



VOL 7, NO. 3
FALL 2002

AMERICAN
RADIOLOGICAL
NURSES ASSOCIATION

7794 GROW DRIVE
PENSACOLA, FL 32514

(866) 486-ARNA (2762)

(850) 474-7292

FAX (850) 484-8762

arna@puetzamc.com

www.arna.net

arna

RN News

President's Message

Kathleen A. Gross, MSN, RN, BC, CRN

Professionalism

The work day in the interventional radiology department was longer than anticipated because of several add-on cases. Finally, it was time to go home, and I started to think about what was I going to have for dinner. My original idea didn't seem as appealing now. I decided to stop at a local upscale family owned grocery store en route home. There I picked up a few items and some wonderful cookies from the bakery. As I approached the four checkout areas, I looked for Lester. There were already two people in his checkout line, but I pushed my cart up and stood patiently in line. There were other choices that would have gotten me out faster but there is something about Lester that makes the wait seem insignificant. I listened to him ask the businessman, "Did you have a good vacation?" Lester was interested in what the man had to say and then wished him a good week ahead. Lester's next customer was certainly a familiar one to him. He asked, "How are the grandchildren?" and so they chatted amicably during the checkout. I didn't mind the wait. I noticed that the customers left with a smile on their faces. Now Lester would turn his attention to me. First, he asked, "Did you find everything you needed?" to which I replied, "Yes, and the cookies look wonderful today." It is obvious Lester takes a special interest in his customers and is very knowledgeable about the store and his work. In one sense of the word I consider Lester a real professional.

Of course, there is another definition of the word professional. It is those parts of the definition of a profession that concern me most as ARNA's president. How can I facilitate the growth of ARNA as a nursing specialty organization and help members meet their needs as professionals? A

profession has a unique knowledge base and set of skills. Professions are based on scientific principles that are research based. A profession maintains high standards for the performance and conduct of its members. Continued education is essential to ensure competency and the highest quality. There is an ethical basis for a profession. Professions serve the public. Yes, some would add that a profession is sometimes a "calling." This year has provided a special opportunity to assess ARNA's direction and to implement means for growth. For example, ARNA's committee chairs have been asked to use a new format for the quarterly board reports. Each committee chair was asked to submit an action plan (or plans) and identify barriers and facilitators for each action plan to assist the Board in making timely and appropriate decisions. These action plans will help keep the Board of Directors focused on the important actions we need to take to achieve ARNA's goals. The recent calls for editors for the core curriculum and *Images* are just the first steps in ensuring that ARNA's unique knowledge is

(Continued on page 8)



IN MEMORY OF
LINDA STRANGIO
JULY 9, 1943 - OCTOBER 28, 2002



Linda Strangio died Monday, October 28, 2002, in Mountainside Hospital, Glen Ridge, NJ. She was a critical care nurse for 17 years and a radiology nurse for 10 years at Mountainside Hospital, where she also served as a staff nurse, charge nurse, head nurse, patient care coordinator, and nursing coordinator. In 1984, Linda was voted Nurse of the Year by the New Jersey State Nurses Association, and this year she was selected as the recipient of Mountainside Hospital's Schumann Award, the hospital's highest honor. She was a member of the alumnae associations of Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, Caldwell College, and Montclair State. She also was the editor of *Images*, the journal of the American Radiological Nurses Association. Surviving are Vincent, her husband of 35 years; sons, Vincent and James; daughter, Laura Santagata; her twin sister, Irene Vigotty; and two grandchildren.

Following are tributes to Linda:

My Roomie

She used to sign her e-mails, "Love, Your Roomie." She was my Roomie twice, first in San Francisco for the SCVIR program and then in Chicago for the ASRT program. In her expansive career Linda worked as a nurse in several areas before she settled into radiology nursing. She was the epitome of how to be a radiology nurse. She was a writer, bedside nurse, teacher, and support system to her patients and her colleagues. Linda made friends often and easily, with nurses from all over the country and the world. Traveling with her was a pleasure, and because of her many contacts, I became included in activities and liaisons I probably would not have otherwise experienced. There were times she would make those around her crazy —when, for example, she was studying for the first certification exam for radiology nursing. Anyone who was around her in the weeks before and after the exam can attest to that! But she was also the most encouraging person I have known. She made you know that YOU could do it, whatever it was, whether it was that dreaded exam, writing for the ARNA journal, holding a position in ARNA, traveling to a conference, or getting through a difficult situation at work.

