



**APRIL 2010**

## **RETURN TO RADIOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER**

THE RETURN TO PRACTICE SUPPORT GROUP would like to invite anyone with an interest in returning to radiography and also managers and mentors who are interested in supporting returners during their period of updating skills and knowledge prior to registration with the Health Professions Council to an OPEN HOUSE at the headquarters of The Society of Radiographers (207 Providence Square, Mill Street, London SE1 2EW) on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 anytime between noon and 3pm. Christina Freeman, Professional Officer Lead for returning and members of the support group will be there to answer any questions and provide practical help and advice. Register your interest by emailing Christina on [christinaf@sor.org](mailto:christinaf@sor.org) or phone her on 020 7740 7245.

You can join the database to receive future editions of this newsletter by e-mailing [christinaf@sor.org](mailto:christinaf@sor.org)

### **Record keeping!**

- Make a note NOW of your Health Professions Council (HPC) registration number
- Keep your most up to date CV, CPD portfolio
- Put proof of qualifications in a safe place
- Make a note of your Society of Radiographers membership number



### **Whilst you are taking a break**

Even when you are not working you will have an interest in health and anything to do with diagnostic imaging or radiotherapy and oncology and there may be other ways you can contribute. For example, if you have school aged children you may find that the school would welcome you to talk either about the career of radiography or as an expert in radiation sciences! The Professional Support team at The Society of Radiographers have a limited supply of promotional material, contact Valerie Asemah on 020 7740 7224 or e-mail [valeriea@sor.org](mailto:valeriea@sor.org)

### **Whilst you are busy doing other things**

You will be accumulating skills and qualities that will benefit the profession should you wish to return in the future. You should maintain a record of your activities; are you a volunteer for a play group or school? Have you become involved in charities or other businesses? All these things need to be given credence and should you want to return will provide evidence of your activities to a prospective manager.





### NOT JUST THE NHS

The NHS is obviously the biggest employer of radiographers and jobs are advertised at: <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

There are many more opportunities to work part time and to job share within the NHS. There are other employment opportunities, for example, companies supplying equipment and accessories for imaging and radiotherapy like to employ radiographers as applications specialists and representatives.

Independent treatment centres, Private hospitals and clinics all employ radiographers. Also there are many agencies and some departments have their own "bank" staff

### RETURN TO PRACTICE RADIOGRAPHERS – MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

Written by Jane Mackenzie-Bennett

I would like to encourage radiography managers to offer returners the opportunity to undertake their CPD requirements for professional re-registration and I would certainly recommend employing a returner. I feel the whole department benefits from working with these committed radiographers who have so much to contribute.

It is always a joy to work with keen individuals and good for radiographers to be questioned about their current practice. It reinforces our knowledge and skills and makes us feel good to share our experience.

As a radiography manager, I have been involved with two 'return to practice' radiographers –one who had a career break of 8 years and the other more than 25 years! These radiographers proved to be the most committed practitioners one could ever wish to work with, initially whilst updating their clinical skills and preparing their CPD portfolios for re-registration with the Health Professions Council and subsequently as colleagues within the department. Both radiographers have advanced their careers since returning; one currently undertaking the post graduate qualification in ultrasound. Having been in clinical education for many years during my career, working with 'returners' was like working with the best students one could wish for. Returners are surprised how much of their radiographic knowledge they have retained and how quickly it comes back to them.

### WHY I AM GLAD I CAME BACK TO RADIOGRAPHY

Written by Linda Johnson January 2010

I am currently working full-time in a busy department with two general X-Ray rooms and Ultrasound examinations offered in a further two rooms. I regularly go across to the main General Hospital near Crewe in order to update my knowledge and skills, as well as further my experience in trauma and theatre radiography. Through my KSF assessment and continuing professional development portfolio I have been encouraged to set targets and goals in order to improve and progress.

I love the variety in my working day, even if I X-Ray load of knees, for example, during an Orthopaedic clinic, every examination will be different because every patient is unique with different needs and clinical history. I may go home some days feeling totally exhausted after a gruelling work schedule, but I feel a certain sense of contentment that only comes with complete job satisfaction.

Yes there are challenges, some of which may seem insurmountable at first, but they are all part of the life-long process and career progression that makes radiography the perfect career for me. I love sharing the knowledge and skills I have gained with my colleagues to develop personally as well as academically that I feel I am making up for lost time.

My self-esteem and confidence in my abilities as a radiographer are growing daily. Coming back into radiography has been the best decision I have made since leaving this profession to begin the exciting career of Motherhood back in 1982!

And to think I actually get paid for doing something I love so much!





The Professional Officer Responsible for Return to Practice is Christina Freeman, who is a returner herself; contact her on 020 7740 7245 or [christinaf@sor.org](mailto:christinaf@sor.org)