

—NMTCB REPORT—

Nancy M. Blosser, CNMT, Chairperson

Ten years old. What does that mean to you? For some it may bring to mind a rather short period of time. For others, it can mean an entire lifetime. In 1987 the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board is celebrating its 10th anniversary, a milestone for the Board and the nuclear medicine community as a whole.

For a number of years professionals in nuclear medicine had the belief that a separate credentialing mechanism should be established for nuclear medicine technologists. In 1976 the National Council of the Technologist Section—Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) passed a resolution supporting an independent nuclear medicine technologist examination board, and a task force was appointed to explore this concept. After considerable hard work on the part of that task force and many other professionals, the NMTCB was incorporated in June 1977.

By September 1978 the NMTCB conducted its first examination of candidates. The exam was held at 24 sites and 652 candidates sat for it. Over the next 5 years the NMTCB exam was offered just once a year; however, beginning in June 1985 two exams per year have been offered. These exams are currently held at approximately 70 sites in the United States and Puerto Rico.

In 1983 the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the NMTCB merged, with the NMTCB responsible for administering the examination. This merger further strengthened the certification process by adding expertise to the NMTCB Board of Directors.

To date approximately 9,750 nuclear medicine technologists have been certified by the NMTCB. There are NMTCB-certified technologists working in every state within the United States and in 11 foreign countries.

One of the strengths of the NMTCB has been and continues to be the dedicated technologists, physicians, and scientists who serve as members of the Board of Directors. A review of the records shows that 44 individuals, from a wide variety of backgrounds, have been elected to serve as Directors. They have come from 22 states.

A validation study is one of the most important undertakings of the Board of Directors in preparing a high quality examination. This study examines and verifies the body of knowledge and skills required by the entry level nuclear medicine technologist. Such information is contributed by experts from all facets of nuclear medicine. The time from initiation of the validation study and incorporation of the results into the exam is about one year. In the 10-year history of the NMTCB, two such studies have been completed and a third will be finished in 1987.

This year offers us a moment to stop and enjoy our success. Beginning in 1987 a new seal will be issued to all certificants who have been certified by the NMTCB for 10 years. It will be royal blue with gold printing—different from the regular certification seal. This seal will be issued each year to the new group of certificants reaching the 10th year certification mark with NMTCB.

As of November 1986, Dennis Park is the new NMTCB Executive Director, filling the position Barbara Horton resigned from last August. Dennis is not new to nuclear medicine; he has worked for SNM in New York City as Meetings Director. I hope many of you will have the opportunity to interact with Dennis in his new position, and I am sure you will find him a dedicated, intelligent, helpful addition to the NMTCB staff.

Our culture and the pace of our society do not permit us to dwell on the past. However, it is necessary every once in a while to reflect on where we came from and where we have been, and to acknowledge a job well done. I would urge you, therefore, during 1987 to join in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the NMTCB. If you are a 10-year certificant, proudly display your certificate with its special seal. Enjoy the moment to savor the success of your certification process. If you have been a member of the 1976–77 SNM leadership or the current SNM leadership, an item writer, an Advisory Council member, a 1976–77 or current National Council delegate, or an NMTCB board member, please join into the NMTCB's anniversary activities at the SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto in June 1987.

But what of the future? How can *you* get involved? You can become an item writer and help prepare new items for the NMTCB examination, an area in which many members of the nuclear medicine community may participate. You can become a Board member and be involved in the entire certification process. Although Board membership requires a great deal of dedication, the benefits are great, and the friendships made will last your lifetime. And this year your input is critical in the important task of another validation study. You owe it to yourself and your profession to participate in this process.

So as you can see, 10 years can be a moment in time or an entire lifetime. For the NMTCB it has been the beginning of a life, the satisfaction of a job well done, and an opportunity to stop and savor the moment. It is time to start again and look forward with renewed dedication, zeal, and hard work to another 10 years, so that we can enjoy the 20th anniversary and say again, "a job well done."

NEW NMTCB BOARD MEMBERS

Jacqueline Bridges, CNMT, Paul Cole, CNMT, Mark Crosthwaite, CNMT, and Michael Kusch, CNMT have been elected to the NMTCB Board of Directors. Helen Drew, CNMT and Barbara Park, CNMT were re-elected to the NMTCB Board of Directors.

NOMINATIONS FOR NMTCB DIRECTORS

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board is seeking nominations for NMTCB Directors from the nuclear medicine technology community. Terms for new Directors will be from January 1988 through December 1990. Persons interested in serving should contact the NMTCB Office at (404)493-4504.

1987 NMTCB EXAMINATION AND APPLICATION DEADLINES

March 21, 1987 is the application deadline
for the June 27, 1987 examination.
June 20, 1987 is the application deadline
for the September 26, 1987 examination.

ERRATUM

The December 1986 *JNMT* featured an article on National Nuclear Medicine Week. Indianapolis, Indiana should have been included among the cities listed as officially proclaiming National Nuclear Medicine Week.

IN MEMORIAM

**James Allen Senecal, CNMT
1942-1986**

Jim Senecal, CNMT died on December 26, 1986 after a 9-month struggle with lung cancer. After taking college courses at Barrington College, he completed the U.S. Air Force X-Ray Technology Training Program and shortly thereafter received a diploma for Nuclear Medicine Technology from the U.S. Naval Medical center in Bethesda, Maryland. He was discharged with distinction from the U.S. Air Force with 6 years of service.

Jim started his active nuclear medicine career in 1967 when he became a Staff Nuclear Medicine Technologist at the V.A. Medical Center in Albany, New York; he later became the Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist.

A dedicated professional, Jim became active with the New York State Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists, serving as a member of the Legislative Committee, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, and Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

From 1979 through 1983, he was involved with The Society of Nuclear Medicine, serving on both the Government Relations and the Scientific and Teaching Session Committees of the Technologist Section. From 1981 through 1983, he served as the National Council Delegate from the State of New York. Additionally, he was the Chairperson of the Task Force on the Annual Winter Meeting for the Technologist Section. His expertise in the area of government relations was an invaluable asset to the Technologist Section.

In 1982, Jim was elected to the Board of Directors of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. For the last 2 years of his life, he served on the Executive Committee of NMTCB as its Treasurer after having served as Chairperson of the Finance Committee. His many contributions to the Board were distinguished in his quality of leadership.

When Jim relocated near San Francisco, he joined the staff of the V.A. Martinez Hospital, where he was employed when he died. His career as a V.A. employee for approximately 20 years earned him a number of commendations as an outstanding employee.

Jim loved the arts, played the piano, took voice lessons in opera, and gave recitals on numerous occasions. He had strong religious convictions, but manifested them in a private way. Jim was a kind person, and everyone who knew him considered him a friend. All of our lives have been enriched by this gentle and noble person, and very few people in this world may be as fortunate as have been those of us whose lives Jim has touched.

Your Friends in Nuclear Medicine
Submitted by
George Alexander, CNMT