We had a few things in common: we both grew up in the Bronx, we served together on the Board of the New Jersey Chapter of ARNA, and we became grandmothers a few weeks apart. Do I have to say how Linda adored those boys? I think that was what she hated the most about being sick, the fact that she couldn't be with them as much as she wanted to. Throughout her illness, Linda kept to herself, didn't want to burden other people. Phone conversations were brief; you knew she wasn't up to it as she filled you in on the grim details. Linda was courageous beyond belief. She managed to be around to see both her boys married. Somehow she held herself together during her husband Vinny's serious illness, and I am sure that it was her strength that got Vinny and the rest of her family through that. The dialogue she sent by e-mail night after night had many of us involved in the course of Vinny's illness. Linda captured our emotions and our prayers, first for Vinny and then for herself. She will be greatly missed.

Helen O'Daly, BSN, RN, CRN
North Brunswick, NJ

A Tribute to Linda Strangio

I just finished reading the beautiful tribute to Linda Strangio by her longtime friend and colleague, Helen O'Daly. Her words echo my sentiments about Linda and about what a wonderful person she was. Linda always encouraged others to stretch and grow whether it be in writing for *Images* or in a personal way. In his book entitled *From Everest to Enlightenment*, Alan Hobson, a Mount Everest climber and summiteer, quoted the Dali Lama as saying, "...the practice of love and compassion is not mainly a religious matter...But compassion and love —without these we cannot survive." I don't know that Linda ever read these words, but they remind me of her philosophy on life and the way she lived her own life.

Rainbows were one of Linda's favorite things. She said they always gave her hope and strength. I wish for her family and friends a rainbow. We will all miss Linda greatly.

Kathleen Gross, MSN, RN, BC, CRN
President, ARNA

With Sympathy

John Hermann, RT, AVIR President, sent condolences and prayers to ARNA on behalf of AVIR.

Call for Volunteers and Submissions ARNA Publications

Core Curriculum Editor

The Editor of the Core Curriculum will collaborate with staff in the ARNA National Office to plan, direct, and evaluate all phases of the development and publication of the Core. The Editor will be responsible to the ARNA Board of Directors through the Executive Director. Administrative support will be provided by the ARNA National Office staff.

Qualified applicants will have strong organizational skills and a commitment to the development of a Core Curriculum. The Editor should also have clinical expertise in radiological nursing and be aware of the issues and trends of the nursing profession.

Submit your curriculum vitae to the ARNA National Office.

Images Editorial Board

Editorial Board members are responsible for editorial review of manuscripts for publication in *Images* and for assisting the Editor as assigned.

Editorial Board members are appointed to one-year terms. Terms may be renewed up to a maximum of 5 consecutive years. Editorial Board members report to the Editor of *Images*.

Editorial Board members must meet the following qualifications:

- ❖ Registered professional nurse.
- ❖ Experience: radiological practice in areas of education, practice, advocacy, administration, or research sufficient to develop considerable expertise in the area.
- ❖ Writing: Documented writing ability as evidenced by publication.
- ❖ ARNA involvement: Membership for a minimum of one year.

Editorial Board members review manuscripts for relevance and accuracy and make recommendations to the Editor about revisions to submissions. Editorial Board members also promote the journal and mentor novice authors.

Submit your curriculum vitae to the ARNA National Office.

Name the Newsletter Contest

ARNA is looking for a new name for *RN News*. The name should be one (or two) words that captures the essence of ARNA. The winning name will be chosen by the Board of Directors, and the person who submits the winning name will win a FREE year's membership in ARNA.

Send your suggestion for the newsletter name by December 30, 2002.

11/1/02
kls

Radiologic Nursing Certification Board and Test Development Committee Call for Volunteers

Radiologic Nursing Certification Board

The Radiologic Nursing Certification Board (RNCB) is seeking volunteers to serve as Directors on the Board. A candidate for Director must meet the following requirements, except the public member who shall be required to meet only requirements F-K.

- A. Have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the specialty of radiological nursing.
- B. Maintain current and continuing membership in ARNA at the national level.
- C. Not hold an elected, appointed, or volunteer position in ARNA.
- D. Demonstrate leadership ability.
- E. Be certified by the RNCB.
- F. Attend meetings of the Board of Directors.
- G. Be willing to acquire the knowledge necessary to provide competent service to the Board.
- H. Be willing and able to serve a 2-year term as an RNCB Director.
- I. Agree not to participate in the development or implementation of any certification review courses during the term of office and for a minimum of 3 years following completion of the term of office.
- J. Uphold and respect the confidentiality required for the fair and impartial administration of the certification and recertification process.
- K. Not engage in any activity that could be considered a conflict of interest during his/her term of office and for 2 years thereafter.

