

Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education

The mission of the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education (CoARTE) is to promote the highest quality of respiratory therapy education through accreditation services.

Message from the Chair of CoARTE

Tom Dorval, RRT, MEd, Respiratory Therapy Program Instructor Thompson River University, Kamloops, BC

As the Chair of CoARTE in 2008, I would like to thank all the council members and the CSRT Board of Directors for entrusting me with this role over the past two years. This report is an opportunity to review the previous year, and to thank the many contributors to accreditation in the profession of respiratory therapy, particularly the program reviewers who generously give their time to advance respiratory therapy education.

2008 saw CoARTE developing an international accreditation process, allowing respiratory therapy education programs from outside of Canada, affiliated with an accredited Canadian college or university, to be measured against the same standards as the national education programs. This will encourage the development of quality respiratory therapy programs in other parts of the world which will result in better patient care globally.

We also started developing a formal complaint process. The complaint process will allow concerns relative to the accreditation process from stakeholders to be heard, while adhering to CoARTE's principles of collegiality and focusing on continual quality improvement.

In the spirit of continual quality improvement upon which our system is founded, CoARTE has initiated a review of its accreditation process. It is a very comprehensive project which will include feedback from our many stakeholders and an

examination of best accreditation practices. Our expectation is to have some recommendations to present to the CSRT Board by the end of 2009. We believe that this review of the accreditation process will result in an improved accreditation process for the benefit of students, of educators and of the profession as a whole.

It is important to acknowledge the contributions of the physicians, administrators and respiratory therapists who contribute hundreds of hours every year in the accreditation of programs. I would also want to mention the commitment of the educators in each program that participate each year in the accreditation process. These are all individuals who have made a lifelong commitment to excellence in education.

I would like to welcome Dr. Don Reid as incoming Chair of the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education and Carolyn McCoy as Vice-Chair, Susan Dunnington as the new respiratory therapist didactic educator representative and Christiane Ménard as the new executive director of the CSRT, non-voting member of the council.

In summary, I want to thank all the members of the council, who have worked so hard and dedicated their time and energy to the continual improvement of respiratory therapy education. They have made my time on the council not only a constructive, but also a pleasurable experience. Thank you!

2008 Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education

Tom Dorval, RRT, MEd.

Chair (until November 2008), Respiratory Therapy Program Instructor, Respiratory Didactic Educator Representative (until Nov.) Thompson River University, Kamloops, BC

George Archer

Dean, Faculty of Applied Technologies, Vanier College, Montreal, QC
Senior Educational Administrator

Susan Dunnington, MA, RRT

Professor, Respiratory Therapy & Anesthesia Assistant, Michener Institute, Toronto, ON
Respiratory Therapist Didactic Educator Representative (since Nov.)

Carolyn McCoy, BHS, RRT

(Vice-Chair), Instructor, Respiratory Therapy Program, NBCC Saint John, NB
Respiratory Therapist Clinical Educator Representative

Neil Johnston, RRT

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Regional Manager
Acute and Community Respiratory Therapy, Health Sciences Centre, Director of Respiratory Therapy, Winnipeg, MB
Employer Representative

Christiane Ménard

(member ex officio) – CSRT Representative

Don Reid, MD

(Chair effective November 2008)
Physician Representative

Shane McDonald, BSC, RRT

Clinical Specialist, Education, Wards, Emergency, St Boniface General Hospital, Winnipeg, MB
National Alliance of Regulatory Bodies Representative

Lindsay Schroeder, MSc

Molecular Diagnostics and Pathology Sales Representative, Inter Medico, Vancouver, BC
Public Representative

General overview

The Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education (CoARTE) was established by the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) 2000 and the CSRT is the corporate entity under which the program operates. The CSRT Board of Directors is the governance structure responsible for the program and allocates the funds required to operate the program.

The Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education is responsible for ensuring that respiratory therapy educational programs meet a consistent national standard. The CoARTE accreditation requirements are closely linked to the national entry-level competency profile. Program review teams conduct program assessments on behalf of The Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education. Graduates from programs approved by the CSRT, through the CoARTE accreditation process, are eligible to write the CBRC national certification exam. Students who successfully complete this examination and are members of the CSRT receive the CSRT RRT credential, a designation highly regarded nationally and internationally.

In 2008, the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education was responsible for the accreditation of 19 respiratory therapy education programs in Canada. We anticipate that two more programs will be added to the portfolio in the near future, one Canadian and one international program.

Composition of CoARTE

The Council is composed of seven members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair:

- CSRT member: Respiratory therapist and didactic educator with in-depth knowledge of the National Competency Profile
- CSRT member: Respiratory therapist with broad experience as a clinical educator of respiratory therapy students
- CSRT member: Employer/administrative respiratory therapist involved with the practice of the profession
- Senior educational administrator of health science programs
- Physician with experience working with respiratory therapists
- Public representative with awareness of issues relating to education and health care
- Representative from the National Alliance of regulatory bodies that includes all regulated provinces – Designate must be aware of provincial legislation in all regulated provinces, and may or may not be a respiratory therapist
- The Executive Director of the CSRT, an ex officio (non-voting member), and the Accreditation and Education Manager (non-voting member) attend meetings and are included in all Council correspondence.

