

# Technologist News

## *Annual Meeting Plans Take Shape*

**T**he 31st Annual SNM Meeting will convene June 5-8, 1984, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA. To complement the SNM scientific program, the Technologist Section will present 72 hours of continuing education for the nuclear medicine technologist. The Section's Scientific Program Committee, under the direction of Kathryn Wilkins of St. Joseph's Hospital, London, Ontario, Canada, will be putting the finishing touches on the program from now until May.

The Los Angeles scientific program will amplify the "new directions" theme initiated at the Technologist Section's Winter Meeting, which convened Feb. 1-6, 1984, in Orlando, FL. As in Orlando, the emphasis for Los Angeles will be on cardiac nuclear medicine, nuclear magnetic resonance, computer applications and system comparisons, monoclonal antibodies, and single photon emission computed tomography.

The Winter Meeting attracted 222 technologists, most of them chief technologists, and provided an intensive 35 hours of quality programming. Several of the same sessions presented in Orlando will be offered—with updates and innovations—in Los Angeles. In addition, clinical, gastrointestinal, and RIA sessions will round out the four-day technologist program for Los Angeles, as well as workshops for educators, managers, and administrators.

The Los Angeles program will provide chief and staff technologists with an exceptional opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills through scientific paper presentations, exhibits, and clinical sessions offering the latest information about clinical procedures and techniques. Of particular interest are two

full-day clinical seminars on NMR and cardiovascular nuclear medicine sponsored by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and designed for physicians and technologists. The NMR seminar will concentrate on the clinical applications of this new imaging modality in the central nervous system, heart, lungs, spine, abdomen, reproductive tract, and breast. The cardiovascular seminar will cover both introductory and advanced applications but assume a fundamental background in nuclear medicine techniques.

In March, SNM members will receive the Annual Meeting preview—containing registration and housing forms and a listing of all scientific sessions. Air travel arrangements may be made at discount prices through Garber Travel (1-800-225-4570). For those members bringing spouses, families, or friends, sightseeing tours will be offered and advertised in the Annual Meeting program. In addition, the Society will sponsor two social functions of its own: The traditional welcome reception—poolside at



*Welcome to L.A.: the 1984 Annual Meeting will convene June 5-8 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.*

Emphasis will be placed on clinical topics and actual case presentations.

All technologists will be happy to learn that workshop fees previously associated with the Technologist Section program have been discontinued for the 31st Annual Meeting, thereby allowing technologists to register for the entire Tuesday-Friday program, both Society and Section, for a single fee.

the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Monday, June 4, 5:30-7:30 pm, and a banquet (\$25.00 per person) on Tuesday evening, June 5, that will include dinner and dancing from 8:00-12:00 am at the Los Angeles Hilton.

Look for more complete information on the 31st Annual Meeting in the March issue of *Newsline* and the June issue of the *Journal*.

# NMTCB Report

Sheila Rosenfeld, CNMT  
Chairman

The 1983 NMTCB exam was administered to 935 candidates at 46 sites in the continental United States plus Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The scores for these examinees ranged from a low of 7 to a high of 186; the mean score was 124. A performance summary by category follows:

Category	No. of Items	Low Score	High Score	Mean
Nuclear Instrumentation	50	0	48	30
Radiation Protection	21	3	21	15
Imaging Procedures	50	1	49	33
Nonimaging Procedures	40	2	38	21
Dose Calculation	14	1	14	10
Radiopharmacy	25	0	25	15

The Kuder-Richardson formula 20 is the index of reliability for the NMTCB examination. Values above .90 indicate an acceptable level of reliability and desirable consistency. The KR<sub>20</sub> value for the 1983 NMTCB exam was 0.94, which varies little from past years.

We will hold our next meeting on March 14-18, 1984, in Chapel Hill, NC, to finalize the composition of the 1984 exam to be given on September 15. The deadline for exam application is June 2, 1984. Applications are available from the NMTCB office.

The National Council of the Technologist Section requested the NMTCB to consider providing our exam to CNMTs—as a means of self-assessment and continuing education—without affecting current certification status. Beginning with the June 1985 exam the NMTCB will offer its exam to CNMTs at a reduced exam fee. Watch for further

details regarding this program in the next NMTCB Report.

