

MESSAGE FROM THE P R E S I D E N T

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Congratulations and happy 25th anniversary to nuclear medicine technologists world wide. The Technologist Section has completed a quarter century of outstanding development and leadership. And work is under way for the next 25 years as the Technologist Section sets two major goals.

■ **SNM-TS Goals.** Our first goal is to work with other professional organizations to establish core competencies which include nuclear medicine technology. Towards this end, the National Council voted to join the National Consortium of Health Science and Technology Education. This consortium seeks to align with Far West Project Phase II to establish core competencies. Then the consortium wants to take these competencies to 13 or 15 state participants as the new curriculum for the professions. The consortium would like to minimize government and state regulation, monitor and expand core competencies/curriculum, and explore a private certification process.

I believe establishing a core competencies/curriculum will benefit the nuclear medicine technology profession. It will create avenues between disciplines and allow technologists to add competencies to their skill mix. This will in turn enhance the employability of technologists in the health care industry.

The second goal of the Technologist Section is to educate government officials and medical directors of managed care networks about nuclear medicine technology. To reach these key people, a Task Force on the Future of Nuclear Medicine Technology, with members from the SNM-TS, JRCNMT and NMTCB, has begun defining skill mixes and competencies for nuclear medicine technologists. These guidelines will demonstrate that consumer and worker safety may be ensured by employing qualified nuclear medicine technologists.

■ **Networking Meeting.** Last October, allied health professionals were invited by the SNM-TS to network at a meeting in Washington, DC. The success of this meeting caused a second meeting to be planned. This next meeting has been expanded to one and a half days and the number of participants has increased. The goal of this meeting is to define a common concern that will generate an action agenda with a time table.

■ **Government Relations Forum.**

The Technologist Section is planning a day and a half legislative forum for early fall to be held in Dallas, TX. The forum will help the SNM-TS become a more dominant force at the state level. Each chapter will send a representative who will receive a legislative handbook. This book will provide each representative with state government representatives, information on how to monitor state legislation and tips on how to approach state legislators.

■ **SNM-TS Dues Increase.** With careful money management, the Technologist Section has continued to provide the services that its members have come to expect. To continue providing

these benefits, however, the National Council approved a nominal, \$10, raise in dues – the first increase in five years.

■ **SNM-TS 25th Anniversary.** A highlight of the June Technologist Section Business Meeting was recognition of the first 25 presidents. These technologists had the foresight to establish an organization to meet the educational and legislative needs of the nuclear medicine technologist community.

The grand finale of the 25th anniversary celebration in Minneapolis was the technologist party. There was something for everyone with dancing, food and entertainment. During the band's intermission, celebrants were surprised and delighted as fellow technologists and physicians demonstrated their true talents. Few of us knew that our associates were really opera singers, pianists and standup comedians.

I want to thank the members of the 25th Anniversary Committee for their effort and hard work. It is truly appreciated. Also, thanks go to the vendors for their support. I hope you got some mementos of our celebration. Mugs, pens, stickers and posters are still available.

As the Technologist Section moves toward 50 years of service, we must continue to strengthen our position in the health care industry and to become an ever more important part of the Society. I look forward to serving you and being a part of this effort.