Certification Test Development Committee

The RNCB is seeking volunteers for its Test Development Committee. Committee members will help ensure the certification examination will provide radiological nurses with an opportunity to test their knowledge of radiological nursing.

Committee members must maintain current and continuing membership in ARNA at the national level and be certified by the RNCB. Members will also participate in the test item writing process and arrange for the review of test items on a regular basis.

Committee members should have knowledge of test development and item construction. Terms are one year and are appointed annually.

If you are interested in serving on the Radiologic Nursing Certification Board, submit a letter of interest with a brief statement of your qualifications (e.g., education and certifications) to the RNCB by December 30, 2002.

1/7/02
BEP:kls

Radiologic Nursing Certification Board ♦ 7794 Grow Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514-7072
Toll Free (866) 486-2762 ♦ (850) 474-7292 ♦ Fax (850) 484-8762

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
ARNA Approver Unit
Reviewer Committee Member

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation has approved the ARNA Approver Unit as an approver of continuing education in nursing. The Approver Unit is seeking individuals for the position of Reviewer Committee Member. Reviewer Committee Members are responsible for reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Administrator of the Approver Unit based on the criteria and guidelines established by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The applicant must meet the following qualifications:

- Active member of ARNA
- Minimum of a baccalaureate in nursing
- Serve a minimum of one year

If you are interested in being a Review Committee Member, please complete this form and return to the ARNA Approver Unit, 7794 Grow Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514-7072, or fax to 850/484-8762 by December 30, 2002. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Cormier at the National Office toll free number 866/486-ARNA (2762).

Name:	<hr/>		
	Credentials		
Home:	<hr/>		
	Number and Street		
	<hr/>		
	City, State, Zip	Telephone	Fax
Business:	<hr/>		
	Employer and Department		
	<hr/>		
	Number and Street		
	<hr/>		
	City, State, Zip	Telephone	Fax
Current Position:	<hr/>		
	Title		
	<hr/>		
	Description		
	<hr/>		
	<hr/>		
	Certifications		
	<hr/>		

Education: Include basic preparation through highest degree held.

	Degree	Institution (name, city, state)	Major area of study	Year degree awarded
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Signature

Date

Treasurer's Report

I am very pleased to report that at the end of June 2002 the third quarter financial activity for ARNA appears to be in line with the budget with the exceptions of the interest income and the expense of the management fee; both were anticipated. The current low interest rate is not generating the interest income anticipated. It is vital for our future success that ARNA partners with a management firm, like Puetz & Associates, that specializes in specialty nursing organizations.

I am also proud to share that our 2002 annual meeting was a big success. This also contributed to a good financial outcome. We had many prestigious speakers at our meeting. The agenda encompassed a variety of topics, both diagnostic and interventional, to meet members' needs and interests. I thank each of you for participating and making the meeting a success.

Membership continues to grow. Much work lies ahead as the healthy growth of an organization relies on the growth of the membership. We cannot rely on the annual conference as our major source of revenue. If

you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so and invite and encourage other radiology nurses to join us. The ARNA National Office has introduced the electronic dues payment program. This will help simplify the dues paying process.

The revenue for the ARNA Education and Research Foundation is slightly lower than the same period last year. Your contribution is important to support the foundation. The fiscal year ended on September 30, 2002. We will arrange for a financial audit from an independent auditor in the next month or two. I will report back to you in the future regarding the audit. I thank each of you for your continuing commitment and support to elevate ARNA to a higher level.

Sophia Jan, BSN, RN
Treasurer

From the Editor's Perspective

When I picked up the mail today and flipped through the various flyers a familiar scene caught my eye. There on the cover of my new *Nursing Spectrum* (Western Edition) was a glossy photo of a radiology nurse providing patient teaching and the headline was "Interventional Radiology: The Surgery of the 21st Century." Well the children and dinner will have to wait. I just had to sit down and read this article. Lorraine Steefel, MSN, RN, author of the cover story, "More Than Just X-Rays," gave an excellent account of what type of patients and procedures the radiology nurse sees on a daily basis. What a wonderful and informative article this is to educate our non-rad peers out there who often wonder what's going on in "the cave." The article brought up a myriad of questions for me as a radiology nurse. I wanted to talk to the nurses in the article and ask them how they were dealing with the care and education of these patients. What scheduling problems are they having and do they have any tips on overcoming them? Wouldn't it be great if we had a way to pass on what we have learned to each other? If only we had a means of communicating

our best practices and what we learned from our errors. Hey wait, we do—*RN News*. THIS is our forum, our communication tool, an informal publication that can influence practice—our practice. Take a moment, write down what works, what doesn't, and why and send it to me. I'll share your thoughts and experiences in this publication. Someone will listen and learn from what you have to say. You can count on it.