The newly elected technologist directors of the Board are George Alexander, CNMT, Douglas Anderson, CNMT, Robert English, CNMT, and Barbara Park, CNMT. The directors elected to

the NMTCB by the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists are Carol Bonnano, CNMT, and David LaFond, MD. These new Board members began serving their three-year terms in January 1984.

In the NMTCB Report in the December 1983 issue of the JNMT there was an error regarding test sites. The NMTCB has traditionally established test sites in areas where CAHEA-approved programs are located. Our policy, which the Board reaffirmed at its October meeting, was that the NMTCB would not establish test sites outside of the United States; Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico are included as test sites.

CNMTs will not receive their next Directory until 1985; the NMTCB will only issue a directory every two years. Please contact the NMTCB if you have any questions. Remember our new phone number: (404)493-4504.

TECHNOLOGISTS IN THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES CHAPTER are asked to attend the business meeting that will take place May 4 during the Chapter's annual meeting.

Volunteers are urgently needed to participate in the EGL Technologist Section; to become involved, contact Elpida S. Curtis, CNMT, Nuclear Medicine Service, VAMC, 3495 Bailey Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215.

There is also an announcement about the Chapter meeting on page 22 of this issue.

## Committee Briefs . . .

The Section's Continuing Education Committee announces that four new audiovisuals are being marketed. The audiovisuals, which were produced by the Committee, are entitled "Scintigraphic Evaluation of Gastro-Esophageal Reflux in Children," "Gastrointestinal Bleeding in Children," "Uniformity and Linearity Correction Devices for Gamma Cameras," and "NEMA Specifications for Gamma Cameras."

Every audiovisual carries continuing education credit and comes with an evaluation form with which to report credit directly to the Section's recordkeeping system, VOICE. For more information, including how to order, turn to page 40.

This issue of the Journal also contains two continuing education articles: the second article of a four-part series on nuclear cardiology, and the first article of a four-part series on radiopharmaceuticals. Please continue to take the "CE Article Test" that is found at the end of every CE article, and return your answers promptly for VOICE credit.

During 1984-85, there will be two CE article series running simultaneously in the Journal; the topics will be radioimmunoassay and emission computed tomography.

At the recent Midwinter Meeting in Orlando, FL, the guidelines governing the VOICE program were assessed, and the National Council approved several resolutions designed to streamline and simplify VOICE. We will provide more information about these changes in the next issue. As a final note, we would like to inform you that we are currently working with several commercial companies to approve their upcoming programs for VOICE credit.—Susan Brown, CNMT, Chairman, Continuing Education Committee.

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The NMTCB seeks nominations for NMTCB directors. The term will run from January 1985 to December 1988. Contact the NMTCB, PO Box 1034, Stone Mountain, GA 30086, for information.

Shelley D. Hartnett, CNMT  
President, Technologist Section  
Denver, CO; (303)278-1672



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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I am pleased to report that the Technologist Section finished the 1982-83 fiscal year with a surplus of \$67,000. It took a great amount of work, much of it on a volunteer basis, for this to happen. The Section especially owes the Society's Finance and Executives Committees a vote of gratitude for providing the incentive for a new financial foundation and allowing us to turn our economic picture around. In particular, the members of the Special Task Force on Society of Nuclear Medicine and Technologist Section Finances—Drs. Myron Pollycove and Ken McKusick and Bob Bontemps, CNMT, and Dorothy Duffy Price, CNMT—deserve thanks.

I think it is also noteworthy that we were able to achieve this surplus without increasing membership dues or registration fees for our meetings; general fiscal belt tightening allowed us to accomplish this milestone.

### Monitoring Our Resources

As the Section continues to develop and grow, we will continue to review the responsibilities of the Section's committees so that we may make the best use of our precious resources. Again, I am pleased to report that volunteer efforts from our members continued to increase during 1983, primarily at the local level, and that this has been accomplished

without compromising our effectiveness.

We have also seen an increase in new members: approximately 800 technologists have joined the Section since June 1983. New members should know, and it bears repeating for old members as well, that the Section shall continue to appropriate and allocate our members' revenue consistent with the same philosophy for which it is collected: to give our members both support and representation in the advancement of the art and science of nuclear medicine technology, and to lead in the development of the competence of the professionals engaged in the performance of the technology.

