

## *31st Annual Meeting: Science and Socializing*

On Tuesday, June 5, nearly 1,000 nuclear medicine technologists will gather in Los Angeles to attend the SNM 31st Annual Meeting. On tap is one of the finest clinical programs in recent memory with more than seventy hours of continuing education being offered.

Under the direction of Kathryn Wilkins, chairman of the Scientific and Teaching Sessions Committee, the programs will primarily focus on studies of the heart, brain, and lungs with special emphasis on imaging with NMR, SPECT, and corresponding computer applications.

For \$100, technologist SNM members can participate in the entire SNM and Technologist Section educational programs which include the largest collection of scientific papers to be presented on nuclear medicine topics in 1984 and a commercial exposition of the latest products and services available to nuclear medicine departments.

Programs for chief and staff technologists, educators, and administrators have been planned. Clinical courses will cover both basic and advanced procedures and techniques in such areas as Tl-201 quantification, brain imaging, SPECT gated blood-pool imaging, Tc-99m chromatographic procedures, lung ventila-

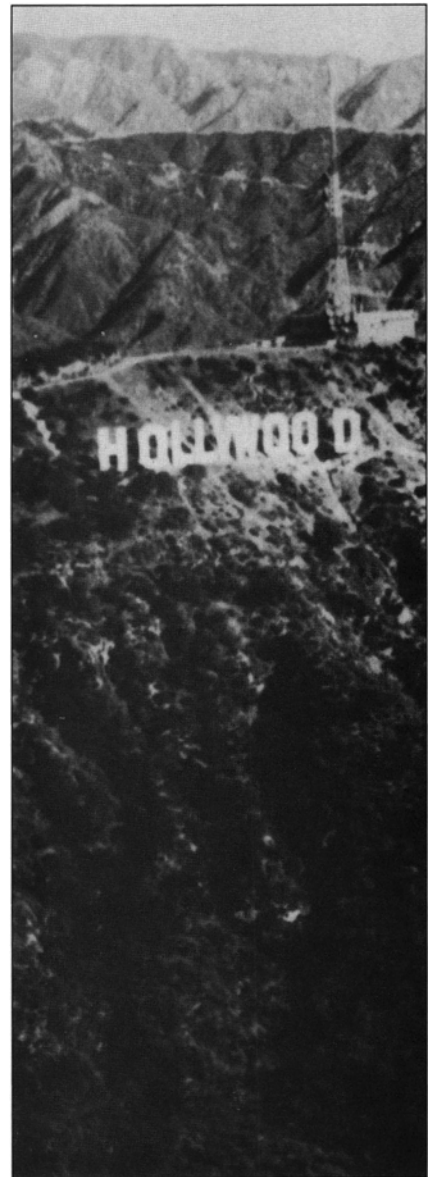
tion imaging with Xe-127, and more.

In addition to clinical education, technologists will present more than 50 scientific papers and exhibits to their colleagues. Colloquiums on DRGs, TEFRA, and the Randolph Bill will give those in attendance an opportunity to assess the state of their profession's legislative health and to confer with their peers on potential ramifications.

Science, social activities, and Los Angeles itself await those planning to attend the 31st Annual Meeting. Hotel rates range from \$39-\$94 per night. Free shuttle service is provided from each hotel to the Convention Center where the entire educational program will be held.

This year's formal opening on Tuesday, June 5 will be capped with a banquet open to all at the Los Angeles Hilton Ballroom from 7 p.m. until midnight. Cocktails, dinner, and dancing should make for a fun-filled evening.

Programs containing complete information on the scientific agenda, housing, registration, airline discounts, and L.A. tours were mailed to members in April. Additional programs are available and can be obtained by writing or telephoning the SNM Registrar, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, (212)889-0717.



The NMTCB held its spring meeting on March 13-18, 1984, in Chapel Hill, NC. At this meeting, the Board voted to hold all future Board Meetings in the city where the administrative office is located.