To read "More than Just X-rays" and a special sidebar written by ARNA President, Kathleen Gross, go to <http://www.community.nursingspectrum.com/magazinearticles/articlecfm?aid=7835>

Sue Simpson, MSN, RN
Editor

SERRNA Seeks Members

South East Region Radiological Nurses Association (SERRNA), a newly formed ARNA chapter, is sending out a membership call to all interested nurses living in the Southeastern United States who work in radiology (e.g., clinical, research, sales, education, management, advanced practice). SERRNA is an advanced practice model whose objectives and purposes are to:

1. Promote the quality of nursing care within the diagnostic/therapeutic radiology environment
2. Recommend and evaluate radiological nursing standards and educational criteria for radiological nurses
3. Serve as the representative organization for radiological nursing
4. Facilitate efficient networking among radiologic nurses, allied health professionals, hospitals, and other agencies related to radiology nursing
5. Stimulate and promote scientific and clinical research related to radiological nursing

Membership is \$15.00 if you are a member of ARNA and \$25.00 if you have not yet joined ARNA. (We encourage you to join today!)

Interested nurses may request a membership form by sending an e-mail with their name, address, and phone number to Psnoby@sjha.org, or send a note to:

Paulette Snoby, MPA, BSN, RN, CCRN
Radiology Clinical Specialist
Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta
Radiology Department
5665 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30342

Chapter Chat from New Jersey

Chapter Of ARNA

The New Jersey Chapter of ARNA participated in the Legs for Life screening. The Chapter held a screening October 5, 2002. Screening candidates were registered from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Chapter will provide educational displays, refreshments, and health screenings in addition to PVD screening. The event was coordinated by Leo Ryan, Department Director of Medical Imaging, in conjunction with the medical imaging nurses and all imaging staff participating from registration to screening. The event was held in the medical imaging department. This is the Chapter's third year offering the Legs for Life screening, and the Chapter has had great success. Dr. Andrew Loesberg, Interventional Radiologist, offered physician direction.

Because October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Hunterdon Regional Breast Care Program and the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center held multiple events. The Breast Care Program staff joined with the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center to provide "Step Back to a Day of Elegance." The program featured Jane Hamilton, MSN, RN, who has gained prominent attention for her work in helping women manage the stress in their lives. Following her presentation a panel of expert physicians held a question and answer session addressing women's health issues such as hormone replacement, menopause, osteoporosis, cancer genetics, mammography guidelines, breast cancer, and other relevant topics. The lobby of Hunterdon Medical Center (HMC) was transformed into a Victorian tea party, complete with scrumptious scones, miniature tarts, tea sandwiches, and flavorful teas. "High Tea" door prizes were given, as well as tea themed gift baskets. Adding to the occasion was free literature and interactive educational displays. Each participant received a lovely teacup for participating.

The staff of the Hunterdon Regional Breast Care Program and the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center also participated in Lee National Denim Day. Staff sold pink ribbons provided by Lee and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Employees purchased the pin for \$5.00, and on October 4th, staff wore something denim, or the pin, to support Susan G. Komen to "Work for the Cure"—One day, one goal, one cause. The last six years have produced \$30 million raised for breast cancer treatment, screening, research, and education. The goal for October 4th across the globe was \$7.5 million. Staff gathered for a photo in memory of HMC "Working for the Cure."

Each year the Department of Medical Imaging at HMC provides each woman having any breast imaging completed, or image guided breast biopsy, with a lovely bouquet of flowers in celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The women love the flowers, and we look forward to presenting the flowers yearly.

The New Jersey Chapter Of ARNA will host its fall conference, "Images of Autumn," at Hunterdon on Saturday, August 19, 2003. Four speakers will present on topics such as Vertebroplasty, The Business of Medical Imaging, Radiologic Intervention in End-Stage Renal Disease, and Fusion/CT PET Imaging. Contact hours and Category A Credits from the ASRT will be offered. The day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 1:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are included, as well as great door prizes for those attending. The conference fee is \$25.00 for Non-ARNA members and \$22.00 for ARNA members. After the conference, participants can enjoy shopping at the Liberty Village Factory Outlets or see the historic courthouse of the famous Lindbergh trial.

Pamela Vlahakis, RN, CEN, CRN
President, New Jersey Chapter ARNA

Let us know what your chapter is doing. Submit your news to Chapter Chat via e-mail to simpsonjs@cox.net and we will publicize your events.

