ACERT Annual Meeting 2013

*Submitted by Ray Winters, M.S., RT® (CT), Chair of ACERT* - The Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology (ACERT) had its annual Meeting and Conference in Las Vegas February 6-8, 2013. During the Conference, Image Gently and its efforts were highlighted in discussions and venues. ACERT sponsored an Image Gently table for the 300+ students and 150+ faculty/clinical instructors who were in attendance. The goal was to raise the awareness of the program and what is being done in the area of radiation reduction to the public.

ACERT remains committed to the mission of Image Gently and Image Wisely, and promotes the tenants of both programs whenever and where ever we can. We believe that our efforts at the conference were able to get the word out to educators and students about Image Gently®. It’s our opinion that all attendees were very receptive and interested in the Image Gently® campaign.

IAEA Radiation Protection Meeting in Vienna

*Submitted by Kimberly Applegate, MD* - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) hosted a technical meeting on justification (radiation protection) in imaging referral guidelines in Vienna immediately after the European Congress of Radiology on March 12-14, 2013. There were about 70 participants, many of them national regulators of radiation protection. We had three break-out groups to discuss the role of regulators, the optimal methods of guideline development, and best practices for advocacy and awareness efforts to disseminate guidelines. Image Gently was discussed in this last breakout group.

Dr. Kimberly Applegate co-moderated one group that was entirely made up of regulators with the goal of understanding the role of regulators in justification of guidelines. There was lively discussion around their role in medicine—which varied greatly from country to country and consisted of inspection and rule setting.

Several attendees advocated for a patient-centered care approach to guidelines development, including Dr. Maria Perez from the WHO and Dr. Dennis Remedios from the UK. Dr. Applegate shared experience about engaging patient advocates in healthcare systems and in the Image Gently Steering Committee. One output from this meeting will be a manuscript to be published in the JACR (and perhaps other journals). Overall, the group learned a lot and seemed to move toward a best practices model of guidelines development.
Meet Keith Strauss, Medical Physicist

Keith Strauss, B.A., M.Sc. is an internationally recognized medical physicist with particular expertise in pediatric radiation protection. Mr. Strauss has participated in national and international committees for such prestigious institutions as the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). His contributions to the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) are numerous and include his involvement in multiple task groups and with the American College of Radiology (ACR) particularly as a physicist reviewer of CT phantom images for accreditation. He was a member of the ACR Blue Ribbon Panel on Radiation Dose in Medicine. More recently, he has focused his expertise as a critical steering committee member of the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging, sponsors of the Image Gently campaign since 2007. He was a co-director of the Society for Pediatric Radiology ALARA program on Pediatric Interventional and Fluoroscopic Imaging as well as a CT Vendor Summit for Image Gently.

Keith has been passionate about reducing radiation dose to patients of all sizes and personnel while maintaining or improving image quality. His expertise in better design in configuration of imaging equipment particularly that impacts children was recognized by the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) with the FDA Leveraging and Collaboration Award in 2012. Dr. Marilyn Goske, Chair of the Image Gently campaign states, “There would be no Image Gently campaign without the expertise and guidance from Keith Strauss. His passion for promoting safer use of imaging equipment customized for children has made him a leader both nationally and internationally. The American Association of Physicists in Medicine acknowledges the contributions of Keith Strauss in radiation protection for patients.”

Minnesota: Radiation Protection Campaign

The State of Minnesota continues to move forward with education efforts in radiation protection. Their current initiative involves the promotion of Image Wisely and Image Gently! In December 2012, a press release was sent to the media and other GovDelivery subscribers. Click here or visit www.health.state.mn.us to read more about this front lines initiative that is helping bring awareness to radiation protections for adult and pediatric patients!