

President's Message - Scott Mildenberger

Dear colleagues,

I was having a conversation recently with one of my fellow technologists about what being the president of the SAMRT was all about. I realized that even though my friend was a member of the SAMRT, she did not know why the SAMRT existed or what its role is. To be honest, I couldn't blame her. Until I got more involved with the association through volunteering on committees and, finally, council, I really didn't know either. I'd like to take some time today to try and explain what role the SAMRT plays and why I feel it is so important.

The first thing you need to know about the SAMRT is that its main role is that of a college. When I say college, it gets confusing because that brings to mind a school or a university, but what it really means is that SAMRT is the regulator of medical radiation technologists in Saskatchewan. Every MRI technologist, nuclear medicine technologist, radiation therapy technologist and medical radiation technologist must register with the SAMRT to receive a licence in order to work in Saskatchewan.

The SAMRT's duty is to ensure all technologists meet minimum competencies in their respective fields in order to protect the public. If someone, whether it is a fellow tech, a physician, a nurse, a manager, or other healthcare provider or member of the public feels that a technologist is not competent, they can make a complaint to the SAMRT and it is the SAMRT's duty to investigate that complaint. If the complaint is deemed to have merit, then it is brought to the SAMRT Discipline Committee to determine how to proceed.

The SAMRT partners with other colleges across Canada to determine if MRT schools are meeting the necessary requirements to train medical radiation technologists. Even though the CAMRT administers the national competency exam, it is the SAMRT's duty to ensure the school is up to snuff.

We also ensure that MRTs are keeping up with an ever-changing profession by requiring them to meet and maintain a certain amount of continuing education credits/hours every year.

All these duties are very important in order to ensure the public is safe and is receiving competent, professional care when they receive the services of an MRT.

The SAMRT's role as a regulator is mandated by legislation from the government of Saskatchewan and we must meet certain criteria set out in bylaws approved by the government. In layman's terms, the government has given us the responsibility of policing ourselves just as they've done with other healthcare providers in the province. It makes sense to have a college run by MRTs who work in the field making decisions as opposed to a government representative with no MRT experience making decisions. A good example of this is the College of Physicians and Surgeons. When someone lodges a complaint against a medical doctor, the process is the same as the process for lodging a complaint against an MRT.

2018 SAMRT Council

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Scott Mildenberger

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While the SAMRT's main job is its regulatory role first and foremost, it does try to offer some member services such as conferences and public outreach programs. We believe it is beneficial that MRTs have some opportunities to learn, grow and network. While we do provide some member services, it is important to note that our priority is to protect the public, and we will always default to our role as a regulator when making decisions.

I know that I haven't encompassed everything the SAMRT does as we have a number of committees with roles and responsibilities as well, but I'm afraid if I go on much more about regulation, I'm going to lose most of you. Because the SAMRT has such a large mandate, we must rely on committed volunteers to make it work. I would like to personally thank all those who help the SAMRT in any capacity. Without you, our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to accomplish all the things we do.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the SAMRT and what it is doing, feel free to contact me. Your comments are most welcome.

With regards,

Scott Mildenerberger RTNM CTIC PET/CT

Bronco Tragedy Award Nominations

The SAMRT Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for a one-time award made possible through the generous donation of the Radiology Society of Saskatchewan. The award will be presented in four payments of \$250.00 each and is available through an individual or a team nomination. Although the award was developed in recognition of the Bronco tragedy to acknowledge the work of the medical imaging departments, *the nomination does not have to be tied to the Bronco tragedy*. The award is open to SAMRT, SAMIM and SADMS members. The Nomination submission deadline in **November 30, 2018**.

For more information, and to access the nomination form, please click here: [Bronco Tragedy Award Nomination](#).

Celebrating MRT Week

This year, MRT Week will be celebrated from November 4-10, 2018. The SAMRT Ownership Linkage Committee is pleased to announce that in recognition of MRT week, they will once again be sponsoring a billboard display. This year the billboard will be a digital image of the poster created by member Peter Derrick. Please watch your emails in the near future for specific locations and dates.

For more information about MRT week, please visit the [CAMRT website](#).

Continuing Competence Committee:

The Continuing Competence Committee (CEC) met in May 2018 to review audit submissions for the December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2017 period and to review the Continuing Education (CE) Guidelines and Audit Expectations.

Continuing Education Resources:

The CEC is pleased to present an improved and updated list of CE credit options and resources. There is a wide range of available options for members and this list is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all available courses. [Click here to view the resources and links.](#)

The CEC has also refreshed the [Continuing Education and Audit FAQs](#), the [CE Credit Program and Audit Guidelines](#), the [Rounds Template](#) and the [CE Credit Record Template](#). Please take a moment to review these documents to ensure you will continue to meet the audit and continuing education program requirements, and that you are using the most current templates.

2018 Renewal Update

The 2018 Renewal period will open on **Monday, October 15, 2018**. Members will receive a link via email to access the renewal application. You can also login to the SAMRT members portal by visiting the website www.samrt.org and click the member login to access the renewal link.

To be eligible for a full practice licence, members must:

1. Have practiced a minimum of 1200 MRT practice hours in their primary discipline in the previous five years or 300 MRT practice hours in the previous five years for a member's secondary discipline.
2. Have a minimum of 10 CE Credits; and
3. Hold professional liability insurance.

These three components are mandatory as stipulated in the SAMRT Regulatory Bylaws (sections 13, 17 and 18). Members are required to make a declaration that they meet the terms. Please ensure you carefully read and understand the declarations, as it is fraudulent to make a false claim.

You can review the [Renewal FAQs](#) and [Professional Liability Insurance \(PLI\) FAQs](#) here.

Annual Review of Standards and Scope of Practice and Code of Ethics

The SAMRT encourages all MRT members to review the Standards and Scope of Practice and the Code of Ethics on an annual basis. These documents are always available on the web page under Member Resources. You can also access them by clicking here:

[Standards and Scope of Practice](#)
[Code of Ethics](#)

Regulation of Sonographers

In October, the SAMRT and the Saskatchewan Association of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SADMS) submitted an application to the government to allow diagnostic medical sonographers to be regulated under the SAMRT. The advisory committee will hear back from the Ministry of Health regarding the status of the application in early 2019.

Strategic Planning

In September, the SAMRT held a strategic planning session to help shape and inform the priorities for the SAMRT for the period of 2020 to 2022. In addition to feedback from the members survey conducted over the summer, the Governance Transition Committee also collaborated with public representatives, the Ministry of Health, Radiation Safety Committee, SAMIM, SADMS, and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Work continues on this important initiative.

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