**American Radiological Nurses Association
(ARNA)**
Board of Directors
2002-2003

President

Kathleen Gross, MSN, RN, BC, CRN
Greater Baltimore Medical Center
Towson, MD
rgross@comcast.net

President-Elect

Kate Little, RN, CRN
University of North Carolina Hospital and
Clinics
Chapel Hill, NC
klittle@unch.unc.edu

Immediate Past President

Colleen M. Sasso, BSN, RN, CRN
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical
Center (DVAMC)
San Francisco, CA
cmsasso@aol.com

Treasurer

Sophia C. Jan, BSN, RN
University of Michigan Health System
Department of Radiology
Ann Arbor, MI
sjan@umich.edu

Secretary

Delma Armstrong, BSN, RN, CRN
University of North Carolina
Hospital and Clinics
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
darmstro@unch.unc.edu

Board of Directors

Lynn E. Reid, MSN, RN, CRN
Bio-Imaging Technologies, Inc.
Newtown, PA
Lreid@bioimaging.com

Barbara E. Sargent, MBA, BSN, RN
Deltec, Inc.
St. Paul, MN
4bsargent@msn.com

Paulette Snoby, MPA, BSN, CCRN, RN
St. Joseph's Hospital
Atlanta, GA
psnoby@sjha.org

National Office

7794 Grow Drive
Pensacola, FL 32514-7072
Toll Free: (866) 486-ARNA(2762)
(850) 474-7292
FAX: (850) 484-8762
arna@puetzamc.com
Web site: www.arna.net

ARNA Mission Statement

The American Radiological Nurses Association's goals are to provide, promote, maintain continuity of and continuously improve patient care through education, standards of care, professional growth, and collaboration with other healthcare providers.

Legs for Life

"Legs for Life is a ton of work, but totally worth it. It's such a great service to our community. I'm just coming up for air now," laughed Jeanine Coffman, RN, Research Coordinator for the North County Radiology Group in Oceanside, CA. On September 24, 2002, Tri City Medical Center in Oceanside, CA, hosted a very successful Legs for Life event. Thanks to a large group of hospital staff, volunteers, and students, 174 individuals were screened for Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) and AAA.

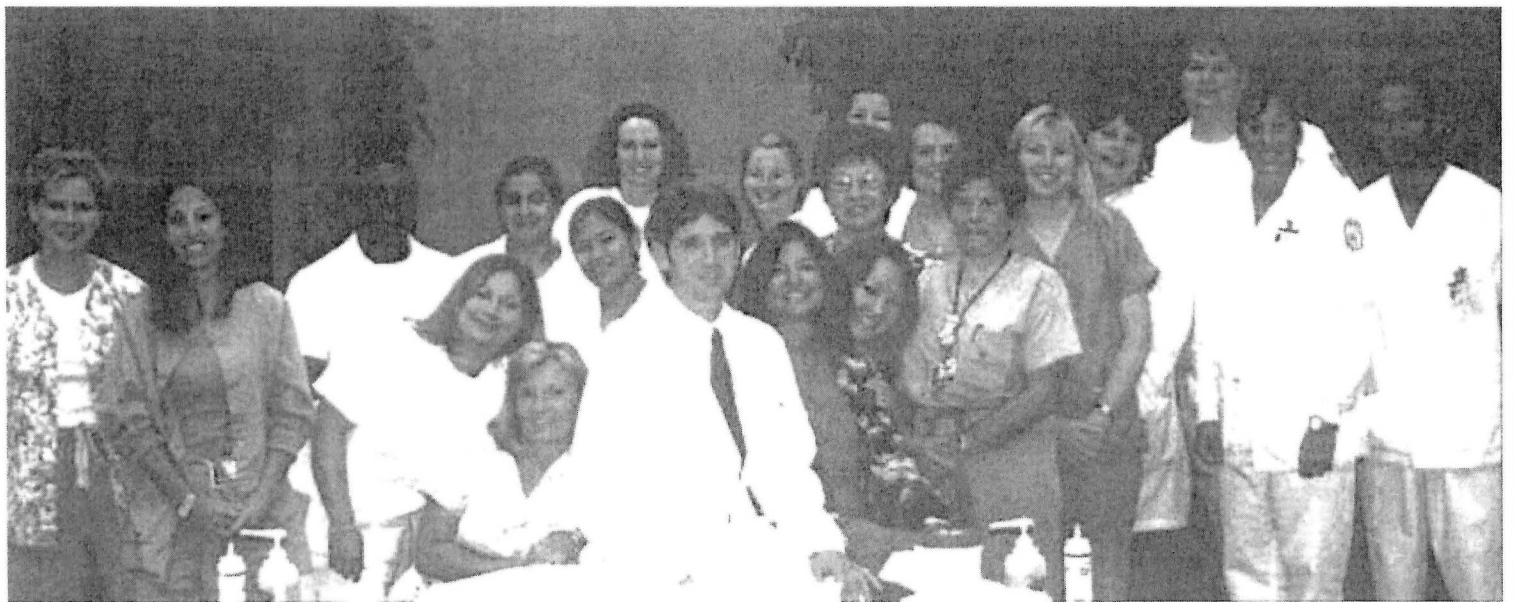
Justin Gooding, MD, from the North County Radiology Group was the coordinator of the Legs for Life program. Dr. Gooding along with Jeanine Coffman and the imaging staff of Tri City Medical Center hosted a well-coordinated screening for the community of North County of San Diego. Following the guidelines set forth by Legs for Life, over 60,000 homes in the surrounding area were contacted about the event. Just 48 hours after the information went out to the community all 168 slots were filled with 137 people on the waiting list. Individuals were then screened by phone as to their age, their symptoms, and if they were under the care of a vascular surgeon.