After conducting the Continued Competency Project, the National Council of the Technologist Section requested the NMTCB to consider providing its exam to CNMTs as a means of self-assessment in continuing education without affecting current certification status. At its spring meeting, the NMTCB agreed to offer its exam to CNMTs at a reduced fee of \$50, beginning with the June 1985 exam. The regular candidate's fee for the NMTCB exam is \$80.

The NMTCB is considering changing the eligibility requirements for its exam. Candidates who qualify for the examination with a high school education plus six years on-the-job training score significantly lower than other candidates. As a result, the Board will be evaluating this eligibility requirement over the next year. Prior to finalization of any decision, the Board of Directors requests input from the nuclear medicine community. Please send responses to the NMTCB Office, P.O. Box 1034, Stone Mountain, GA 30086 by September 1,

1984. All comments received will be reviewed by the Board at its fall meeting.

At its spring meeting, the NMTCB adopted an appeals procedure. This procedure has been published and is available through the NMTCB Office. Additionally, the Board of Directors voted to immediately withdraw its membership from the National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies (NCHCA).

The results of the NMTCB's Critical Task Survey will be presented on Tuesday, June 5 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Los Angeles at the Society's 31st Annual Meeting by the Chairman of the Exam and Task Analysis Committees of the NMTCB. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Both the Task Analysis and the Examination Matrix will be published in the near future.

Beginning in 1985, the NMTCB will offer two exams per year. The application deadline for the June 29, 1985 exam is March 16, 1985. Applications for this exam will be available late this summer. The second exam will be given September 28, 1985. Applications will be due June 15, 1985.

The NMTCB certificate has been redesigned to include the names of all organizations who currently elect mem-

bers to the Board of Directors. This includes the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), the Technologist Section of the SNM, and the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. The NMTCB pin has also been redesigned. New cloth-embroidered patches with the NMTCB logo are available through the NMTCB office.

#### ORDER NOW

NMTCB Patches to sew on uniforms and lab coats! \$3.00/patch plus \$1.00 shipping charge/order.  
NMTCB, P.O. Box 1034,  
Stone Mountain, GA 30086

Please contact the NMTCB Office with any concerns you wish to have addressed in future NMTCB Reports. Thank you for your continued support.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR NMTCB DIRECTORS

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) seeks nominations for NMTCB Directors. The term will run from January, 1985 to December, 1987. Anyone interested should contact the NMTCB Office.

# VOICE Recordkeeping System Simplified

At the Technologist Section winter meeting in Orlando last February, the National Council passed several resolutions concerning VOICE (Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education). The changes will affect sponsors of continuing education and individual technologists as well as assuring orderly and accurate recordkeeping of CEUs. The revisions to the VOICE system are as follows:

- Beginning with the SNM 31st Annual Meeting, every meeting registrant will receive an individual credit reporting form from the course sponsor for recording his or her credit. Forms may be returned to the course sponsor at the conclusion of the program or mailed directly to the New York office.
- The amount of paperwork required of CE sponsors completing the

VOICE course approval packet (specifically the faculty forms) will be reduced. A list containing the names of faculty members with CVs currently on file in the New York office will be distributed to sponsors requesting the VOICE course approval packet. Faculty members whose names appear on this list will not be required to submit a faculty form.

Only those sponsors who apply for VOICE credit and are approved will have their programs recorded on the VOICE recordkeeping system. Members who report continuing education credit received from program sponsors who did not apply for VOICE credit will not receive documentation of their attendance from VOICE. Only Technologist Section approved programs will be documented by VOICE.

Fees associated with the course approval process will increase October 1, 1984. The following flat fees will apply:

- a. Commercially sponsored meetings, \$75.00;
- b. Annual chapter meetings, \$50.00; and,
- c. Academic or hospital-based meetings, \$20.00.

The above mentioned changes to the VOICE system will improve the quality of recordkeeping and allow the system to function smoothly.

More complete information concerning the revisions to the VOICE system will be available this summer.