To this end, several of the Section's committees are working on new projects. They include:

- Self-study modules that will supplement classroom education and provide a means of continuing education for the nuclear medicine technology practitioner.
- Self-assessment tests for technologists that will be published in the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* as another addition to the Journal's home-study opportunities.
- New audiovisual programs for nuclear medicine technologists.
- A nuclear medicine technology labo-

ratory manual, which is now undergoing a final review. Publication is expected by the end of this year.

At our Winter Meeting held in Orlando this February, the National Council adopted the final draft of the "Essentials and Guidelines of an Accredited Educational Program for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist," as proposed by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology. Revision of the "Essentials" has been ongoing since 1980 and has been carried out through the joint efforts of the six organizations that sponsor the JRCNMT, the Section among them.

We have received many thoughtful comments and suggestions from members regarding current issues in nuclear medicine technology. Your comments have helped us address the needs and concerns of the entire membership. Please continue to communicate. And please continue to help by sharing information with your Section colleagues and urging them to support and participate in the common goals of the Section.

Looking ahead a bit, mark your calendars now for the Annual Meeting—1984, which will take place in Los Angeles, CA, June 5-8. This will be a most rewarding scientific forum and I look forward to seeing you there.

# Membership Report

Twenty chapter membership liaisons serve as the direct link between their chapter and the national office to improve communication and coordinate recruitment efforts. Many other individuals within our entire Section membership of 3,781 are assisting in recruitment. I thank all of you for your continued efforts.

Membership recruitment and retention should be considered a responsibility of every Section member. If you would like to help, contact your liaison. Your chapter's leadership, the members of the Membership Committee—Maria Nagel (402)559-7224, John Capuzzi (215)447-2539, and Karen Stuyvesant (515)283-6458—or Virginia Pappas in the national office (212)889-0717, will assist you if you wish to contact your liaison and do not know his or her name.

Two new items to help in recruitment are available. They are a Section brochure that contains a membership application and an individualized membership recruitment packet for use at chapter and local meetings. These items are available from Virginia Pappas.

Last year over \$1,600 was awarded to chapters in recognition of their recruitment efforts. The results of chapter efforts for 1983 are noted in the accompanying table.

I would like to expand on the membership concerns stated in my last membership report. A concern often voiced is "The Section and the Society don't represent me." An answer (adapted from an AMA recruitment packet) could be the following:

No two people agree on everything all of the time. Nuclear medicine technologists, like most people, often dwell on the "disagreements" and "differences of

opinion" that exist among themselves. Look at the issues and concerns we do agree on, such as expanded continuing education activities, quality student education, competency within the profession, and representation in government affairs—there are many more if you stop

answer (again adapted from an AMA recruitment packet) is:

The leaders of the Section are directly elected by you, the membership. We always follow the democratic principle; the majority rules. Your voice cannot be heard if you stand apart and criticize the

Chapters	Total New Members 1/84	Goal 5/84	Still Needed
CENTRAL	146	100	—
EASTERN CANADA	—	25	25
EASTERN GREAT LAKES	17	25	8
GREATER NEW YORK	128	100	—
HAWAII	2	25	23
MEMBERS AT LARGE	10	—	—
MIDEASTERN	33	75	42
MISSOURI VALLEY	79	75	—
NEW ENGLAND	47	75	28
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	17	75	58
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	12	75	63
PITTSBURGH	11	25	14
PRAIRIE PROVINCE	2	25	23
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	17	25	8
SOUTHEASTERN	112	100	—
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	50	100	50
SOUTHWESTERN	35	75	40
Total	718		

to think about it. Let's work to expand this common ground of agreement within the Society and Section. Together, we can improve patient care and benefit the entire profession of nuclear medicine technology.

Another concern that often surfaces is "Only a small clique of technologists runs the Section" or "The same people always get elected" or "A newcomer with ideas differing from those of the current leadership stands little chance of breaking into the inner circle." An an-

organization without getting involved. If there are changes to be made, join the Society and Section, enlist the support of other members, and work toward these changes.

The members of the Membership Committee continue to be ready to answer any questions or concerns you have.

—Maria Nagel, CNMT, Chairman, Membership Committee, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 42nd & Dewey, Omaha, NE 68105.