The day started at 8:30 a.m. with patients arriving at 10-minute intervals. With the assistance of nursing students from San Diego City College, the nurses performed complete ABI evaluation and calculations on everyone. The patients then had abdominal ultrasound screening for AAAs after which each patient had an individual consultation with a physician. The physicians reviewed the patient's findings and gave individual lifestyle counseling on diet, smoking, weight loss, exercise, and the differentiation between neuropathy, arthritis, and PVD. Necessary referrals were made, and the patients went home with educational materials and a copy of the report that was sent to each individual's primary physician.

Thanks to the assistance of 24 hospital volunteers the day ran smoothly. The results are still being tabulated but the Research Coordinator reports that PVD was identified in many of the patients, and they are now being seen and treated. One AAA of 4.8 cm was found and that patient was placed on the fast track for treatment.

So what is the recipe for success? For Tri City Medical Center it was a dedicated team of physicians, nurses, technologists, students, and volunteers who were committed to health education in their community.

Sue Simpson, MSN, RN
Editor



Pictured here with the RNs, technologists, and student nurses from San Diego City College is Dr. Justin Gooding of the North County Radiology Medical Group, the Coordinator of the Legs for Life event at Tri City Medical Center in Oceanside, CA.

Certification Examination for Radiologic Nursing in Imaging, Interventional, and Therapeutic Environments

Certification Candidates

Congratulations to the following candidates who sat for the Certification Examination held August 17, 2002. They have become certified, and may now use the CRN designation until August 2006.

Ann E. Ballas	Donna M. Fox	Rebecca A. Hull	Barbara J. Perry
Linda J. Blinn-Smolen	Carolyn J. Fugerer	Linda A. Husted	Dorothy N. Pierce
Lorraine C. Bloemer	Rosalina F. Gabriel	Susan Jamroz	Janice R. Poull
Shana M. Bolliger	Tricia D. Gabrielson	Shirley A. Koning	Michelle P. Robertson
Dawn A. Bosworth	Tracy S. Gordon	Ellen F. Lash	Catherine S. Salas Ma
Tami J. Chomicz	Patricia S. Gralow	Andrea B. Majewski	Debora L. Saravitz
Angela D. Clausen	Nancy L. Hesse	Johna B. May	Teri L. Smith
Beth A. Conway	Rich C. Hightower	Susan L. Meyer	Vanessa A. Smith
Susan M. Deatherage	Leora M. Hoaglund	Linda J. Morris	Patricia Vennet Vander
Paulette D. Duca	Margaret M. Hover	Kelly A. Ortiz	Cynde A. Watkins
Andrew J. Farmer	Meredith R. Howell	Marcy L. Parsons	Suzanne L. Wheatley

Certification Examination for Radiologic Nursing in Imaging, Interventional and Therapeutic Environments

Recertification Candidates

Congratulations to the following CRNs who became re-certified by passing the certification examination held on August 17, 2002. This recertification is in effect until August 2006.

Donna J. Anderson	Cecilia M. Cobb	Lorre P. Metts	Sue A. Rosa
Debra B. Bryant	Virginia L. Gaston	Kathleen D. Murphy	Colleen M. Sasso
Karen S. Carison	Sharon K. Hoge	Joyce A. Murray	Susan M. Semenczuk
Beverly J. Case	Bonnie S. Jae	Susan Joann Needles	Cindy M. Sommer
Linda Cavanagh	Regina M. Kennelly	Helen O'Daly	Patricia Thakkar
Louise M. Cloonan	India S. Luke	Kathryn S. Pickowitz	

Ask the Experts

Q: What is the relationship (if any) between modern, non-ionic IV contrast medium and allergies to shellfish?

