Poster Presentations

Thursday’s activities closed with poster presentations, light appetizers, and beverages. Audience members viewed the poster submissions while conversing with the presenters. AEIRS saw an increase in poster presentations from 2017 to 2018 with 10 well-received research topics to review.

- “Three Years of Peer-to-Peer Membership in Review” – Pam Rowntree, FASMIIR, FAEIRS, SFHEA; Vicki Braithwaite, B.App.Sc(MIT), PGDipHsc, Med(Higher); & Debbie Starkey, Med(Higher), MAPpSc(MedImag), DipAppSc(DiagRad), FIR, SFHEA(UK), RT
- “Student Perceptions of a Low-Tech Option for Engagement and Assessment” – Heather Schmuck, MS, RT(R) & Joy Cook, MS, RT(R)(CT)(MR)
- “Rules of Engagement: Successful Collaboration between Academia and Clinical Industry” – Tammy Webster, PhD, MPA, RT(R)(M) & Stephanie Lough, HPTT, BS, RT(R)(CT)(MR)
- “Student Remediation Strategies: Academic and Clinical Considerations” – Tammy Webster, PhD, MPA, RT(R)(M); Greg Mehrer, MBA, RT(R); & Ellie Miller, BS, RT(R)(CT), RDMS, RVT
- “Assessing Learning through Reflection” – Laura Aaron, PhD, RT(R)(M)(QM), & Jennifer Michael, MSRS, RT(R)
- “Open Book Testing in Health Science Education: Student Perceptions and Outcomes in Ultrasound Physics” – Kimberly Michael, MA, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, FSDMS, & Tanya Custer, MS, RT(R)(T)
- “Interdisciplinary Mass Casualty Drill Development to Enhance Healthcare Training” – Patricia Gorski, BS, RT(R)(M)
- “An Analysis of the Role of the Medical Dosimetry Educator” – LeShell Palmer Jones, MS, RT(T)
Friday, July 13, Conference Events

Friday morning, July 13th commenced with the annual Silent Auction and the ASRT Open Forum. Craig St. George, MS, RT(R)(VI), ASRT director of education, introduced ASRT president, Melissa B. Jackowski, EdD, RT(R)(M), FASRT who provided analytics related to the various newsletters and journals sponsored through the ASRT. Following the ASRT Open Forum, the AEIRS board chairman, Jennifer Chiu, EdD, MBA, RT(R)(CT), welcomed the attendees and provided opening comments and announcements. Two announcements were particularly impactful to the Spectrum audience. Moving forward, the Spectrum will be disseminated to the membership electronically twice per year and Tammy Webster, PhD, MPA, RT(R)(M) was announced as the new executive editor for the Spectrum.

The Friday morning educational sessions began with “Are You Sure You Want to Say It That Way” by William Callaway, MA, RT(R). This session offered an eye-opening look at various programs’ policies and webpage communications. Mr. Callaway provided real-world examples of what programs were doing right as well as some discussion on items that need to be improved. The session offered educators key take-a-ways to bring back to their respective institutions.

The following session, “Case Study-Based E-Learning Modules in Radiologic Education: A Delicate Balance of Innovation, Time, and Educational Outcomes” was provided by co-presenters Kimberly Michael, MA, RT(R),
RDMS, RVT, FSDMS, & Tanya Custer, MS, RT(R)(T), who together received the 2017 AEIRS Research Grant. The presenters highlighted the results of their grant research with lessons learned related to the development of e-learning modules. Specifically, the study involved multiple institutions that collectively found students enjoyed the incorporation of the modules into their learning and faculty were able to adapt their use to optimize learning. Simultaneously, a break out session was presented by Laura Aaron, PhD, RT(R)(M)(QM), FASRT; Tracey Herrmann, Med, RT(R); Mari King, EdD, RT(R), FAEIRS; and Nina Kowalczyk, PhD, RT(R)(CT)(QM), FASRT, FAEIRS. The session, titled, “Research and Publication in the Radiologic Sciences,” yielded a standing-room only turnout. Audience members invested in the publication process learned procedurally, as well as perhaps psychologically, how to approach a manuscript submission. The panel of experts offered guidance and personal experience for those wishing to submit writing to either the journal or the newsletter. There are many avenues in which to publish work; from technical notes to original research.

The group rejoined for the next session titled, “Skip the Sandwich? Delivering Effective Feedback to the Imaging Student,” presented by Kimberly Cross, MSRS, RT(R)(CT). The question mark behind the sandwich was quickly removed and replaced with an explanation point. The research presented suggests that placing the negative—or need for improvement—remediation between two sugar-coated, positive comments may not yield the results the evaluator is hoping to achieve. Rather, there are more effective approaches to providing feedback, such as the ARCH and Pendelton methods. Prior to breaking for lunch, the JRCERT representative, Tracey Herrmann, Med, RT(R), highlighted the Standards revision Draft 1. Audience members were invited to provide feedback regarding the proposed revisions.

Afternoon Sessions

The Friday afternoon educational sessions opened with “Compilation/Overview of Electronic Media Used by Radiation Sciences Faculty” by co-presenters Philip Ballinger, PhD, RT(R), and Terri Bruckner, PhD, RT(R)(CV). Their session provided a needed overview of the multitude of electronic media currently available to faculty. The media products range from computer programs and apps to electronic simulation units, just to list a few. The hard work of the presenters generated a summarized list of products with hyperlinks for faculty to review.

Robin Cornett, MAEd, RT(R)(CV), and Erin Myers, MA, RT(R), CNMT, presented a session on “Global Educational
Opportunities in Imaging Programs,” which outlined how to incorporate global education into imaging programs by discussing recent collaboration with a program in Ghana. Additionally, opportunities within the RAD-AID organization and sister school collaborations were highlighted, as well as the challenges faced globally in imaging education.

A sweet treat sponsored by MIC was offered during the afternoon break while the silent auction came to a close. The silent auction was a huge success, raising a total of $2,402.50 as well as $443.32 from merchandise sales. Thank you to all who participated! The AEIRS governance body and its membership thoroughly appreciate the continued support of all the sponsors represented at conference.

Rhonda Weaver, MHA, RT(R)(M)(BD)(CT), provided a relevant and meaningful discussion with her presentation titled, “Encouraging Student Involvement in Our Profession,” which served as the final educational session of conference. This session emphasized the importance of teaching beyond the textbooks by promoting professionalism through affective behaviors and service. Current trends were examined and opportunities for service participation were explored.

Until Next Year, Aloha!

Simply stated, conference was a huge success! Thank you to Debra Poelhuis - Annual Meeting Chairman, AEIRS board members, Kenya Haugen, DM, RT(R) - AEIRS Operations Manager, sponsors, speakers, poster participants, volunteers, and attendees. Your support of AEIRS is priceless, and we hope to see you in Waikoloa, Hawaii, on July 11-12 for the 2019 AEIRS Annual Meeting. We will certainly be spoiled by the scenery at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, set on the sunny Kohala Coast on the Big Island. Aloha!