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SMRT ANNOUNCES CHRIS KOKKINOS, B.APPL.SC., PG.CERT.(MRI) AS NEW PRESIDENT

CONCORD, CA, USA, August 2018 – The Society for MR Radiographers & Technologists (SMRT), A Section of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) has announced a new leader of SMRT at the conclusion of their Annual Meeting in Paris, France. Chris Kokkinos, B.Appl.Sc., Pg.Cert.(MRI) has been elected to spearhead the presidential role for the 2018-2019 year.

“As the new president, my main objective is to empower all SMRT members with the knowledge of how important our role as radiographers and technologists is within the greater MR (magnetic resonance) community. Along with radiologists, physicists, scientists, and clinicians, our members can contribute to the field in many ways. I truly believe that an educated and knowledgeable MR radiographer or technologist can never be overrated when it comes to adding value within a radiology department. This year I will be continuing my close collaboration with past president Titti Owman, R.N.(R)(CT)(MR), FSMRT, to ensure continuity in our strategic goals from previous years. There are also many initiatives I would like to implement that will span longer than the term of a single year in office and for this reason I will also be working very closely with President-Elect, Shawna Farquharson to ensure that all ideas and projects that commence during my term will continue to develop in the years ahead. “

Chris first joined the SMRT in May 2004 when attending the Kyoto meeting. “I heard of SMRT by word of mouth! and I haven’t looked back since! MRI is such a dynamic field of medicine, you need to immerse yourself in education so that you don’t fall behind. Joining the SMRT was great as it not only provided educational content, but it also connected me with a community of like-minded MR professionals with whom I could discuss ideas and share information. The opportunity to engage and network with MR peers from around the globe has been invaluable.”

Regarding raising awareness of SMRT, Chris says, “There will be a continued emphasis on increasing our global presence. We have already been forging strong relationships with educational bodies in both the USA and Europe. Establishing links in regions with fewer SMRT members, such as parts of Asia, will be on the agenda. I am also very keen to align us even more closely with the ISMRM. There is an opportunity to increase awareness of the benefits of the SMRT through the members of the ISMRM. While technology is increasing in leaps and bounds, I still believe that a radiologist’s most valuable asset in terms of both throughput and image quality is the technical ability of the technologist or radiographer at

his or her facility. It would be fantastic for every ISMRM member to recommend a technologist to join the SMRT, and I think that this would be a mutually beneficial arrangement.”

When asked how the current climate of gender bias in the workplace has effected SMRT, Chris says, “I think that we are fortunate to work in a profession where roles seem to be evenly divided between females and males. This can be seen both in the workforce and on the local governing bodies. We also have a well-balanced gender representation on the international SMRT Policy Board which is incredibly encouraging, and while I would like to think that gender bias is becoming less of a problem, until it is eliminated completely it is essential to continue to encourage gender diversity in all aspects of the SMRT, and we will certainly strive to do so.”

Commenting on his presidential term, Chris says, “I would like to be able to complete my term as president having spread the word about the benefits of the SMRT and having established a pathway that will enable increased membership and participation in all our represented regions, together with an even stronger feeling of community amongst our members. We have global representation in our membership, and we endeavor to deliver educational content that is relevant to each of these regions. I get a lot of feedback from people who attend their first meeting and are amazed at the breadth of the MRI field. I would like to be able to encourage more MR radiographers and technologists to join our community and to utilize the tools we offer to increase their knowledge of, and professional involvement in, MRI.”

About SMRT:

The Society for MR Radiographers & Technologists (SMRT), A Section of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) is the leading non-profit organization that provides an international forum for education, information and research in magnetic resonance for radiographers and technologists throughout the world.

The SMRT was established by technologists, clinicians and scientists of the ISMRM as a forum for radiographers and technologists to share their expertise and educational resources, with a common goal of improving healthcare for people worldwide.

To find out more about the Society for MR Radiographers & Technologists (SMRT), please call +1 510-841-1899, Fax +1 510-841-2340, or visit our website at www.ismrm.org/smrt.

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Attend the next SMRT Annual Meeting 10-13 May 2019 in Montréal, QC, Canada.