A: To answer this question, I contacted Amersham Health, one of the manufacturers of the contrast medium used in angio suites, CT scans, and others. The manufacturer provided me with two articles that address this question. Both articles were written in 1997 when many hospitals were phasing out the old ionic contrast in favor of non-ionic contrast.

The short answer is that shellfish allergies are not a very good indicator that a patient will have a reaction to contrast medium. Let

me condense these two very technical articles into a little fictional example.

Let's say that 100 people were marooned on a deserted island. The only food on the island is breadfruit, and none of the 100 has ever tried breadfruit before. Will any of them have a serious anaphylactic reaction to eating breadfruit?

Ninety-eight of those marooned have no allergies that cause serious reactions. Some of them experience minor
(Ask the Experts, continued on page 7)

Change Is In the Air

As with the transition of seasons, there are subtle changes that occur right before us until we wake up one morning to realize the change is complete. I am writing to let you know about the changes that are beginning to occur within Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) education on a national level. The current statistics estimate that up to 10 million Americans are suffering with PVD and only a quarter of those are currently diagnosed and being treated. Those same studies project that an estimated 19 million Americans will be suffering with PVD by the year 2050. These numbers reveal the push behind our goal of increasing the awareness and education of PVD among primary care physicians and the public.

In August, an inter-societal coalition came together in Leesburg, VA, to discuss the idea of supporting a centralized effort focused on PVD

education and awareness. Besides members from the various ten physician and two nursing societies, there were also representatives from industry, governmental agencies, such as National Institutes of Health and health organizations, such as the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association (AHA). We briefed each other on our current individual efforts and focused on a plan of creating a coalition focused on using its collaborative strength and voice to increase screening and educational opportunities across the country.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Emerson left out a few crucial elements of trust, cooperation, vision, and commitment. After two days of discussion, the membership organizations unanimously voted to accept a "statement of intent," which stated that if a vehicle and process could be found that did not go against their organizations' self-interest, each member would recommend to his/her board to participate. Once it was determined the organizations were committed, the discussion turned to the vehicle and process needed for our goal to be accomplished. It was decided after much discussion to use the previously established public, not-for-profit Vascular Disease Foundation (VDF), but only after some redesign to its governance structure. Another opportunity that is currently being explored is the potential collaboration between the VDF and the AHA, which has already started a Working Group on PVD.

With this foundation of collaboration laid, we ended the summit eager to continue the momentum of this initiative. Future discussions and meetings are planned on a national level. I will do my best to keep the members of ARNA aware of what the future holds for PVD education.

Leslie Woodward, RN
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
Alexandria, VA

Team "PICCs Are Us"

Another PICC line order, how can it be?!
Doesn't anyone anymore get a regular IV?
The requests come day and night, weekends, holidays, too.
Just what is the Radiology nurse to do?
Each one is screened carefully: reason, coags, consent,
Is there IV access already, or is it truly urgent?
Has the patient been in the hospital several days or more,
And the line is ordered Friday afternoon at 4:00!
The patients come in all conditions, shapes and sizes,
It's great to have the option of ultrasound guidance!
Every PICC is an adventure, some are tough, others slick,
Success demands patience, skill, and technique.
There are a few that cause frustration well beyond belief,
And enlisting the Radiologist's help is a bittersweet relief!
With each PICC line insertion comes responsibility,
To educate so maintenance care is done effectively.
Avoiding complications, dressing changes, flushes, too,
Ensure the line will stay intact until treatment is through.
PICC lines, PICC lines, they're a privilege and a bane!
There are moments when you just can't face another one again!
Then you see a patient's eyes light up with gratitude
While explaining the line eliminates IV sticks, lab draws, too.
Suddenly you can go on, no need to make a fuss,
You're a Radiology nurse and a proud member of Team "PICCs Are Us"!!

Pat Aoki, RN
Thunderbird Samaritan Medical Center
Glendale, AZ

Congratulations to the South East Region
Radiological Nurses Association (SERRNA),
ARNA's newest chapter! SERRNA was
chartered in September 2002.

(Ask the Experts, continued from page 5)

reactions from some foods or medications such as nausea, minor skin rash, or headache but no serious reactions. There are only 2 out of the 100 who have experienced life threatening, throat closing reactions from some foods or medications. These 2 should always approach anything new with caution because they have a tendency toward serious allergic reactions.

Therefore, when screening patients for a procedure that will involve IV contrast, it would be helpful to ask them if they have ever had a serious, life threatening reaction to any food or medicine. And then, try to separate the true anaphylactic reactions from the "bad clam" or food poisoning situations.

