



## **Press release**

### PARCA Expanding Its International Presence

**DALLAS, TX, USA, (October 15, 2008)** - PACS Administrators Registry and Certification Association (PARCA) announced today that it has expanded internationally and will continue to certify and test for both the clinical and technical aspects of medical informatics at multiple knowledge levels. In order to further its international goals, the organization will become a 501(c) - (3) non-profit corporation with an international Board of Directors on Jan 1, 2009.

PARCA's action resulted partly from the inability to reach a mutually satisfactory merger agreement with the American Board of Imaging and Informatics (ABII), which administers the Certified Imaging Informatics Professionals (CIIP) program. Under proposed terms, if a merger took place hundreds of PARCA certified healthcare professionals would not have their certification recognized by this merged organization. PARCA acknowledges that medical informatics is not a U.S.-centric profession in the global healthcare community and that there must be an international certifying body allowing mobility for this growing professional group.

According to Suzanne Hunter, PARCA's executive secretary, there is a significant number of inquiries from healthcare IT professionals outside the U.S. who desire to become a PARCA member, signing up for its certification exams, and/or are interested in working with PARCA to adapt its requirements to their local needs and practices.

PARCA and CIIP both have addressed different needs for certifying health imaging and IT professionals. One of the differences is that the PARCA exams can be taken on-line at any time, while CIIP exams are limited to certain dates and need to be taken at testing centers. John Sole Jr, president of JS Consulting and an experienced PACS System Administrator who holds CIIP and PARCA certifications, states: "Both exams offer PACS administrators an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, but the PARCA series of exams will cover all of the items that a career PACS Administrator may encounter over many years and will definitely demonstrate an advanced depth of knowledge."

Edward M. Smith, ScD, FACNP, Professor of Imaging Sciences at the University of Rochester Medical Center, and a member of the PARCA advisory board says about the changes: "A renewed PARCA leadership team will focus on growing the organization internationally. Currently the PARCA board consists of members from Australia, Canada, Singapore and the United States. Professionals from non-US countries are looking to the US not only as leaders in PACS implementations but also for leadership in the certification of professionals that support and maintain these mission critical systems."

For information about PACS administration certification and the new PARCA initiatives, contact Suzanne Hunter at [suzanne@pacsadmin.org](mailto:suzanne@pacsadmin.org) or visit the website at [www.pacsadmin.org](http://www.pacsadmin.org).