

# CARDINAL RAYS



## Turk Talk

Hello Wonderful Radiologic Technologists!

As I am sure you are aware, **National Radiologic Technologist's Week is November 7-13**. Even though it is early I was wondering, do you have anything special planned? Perhaps you have planned a candlelit dinner with a portrait of Wilhelm Roentgen? Maybe a snuggle night with a Crooke's tube? Wait, I know, a tall glass of warm barium right before bed!

Whatever your plans may be, please just be sure to do a quick self-assessment and ask yourself "Am I the best technologist that I can be?" We have a very important job, and remember "With great power comes great responsibility" (Peter Parker, Spiderman). We owe it to our patients to offer superior image quality and excellent patient care. We must make sure that we fully understand the equipment that we operate, and ensure that our patients feel safe in our care. How can we do that? We can attend CE sessions to learn about advancing technology. We can review new textbooks and peer-reviewed literature.

By promoting ourselves to our patients and coworkers, we can assure that they understand that we are qualified and competent. If you work in CT, tell your patient that you are a certified CT technologist. If you are not certified, then work towards it! Post flyers and send emails about the great work that your department does! Gather up those thank you letters that you have received from patients and coworkers and post them in the department. Tell another

technologist when they have done a great job and thank them for setting the standard high. We do a great job out there and deserve to be recognized for it!

For this NRTW, I plan to send thank you cards to the technologists that mean the most to me, and have impacted my life. Some may be from when I was in school, and others that I work with now. Then, at the end of the day, I may even indulge in a piece of cake that the department will serve, because I do a great job, and I deserve it.....and so do you! BON APPETIT!

Jackie Turk, BS,  
RT(R)(CT)(MR)  
**OSRT President**



*Words of wisdom from  
our new student director...*

*Bridget's Widgets*

*"Now is the time to show you  
CARE!"*

By choosing to become a member of the healthcare team as a radiographic technologist, you have demonstrated a desire to care for patients. Whether it is a reassuring smile, a pat on the hand, or a listening ear, a large portion of our scope of practice is patient care. As a student, I would like to encourage you to join in supporting legislation which has the potential to greatly improve patient care while shaping the future of our profession.

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists has introduced the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (CARE) Bill to the



House and Senate. Similar to the Mammography Quality Standards Act, the purpose of the bill is to ensure all medical imaging and radiation therapy are performed by qualified healthcare workers. It will set minimum education and credentialing standards for healthcare workers who provide, plan or administer any imaging exam or radiation therapy.

You might be wondering why this bill is necessary. Consider this quote from Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) of the Senate Health, Energy, Labor and Pensions Committee as found on the ASRT web site: "Each year, more than 300 million radiation therapy treatments and imaging exams like x-rays and MRIs are performed in the United States and unfortunately, many of these procedures are performed by personnel who are not adequately trained or credentialed." I am livid to think that in some states, a person can deliver pizza one day and turn around and perform x-ray images the next day! This is dangerous not only to our patients, but also to our profession.

Along with ensuring medical imaging and radiation therapy is performed by qualified individuals, the passage of the CARE Bill will have numerous benefits. According to the ASRT web site, the bill will reduce health costs by millions of dollars by providing accurate diagnoses with fewer repeat exams due to poor quality. It will maximize patient safety by ensuring radiation exposure is as low as possible. It will also increase exam and treatment quality which, in turn, increases patient satisfaction by



ensuring exams and treatments are performed by quality technologists with safety and accuracy, while reducing radiation exposure.

Now that you know the importance of the CARE Bill, perhaps you are wondering what you can do to help. Over 750,000 imaging technologists, radiation therapists and medical scientists have formed the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. The Alliance is urging its members to contact their senators and representatives urging them to support the CARE bill. To facilitate the process, both the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists (OSRT) and the ASRT have links on their web sites to eAdvocacy for You. This link provides a very simple form letter that can be automatically routed to your senator and representative. Let your voice be heard. Simply add a brief message about why the CARE bill is important to you and your profession. It only takes a few minutes of your time but the benefits will be immeasurable. The osrt website is [www.osrt.org](http://www.osrt.org) visit the legislation section. The ASRT website is <http://capwiz.com/asrt/home/> I would like to encourage you to visit the OSRT website at [www.osrt.org](http://www.osrt.org) to learn how you can help ensure the passage of the CARE bill. Please join us in supporting this important legislation which will benefit your patients, your profession, and you.

*Sincerely, Bridget Donahue  
Student Director*



The Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologist Education and Research Foundation would like to express their “thanks” to the people that have helped make the Foundation’s efforts to assist students in the imaging field to further their education. As a board, I know I can proudly say we all appreciate your commitment to the profession! This is the first year the Foundation has published the list and we are proud to do so. Again, thank-you for making dreams possible.

*Leisa Arnold, MHA, RT, (R) (M)  
Foundation Chairman*



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Please feel free to contact me with submissions for Cardinal Rays. Keep in mind articles printed are reflective of the author (s).

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*Leisa Arnold*

*Cardinal Rays Editor*



**OSRT VISION**

OSRT will promote the excellence of professionals in medical imaging and radiologic science.

**OSRT MISSION**

Advocate for medical imaging and radiologic science professionals by advancing professional practice and educational standards, and providing leadership in health policy.



**The Ohio Society Education and Research Foundation**

Would you like a chance to *“pay it forward”* within your profession? The expression *pay it forward* is used to describe the concept of asking that a good turn be repaid by helping others! The Ohio Society Education and Research Foundation needs your help in providing opportunities to help imaging professionals pursue their education or research goals.

The benefit of donating to The Ohio Society Education and Research Foundation is to allow medical imaging professionals to excel in the clinical, administrative, and educational settings. This also allows individuals to apply for the opportunity to conduct research vital to the improvement of patient care and the advancement of imaging professionals.

*Pay it forward* by visiting the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists Education and Research Foundation webpage tab at [www.osrt.org](http://www.osrt.org) where you can make a donation online or via mail. Join the Foundation *Honor Roll*:

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Thank you in advance for your support! If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me, [llarnold@seormc.org](mailto:llarnold@seormc.org) or via phone, at 1-866-405-6778.

Sincerely,

*Leisa Arnold*

Leisa Arnold, MHA, RT, (R) (M)  
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