

BRPT LAUNCHES RPSGT CAREER CENTER

by Bonnie Robertson RPSGT



This year the number of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists bypassed the 10,000 mark – a milestone for a credential, which is considered the gold standard for PSG technologists. But is 10,000 enough? According to a survey of RPSGTs and members of the sleep community conducted by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists, close to 40% feel that RPSGTs are in great demand due to a shortage of sleep techs, but more than 60% felt that the job market varies by region. What's the largest threat to the sleep tech profession? Nearly 30% cited the hiring of non-registered technicians.

Matching RPSGTs with employers is going to be a great deal easier this June, as BRPT launches the RPSGT Career Center, an interactive online job

board with plenty of technological bells and whistles. The RPSGT Career Center is free to all job seekers. In addition to posting their resumes, job seekers can browse and view available jobs based on their criteria and save those jobs for later review if they choose. Job seekers can also create a search agent to provide email notification of jobs that match their criteria.

Employers will be able to post jobs online, search for qualified candidates based on specific job criteria and create an online resume agent to email qualified candidates daily. They also benefit from online reporting that provides job activity statistics. According to Philip D. Adams of Boxwood Technology, the organization that powers many online career centers, including the BRPT site, "like virtually every aspect of modern life, the way we find and fill jobs has been permanently transformed by advances in information technology."

For an organization like BRPT, which is centered around a profession, there is no more meaningful benefit they can provide than helping its RPSGTs find work. And, in a fast-growing profession such as sleep medicine technology, it becomes increasingly imperative to match job seekers with prospective employers.

"Our primary focus is as a credentialing organization," explains Cathi Eifert, CAE, Executive Director of the BRPT, "but we are advocates for our registered techs and that encompasses everything from understanding legislative and regulatory issues to career development, maintaining standards of conduct, building community and being leaders within the sleep medicine community."

Considered a "niche" job board, as opposed to broader-based sites such as Monster.com or CareerBuilder.com, BRPT's new RPSGT Career Center offers more cost-effective ways to achieve results. In addition, the RPSGT Career Center will offer add-on resources for career development, including do's and don't of job hunting and interviewing pointers.

A job board devoted to sleep techs can help in other ways, too. Adams point out that because the job market is constantly evolving, successful job hunting often depends on knowing the market, as well as one's strengths and weaknesses. He advises job seeking RPSGTs to keep an eye on the positions being posted at the BRPT Career Center as a way to maintain a pulse of the profession.

In fact, according to Adams, niche job boards are "exploding in popularity and are largely behind the surge in the number of online career centers in general." According to the Herman Trend Alert, an e-

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newsletter devoted to work and workplace issues, online career centers that are specific to an industry, profession or region, are preferred by 78% of corporate recruiters and HR specialists.

Profession-specific job boards are typically far more cost-effective and efficient for employers. Though the quantity of resumes generated may be less, the number of qualified candidates tends to be far greater. This has made the task of filling open positions much more manageable for employers. Eifert expects the RPSGT Career Center to be ready for business in June 2007. Details on how to use the Career Center and costs to employers who want to post jobs (the service is free for job seekers) are available at www.brpt.org. Visitors can click on the RPSGT Career Center button on the home page.

Also at the BRPT web site is information about becoming an RPSGT including a free, downloadable 2007 Candidate Handbook, a Study Guide and online practice exams for purchase.

The RPSGT exam is a computer-based, 200-question, multiple choice test that may be taken at the applicants convenience during two-week testing periods, four times a year at hundreds of locations in the U.S. and internationally.

The Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT) is an independent, nonprofit certification board that cultivates the highest professional and ethical standards for polysomnographic technologists by providing an internationally recognized credential—the Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT). RPSGT is respected worldwide as the leading credential for polysomnographic technologists. For more information, call (703) 610-9020, or visit www.brpt.org.

RPSGTs and Sleep Techs at a Glance

There were more than 1200 respondents to a recent BRPT survey of RPSGTs and sleep techs. Here are some findings:

- More than half (54%) work in AASM-accredited work settings; 40% work in non-accredited facilities; 6% work in facilities with other accreditation.
- 37% of respondents work at universities or university hospitals; 18% work at non-university hospitals; 20% work at privately funded sleep facilities.
- 20% were under 30; 30% were 30-39; 30% were between 40-49
- 32% of respondents had less than two years of college; 31% have an Associate's degree; 23% have a Bachelor's degree; 1-2% were MDs, RNs, LPNs and EMTs
- 18% have only been in the sleep field for two years or less; 38% having been sleep techs for 3-5 years
- 44% of the RPSGTs surveyed read Focus Magazine!
- The majority of respondents (38%) are general sleep technologists, an additional 29% are sleep technologists with management responsibilities and another 17% are scoring specialists.
- In a typical workweek, respondents spend the most time scoring sleep studies (60%), monitoring sleep studies (56%), applying sleep sensors (36%), and taking care of managerial duties (32%).