*—Susan Brown, CNMT,  
Chairman,  
Continuing Education Committee,  
Technologist Section*

## Committee Briefs

The Membership Committee announces a meeting of Chapter membership liaisons in Los Angeles. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- review the application process and recruitment campaign;
- discuss concerns and answer questions;

meet other liaisons, the Membership Committee, and the staff liaisons; and,

provide ideas and brainstorm on Chapter membership campaigns.

We hope to have all liaisons or their Chapter representative present at the meeting, Wednesday, June 5, 1984.

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



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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**A**t this time of year, the President of the Technologist Section traditionally reflects upon the accomplishments and shortcomings of an administration. This year has been a vital one for the Section in several areas. Economic, social, political, educational, and professional issues have been addressed by the Section with implications that, I believe, will affect the practice of nuclear medicine technology and the nuclear medicine technologist in the future.

Facing financial reality has been a foremost concern of the Section. Operating costs within the Technologist Section have been reduced significantly, resulting in a surplus at the end of fiscal year 1982-83. This is due, in part, to increased volunteer help on all Section levels: national, regional, and local Chapters. Ongoing gains during 1983-84 have been—to name a few—increased and improved relations with ACNP, NMTCB, and ASRT.

Since the Section's strength in all areas mentioned above depends on its membership strength, I am pleased to report a 1124 gain in members (an increase of 34% since 1983). This gain, in part, helped increase revenues from the sale of audiovisuals, books, and publications. The Section's Task Force on Continued Competency of Nuclear Medicine Technologists Report was completed and published (March 1984, *JNMT*). The "Legislative Guide," an instructional, advisory aid for licensure legislation for the nuclear medicine technologist will be available at the SNM 31st Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. The Section is preparing a clinical laboratory manual (in publication at this time). A radiation pro-

tection guide for nurses and hospital personnel is also being prepared. Professional self-assessment tests will be published in the *JNMT* this September.

A major project, the nuclear medicine technologist Manpower Survey, was developed in 1983 and is currently in final draft form with a scheduled fall mailing. I ask that you participate in the survey. We expect results to give needed information on salary levels, job availability, and regional employment distributions, benefiting both the technologist entering the field as well as the established technologist considering relocation.

What are our problems and what can we do about them?

To begin, wouldn't it be a credit to our profession if every practicing nuclear medicine technologist were certified by the NMTCB? Wouldn't we all gain if those who are continually dissatisfied with Section activities were to change their complaints into positive action? When was the last time you or a member of your department submitted a scientific article for publication in the *JNMT*? Or the last time you participated in a local or chapter continuing education effort? Or the last time you engaged in public relations efforts in your hospital or community? Dispel the notion that nuclear medicine is stagnating. Take a lead in asserting that we are a vital organization. Be an ambassador of your profession. In part, the creditability of our profession lies in how well we, as technologists, represent the field to patients and the community. We must have competent, well-trained, active technologists to justify additional recognition and benefits.

Technologists who are both profes-

sionally competent in state-of-the-art technology and are actively involved in legislative activities relevant to our practice will be our mainstay in the 1980's. Technologists must be able to intelligently and clearly discuss nuclear medicine practices to other hospital departments, administrators, and patients, in addition to competently performing the technology. It has become increasingly important that technologists take an active role in effectively educating legislators and the general public to enhance understanding of the field.

The nuclear medicine physician must support the nuclear medicine technologist in the continuing education process. Use the Society and the Technologist Section as an educational resource. We cannot let our profession succumb to incompetency or fall to apathy. You must get involved. You cannot assume that someone else will do it for you.

Nuclear medicine's future is indeed promising. But without goals and innovative ideas, we cannot progress against ever-increasing legislation and rapidly changing technologies.

This year I have seen a willingness by many Section members to participate in the future goals of our professional organization that is most gratifying. Next year we must continue to increase participation among members for continued success. Finally, I thank all of those people who have been so supportive through encouragement, thoughts, and efforts. Without your support, the job as Technologist Section President would not be as rewarding or successful. I thank you for the opportunity to have served as your President.