
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



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It is with much enthusiasm that I address you as president of the Technologist Section for 1987-88. Although exciting things are happening in nuclear medicine, there are also concerns that we will be addressing in the coming year.

National Council

At the National Council meeting during the SNM Annual Meeting last June, Immediate Past President Wayne J. Weislo, CNMT, conducted a strategic planning session. Planning sessions can be laborious and tedious, but the entire Council responded in a very positive and creative manner setting the stage for our future directions. To get things started the Council members tried to imagine what the technology in nuclear medicine departments would be like in five years. With that as the backdrop, they then "brainstormed" lists of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the Technologist Section in the future. These areas were categorized and divided into external and internal aspects. The Council then broke into small groups to develop objectives that addressed the issues. The numerous suggestions are now being forwarded to the appropriate committees for action.

Committees

Any president is only as good as his or her committees and the voluntary work that they do during the year. The Technologist Section committees are extremely ambitious this year, planning several new projects as well as continuing with many that are ongoing. Based on their plans it should be a very successful year.

The Government Relations Committee is in the process of obtaining more information from the eight states that have licensure and from those eight states with enabling legislation for licensure. Susan C. Weiss, CNMT, chairperson of the committee, also wants to strengthen the legislative network. If you have any special interest in this area, or need information, please contact Sue.

An ongoing project is the survey of the impact of diagnosis related groups (DRGs) and the Medicare prospective payment system (PPS) on nuclear medicine technologists and services.

The results of the first study were published a year ago (*J Nucl Med Technol* 1986;14:185-189). New surveys have been mailed out in order to determine trends in the delivery of nuclear medicine in the hospital setting resulting from the PPS. If you have received a survey form, please take the time to complete it. The information will be very helpful to the Section.

The Government Relations Committee will also attempt this year to contact nuclear medicine technologists in foreign countries and perhaps establish some type of international coalition.

Those of you in management positions have more than likely been asked by your hospital administration within the past several months to provide some type of productivity or efficiency measurements within your department. As a staff technologist, you may have felt the intimidation of being timed with a stopwatch as you performed your daily routine. Unfortunately, there is a very limited amount of information regarding workload studies in nuclear medicine. The Socio-Economic Affairs Committee, under the direction of Dorothy Duffy Price, CNMT, will begin a workload study this year.

Another area of concern for those in management is the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) requirement regarding quality assurance. Departments must now develop ongoing systematic methods by which they can evaluate and monitor the quality and appropriateness of their services. In addition, they must design activities to analyze and solve any problems identified. The Socio-Economic Affairs Committee will also be developing guidelines in that area. If you have any information you would like to share with the committee, or if you would like to participate in any way, please contact Duffy.

The number of nuclear medicine technology schools has decreased from 141 in 1985 to 117 as of June 1987. Corresponding with that the number of graduates has also declined (813 in 1984 to 596 in 1986) (see article on page 167). The Academic Affairs Committee is investigating the problem of recruitment into the schools. The committee, chaired by Charlene F. Rencher, CNMT, will also be investigating the use of audiovisual programs for teaching in areas such as nuclear pharmacy.

The Academic Affairs Committee will also direct the expansion of the Teaching Improvement Project System (TIPS) workshop into management programs. A module for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) instruction is currently being developed.

The Publications Committee hopes to become more aggressive in publishing. Ann M. Steves, CNMT, chairperson, is interested in your suggestions. What type of texts, primers, etc. do you need? *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology (JNMT)*, of course, continues to be our stronghold. An important task of the Committee will be the process of selecting a new Editor this year as the term of Paul E. Christian, CNMT, will end in 1988 (see page 158 for the *Call for Applications for JNMT Editor*).

The Scientific and Teachings Sessions Committee is already planning next year's meeting which will be held on June 14-17, 1988 at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, CA. Bradley K. Pounds, CNMT, chairman, will welcome your ideas for what should be an outstanding meeting.

Robert J. English, CNMT, chairman of the Continuing Education Committee, will be continuing to develop *JNMT* articles for continuing education credit. In addition, the Committee will be looking into ways of streamlining Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education (VOICE). Those of you who have participated in VOICE, through obtaining credit and/or applying for program approval, may have some suggestions for Bob.

Allied Health

We are participating in the American Society of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) study regarding the concept of independent practice in allied health. Although it is difficult for a nuclear medicine technologist to practice independently, if any of you entrepreneurs have established a type of independent practice please call me.

Task Forces on Multiple Competency and Techs in Industry

Two task forces have been established this year. The first, on multiple competency, is chaired by Sheila D. Rosenfeld, CNMT. The task force will develop a definition of multiple competency and suggest training requirements meeting this definition. The second task force is composed of commercial technologists. Technologists often leave the hospital setting for

jobs in applications or sales. Unfortunately, many who have been strong leaders in the Section find it difficult to participate after the job change. Carol Bonanno, CNMT, along with a number of commercial technologists, will investigate how the Section and the commercial technologists can benefit one another.

Nuclear Medicine Week

I hope you had a successful Nuclear Medicine Week! Again this year the response to the SNM Central Office was tremendous for guidelines packets, posters, and buttons. Without the support of the corporate sponsors, the week would not be as successful as it is. Please extend your thanks to the vendors when they call on you.

Institute of Medicine

As you may know already, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) is preparing a study of allied health professions, and we have provided them with our Manpower Study and our first DRG Survey. Last July I attended the meeting of the IOM committee preparing the study. The purpose of the public meeting was to evaluate mechanisms for controlling the quality of allied health personnel. As president of the Technologist Section I reported on current regulations and certification of the nuclear medicine technologist, and our concerns regarding closure of schools and loss of graduates. While in Washington, DC I also attended the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) House of Delegates meeting.

Membership

Our membership rolls decreased slightly (4%) this year. The response cards received from those not renewing their membership indicated that the majority of those who discontinued did so because of dues or having left the field. The Membership Committee, chaired by Paul D. Cole, CNMT, reminds the technologists currently listed as Full or Associate members that they may decrease their dues with a change in membership status to Technologist member.

I look forward to meeting many of you as I attend chapter and regional meetings this year. Please remember this is *your* organization and you must communicate your wants and needs to the leadership. As you can surmise, the committees have several projects underway, many of which you can participate in, or at least interject your opinions and suggestions. Please let me hear from you this year.