Also, a follow-up In the previous "Ask the Experts" column, we stated that central IV lines should not be used for power injecting IV contrast. The main reason for this is that the pressure at the tip of the catheter is so high that it will cause the tip to flagellate and could very possibly change the placement of the catheter tip

Chuck Griffin, RN, CRN
Atlantic City Medical Center
Atlantic City, NJ

Suggested Readings

Coakley, F.V., & Panicek, D.M. (1997). Iodine allergy: An oyster without a pearl? *American Journal of Roentgenology*, 169(4), 951-952.

Leder, R. (1997). How well does a history of seafood allergy predict the likelihood of an adverse reaction to IV contrast material? *American Journal of Roentgenology*, 169(3), 906-907.

Realizing the Rewards of RADIOLOGY NURSING

“I enjoy this patient population and the type of work that we do. Much of the time we’re one-to-one with our patients. A nurse should be able to listen, to hold a hand — and that’s very much a part of our practice.”

—Jan Ketzler, RN



Professional nurses are invited to take advantage of expansions coming soon to UW Hospital's Department of Radiology. As we make the transition to services available 24/7, the opportunities have never been better. The same is true for the rewards.

Join us in Madison, Wisconsin, one of America's premier cities in which to live and work. We feature some of the finest benefits in health care, including 100% tuition reimbursement. For more information, call our nursing career specialists toll-free: (800) 443-6164.

UWHealth

University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin

www.uwhospital.org

Pre-employment drug screen required/EEO

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ms. Simpson:

I am a fairly new member of ARNA (January 2002). I have found all of the information in the magazine, core curriculum, and the newsletters extremely helpful with my job. However, in the last issue of *RN News*, there is a list of suggested readings. I was wondering how to obtain copies of the articles mentioned in this section from *Images*, especially "Just What do Those Radiology Nurses do all Day, Anyway?" *Images* 19(3), 4-5. Is the book *Fog: A Collection of Backscatter* available in any bookstore? Maybe a suggestion for the articles would be to reprint them in an upcoming issue of *Images* if possible. Thank you for your help in this matter and for your wonderful organization ARNA. I have learned so much.

Phyllis Stephens, BSN, RN
Jarrettsville, MD

Editor's Response: *Images* is indexed in the Cinahl Information Systems database. Articles can be ordered with the CINAHLExpress® document delivery service. Most articles cost \$12 each and are delivered by mail or fax. You may contact CINAHL at (800) 959-7167, (818) 545-3439 or fax (818) 545-1832.

Fog: A Collection of Backscatter should be available at most bookstores. You may also purchase the book online through such sites as www.amazon.com or www.booksamillion.com

Sue Simpson, RN
Editor

(President, continued from page 1)

shared. I realize the paucity of radiology nursing research and hope that some radiology nurses will be inspired to help fill in this gap in the near future. We also need to explore ethics in radiology in our literature. Radiology nurse mentors of all types are needed. In the category of continued education I would encourage attendance at the annual educational meeting March 28 – April 1, 2003, in Salt Lake City, UT. The proposed program offers a variety of new and different sessions, including a writer's workshop. Future authors for *Images* please take special note of the writer's workshop and opportunity to meet with an expert in writing for publication.

In all of our work to expand our knowledge and advance our competencies it is important not to forget the other side of the definition of a professional as defined in Lester. This may be the side of us the patient remembers most. Today, my patient gave me a big, unexpected hug just before she left the radiology recovery area. She said we didn't know how scared she *really* was before the procedure. She said I was a "wonderful nurse." It made all my work that day and my work behind the scenes on other days seem well worth it! I left with a smile.



Photos (Vascular Summit) courtesy of the Society of Interventional Radiology

Eve Slater, MD, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (center) who outlined the Healthy People 2010 Initiative and current administration's concerns at this summit listens to some nursing perspectives from Patricia Lewis, MSN, RN, FNP, CNN, President-Elect, Society for Vascular Nursing; Marge Lovell, RN, CCRC, CVN, President, Society for Vascular Nursing; Kathleen Gross, MSN, RN, BC, CRN; and Leslie Woodward, BSN, RN.



Photos (Vascular Summit) courtesy of the Society of Interventional Radiology

Kathleen Gross, MSN, RN, BC, CRN, ARNA President, addressed the participants at the Peripheral Vascular Disease Summit, August 2-4, 2002, in Leesburg, VA. Leslie Woodward, BSN, RN, looks on before speaking about ARNA members' participation in Legs for Life Programs. Participants of this Summit discussed ideas related to collaboration for screening programs and efficacy of screening and public education programs for peripheral vascular disease.