

# **ABOUT THE OREGON BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING (OBMI)**

The Board has authority over a state office that issues licenses and permits to medical imaging technologists who work in medical settings. The board oversees continuing education requirements, and oversees the schools in Oregon that teach limited x-ray permit courses. The board has promoted legislation, notably the 2009 legislation that expanded the list of medical imaging professions requiring licensure to include MRI Technologists, Nuclear Medicine Technologists, and – first state in the country to implement – Sonographers (Ultrasound Technologists).

The board has authority to implement policy through promotion of legislation and adoption of administrative rules and board policies. Through statute and rules, the board has authority to discipline license or permit violations, including subpoena power. The board approves a biennial budget for the office, which is wholly supported through fee revenue.

Within the overall functions that the board and office perform, radiation safety is a primary consideration. The OBMI includes two non-voting advisory members from Radiation Protection Services, and we work closely with RPS.

The board meets quarterly, plus a half-day retreat in July, on the day prior to the July board meeting. Board meetings are scheduled for Fridays. Board meetings start at 8:30 am and typically end at 4:30 pm, and are held at the Portland State Office Building. We encourage in-person attendance, but in some cases board members have attended by telephone, when unable to attend in person. We try to get board vacancies filled quickly, which ultimately makes it easier to obtain a quorum (at least seven of 12 voting board members) for board meetings.

The board office will typically send out a packet 10-14 days prior to each meeting, for board members' review, including a confidential summary of disciplinary cases that are scheduled to come before the board, as well as other background material related to the meeting agenda. Typical for most board meetings, the mornings have included in-person interviews with licensees or license applicants with criminal backgrounds or disciplinary issues. The afternoon portions of the meetings mainly included discussions of policy issues and related issues.

## **Board committees:**

The board has three committees (with membership appointed during the July meeting and retreat):

- 1.) Legislation and administrative rules.
- 2.) Continuing Education.
- 3.) School inspections.

These committees will occasionally be called upon to review material or consider issues that crop up, and can usually be handled through one or several emails back and forth, sometimes including follow-up during board meetings.

The school inspections committee (to periodically inspect the limited x-ray permit schools) may have a tougher schedule, with seven schools and a guideline in rules to try to inspect once every two years. The three volunteer members of this committee reside in Portland, Klamath Falls, and Elmira, and have informally agreed to try to cover the schools closest to them. (Also one former board member is currently helping with inspections.) So even with the school inspections committee, which would seem to be the most inconvenient to serve on, it's probably going to require each of them to spend perhaps one day per year (and these volunteer members seem to have the scheduling flexibility to pull it off).

**Board membership:**

Specifications of board membership are spelled out in **Oregon Revised Statutes 688.545**, including four physicians, five medical imaging licensees, and three public members. (Here is the statute: [http://cms.oregon.gov/OBMI/docs/ORS\\_688.405-688.990.pdf](http://cms.oregon.gov/OBMI/docs/ORS_688.405-688.990.pdf))

Here is the rundown of the board membership, from the website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OBMI/roster.shtml>.

We have members submit short profiles, also posted on the website:

[http://www.oregon.gov/OBMI/BoardMember\\_Directory.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OBMI/BoardMember_Directory.shtml).