Commitment of volunteers

The entire scope of the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education is based on the efforts and commitment of volunteers. This is a good opportunity to thank them for their energy, motivation, ideas and hard work that are the fuel of

our organization. They are a dedicated force, who bring their expertise, knowledge, practice, education and good sense to the vast and complex procedure that accreditation is. CoARTE promotes a constructive, proactive approach to accreditation and avoids any punitive approach. This approach is essentially supported by its members' and program reviewers' desire to make all the programs good and better, and to lend a hand to advancing the profession of respiratory therapy. Therefore, thank you!

We also want to thank the CSRT Board of Directors for their unwavering support, and to the CSRT staff for their work. It has become more and more a team effort to work toward the common goal of achieving a good name for the profession and good tools for the members of the association, especially under the guidance of the new executive director.

Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC)

The CSRT, through the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education, is a member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC), as a means of maintaining current with the best practices in the field of accreditation. This membership facilitates access to new information in the domain, as well as to policies and procedures. Through its members, AAAC provides answers and solutions to new, difficult or dilemmatic situations in the process of accreditation.

Accreditation review

The Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education will undergo an accreditation review. Our consultants will employ various means to get input from our stakeholders, so that the accreditation process becomes more user-friendly and comprehensive. We thank in anticipation to everybody who will give some part of their time and energy to ensure their feedback, knowledge and opinions are known.

International accreditation

The Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education launched itself in a completely new direction with the international accreditation. The process of accreditation began at the program in Qatar under the aegis of the College of the North Atlantic in St. John's, NL. The main challenge in this kind of enterprises is to always keep your attention on the standards, with an open mind for a completely different world and a completely different culture. The same principles apply to the process of accreditation, no matter the geography. Debbie Cain, who is one of the most experienced program reviewers for the Council, together with the Accreditation and Education Manager, Pamela Hicks, have conducted an accreditation workshop at the College of the North Atlantic Qatar campus for the purposes of preparing the future site visit, which will take place at the end of March 2010.

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPY EDUCATION

List and status of the programs currently accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education

• College of the North Atlantic	St. John's, NL	ACCREDITED
• New Brunswick Community College	Saint John, NB	ACCREDITED
• Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick	Dieppe, NB	ACCREDITED
• QEII Dalhousie School of Health Sciences	Halifax, NS	ACCREDITED
• Vanier College	Montréal, QC	ACCREDITED
• Collège de Rosemont	Montréal, QC	APPROVED
• Cégep de Sainte-Foy	Sainte-Foy, QC	APPROVED
• Cégep de Sherbrooke	Sherbrooke, QC	APPROVED
• Cégep de Chicoutimi	Chicoutimi, QC	APPROVED
• Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology	Ottawa, ON	ACCREDITED
• La Cité collégiale – Collège d'arts appliqués et de technologie	Ottawa, ON	ACCREDITED
• Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology	North Bay, ON	ACCREDITED
• Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology	London, ON	ACCREDITED
• Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning	Kitchener, ON	ACCREDITED
• Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences	Toronto, ON	ACCREDITED
• University of Manitoba, School of Medical Rehabilitation	Winnipeg, MB	ACCREDITED
• Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)	Edmonton, AB	ACCREDITED
• Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)	Calgary, AB	ACCREDITED
• Thompson Rivers University	Kamloops, BC	ACCREDITED

New programs:

- Collège Ellis – Trois-Rivières, QC
- College of the North Atlantic – Qatar

Accreditation activity of the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education in 2008

Site visits:

- NAIT, Edmonton, AB
March 30-April 3
- Conestoga, Kitchener, ON
October 19-22
- Dalhousie, Halifax, NS
October 26-29
- CCNB – Dieppe, NB
November 30-December 3

Program reviewers engaged in accreditation activities in 2008:

Ms. Adrienne Leach, RRT, MPA	Mr. Mark Murray, RRT
Mr. David Sheets, RRT	Mr. Michael Bachynsky, RRT
Ms. Debbie Cain, RRT	Ms. Patricia (Pam) Skinner, BNSc, MEd
Mr. George Archer	Ms. Patricia Low McClurg
Mr. Jeff Hunter, RRT	Dr. Sharon Peters, MD, FRCPC
Ms. Jo-Ann Aubut	Ms. Susan Dunnington, RRCPC, RRT
Dr. Marc Engfield, MD, FRCPC	Ms. Suzanne Malo
Ms. Marie Paré	

- All programs received the status of "Accreditation" following the site visit and study of documentation.