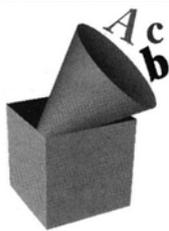


■ VOICE Box



by **Marcia Ferg**
*Continuing Education Manager,
SNM Education Department*

JNMT Continuing Education Tests

JNMT contains at least one continuing education (CE) article in each issue. After you read each CE article, take the test and submit it to our office in Reston for CE credit. This is an excellent way to obtain your CE credit at home. Remember that we have an on-line version of the *JNMT* CE exams at our web site www.snm.org, just click on Education and Research. This is still a new service, so if you encounter any problems please let us know.

Please keep these points in mind when submitting your exam:

- Mail your exam *or* fax it. *Do not do both.* Doing so creates double work and may cause your transcript to have a double entry.
- We occasionally receive faxed exams that we cannot read. The exam has had a gray background that sometimes faxes as black and obscures all information, including your name and how to reach you. We have changed the exam page to a plain white background to eliminate the problem in the future.
- The *due date* is included because the answers are printed in the next *JNMT*. The due date is scheduled before the next issue is delivered. That's why it's important that you mail or fax your exam to us before that date.
- SNM-TS members have their transcripts updated to reflect the exams they've taken. If you are audited, contact our office for a confirmation letter.
- Nonmembers must submit their exams with a \$10 processing fee per exam. They receive a confirmation letter.

Backup Documentation Reminder

As soon as you get your transcript, make sure you have a matching piece of backup documentation for each item on the transcript. For example, if you attend a VOICE-approved meeting, the VOICE credit reporting forms have a section at the bottom that you are to keep for your records. Some program directors create their own certificates to hand out at the meeting or to mail out after the course. In any case, the documentation should contain the following:

- Title of the activity;
- Date(s) of attendance or participation;
- Number of contact hours;
- Name of the sponsor;
- Authorized signature, (my signature *or* the program director's signature); and
- Reference number assigned by a Recognized Continuing Education Evaluating Mechanism (RCEEM). The RCEEM's are: SNM-TS, ASRT, SDMS, ACR, AHRA and CAMRT. (See your December 1997 *JNMT* VOICE Box for more information on back-up documentation.)

Don't forget we're here to help *you*. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Let me know if there is a question you'd like to see answered in VOICE Box.

CE Contacts

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■ Government Relations Update

by **David Nichols**, *Director ACNP/SNM Government Relations Office*

Government Relations Committee Meeting Highlights

The ACNP/SNM Government Relations Committee met on January 31, 1998, in Las Vegas to review its 1997 accomplishments and discuss goals for 1998. As outlined in the 1997 Government Relations Committee annual report (available on the SNM web site at www.snm.org), the Government Relations Office either completed or made significant progress toward accomplishing each of its 1997 goals. These goals were:

- Pushing for general licensure for diagnostic and therapeutic agents regulated by the NRC;
- Implementing fast-track approval from the FDA for diagnostic cancer agents;
- Implementing legislation governing the approval process for radiopharmaceuticals and other issues such as pharmacy compounding and PET; and
- Monitoring and disseminating information on issues pertinent to nuclear medicine.

Looking forward to 1998, the committee discussed a variety of issues affecting nuclear medicine and established new goals for the year. Following discussions on the FDA, the NRC and the DOE, the committee set the following goals for 1998:

- Continue to work with the NRC to eliminate unnecessary regulations affecting diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine;
- Work with the FDA to implement the portions of the 1997 FDA reform bill affecting nuclear medicine;
- Increase nuclear medicine research funding governed by the DOE; and
- Continue to monitor and disseminate information on issues pertinent to nuclear medicine.

NRC Update

The NRC has finished receiving comments from the regulated community and other stakeholders, completing the drafting stage of the process of revising 10 CFR Part 35. As reviewed by Catherine Haney, chair of the NRC 10 CFR 35 working group, at the SNM House of Delegates Meeting February 1, 1998, the draft rulemaking contained several important changes to the current 10 CFR 35. The document was reviewed by a task force chaired by SNM President H. William Strauss, MD, to develop positions on such important issues as training and experience for authorized users.

The task force, which worked right up until the March 1 deadline, concluded that the NRC should remove itself from evaluating clinical competence and focus only on radiation safety. The SNM made three recommendations to the NRC about training and experience:

1. SNM identified more than 10 topics that users should be educated in to ensure competency in radiation safety only.
2. SNM would ensure competency in these topics through an examination developed and administered by a third party. In recognition of the fact that individuals' aptitudes vary,

neither a minimum nor a maximum number of hours was included for this section.

3. SNM also felt it was important to require some handling and practical experience for nuclear medicine. This could be accomplished through either an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-approved course or a graduate-level course at an accredited institution. Once again, a specific number of hours was not prescribed; instead, the focus was on subject areas deemed important to understanding radiation safety.

The NRC working group now has approximately two months to collate comments and develop a proposed rule for the commission's approval. It is expected that the NRC will publish an official proposed rule in the *Federal Register* in May 1998. It is likely that there will be another series of workshops over the summer, with the comment period closing in the fall. The Government Relations Office will continue to closely monitor this topic and provide regular updates through the SNM web site at www.snm.org.

■ W. Roger Ney Retires from NCRP

For the first time since its creation in 1964, the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) is not being led by W. Roger Ney. In June 1997 Ney resigned as executive director. "I have been fortunate to work with many national and world leaders in radiation protection and measurement science," Ney said. He is succeeded by William M.



Becker, who previously served as deputy executive director.

Ney has been involved in NCRP activities since 1959 when he joined the staff of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) Division of Radiation Physics, where the NCRP's predecessor organization then was located. Ney will continue his activities as chief operating officer of the International Commission on Radiation Units

and Measurements (ICRU), which he has managed along with his NCRP duties since 1962. He also will remain a consultant to the NCRP on a part-time basis and will work out of the NCRP offices.

A native of Rockford, IL, Ney was born in 1929 as the son of Swedish immigrants. His father was a machinist and Wil Ney prepared to follow that trade. Following high school, he found a job at the Forest City Bit and Tool Company and quickly became the president of its local machinist union. In 1951 Ney was drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned to the signal corps. As a radio repairman, he first encountered radiation detection instruments and had his first exposure to physics. "When I read

my first physics textbook, I knew what I wanted to do with my life," Ney remembers.

Following his military service, Ney went to summer school to cram college preparatory courses in science. He was accepted as a physics major at Yale University in 1953. During two college summers he worked in temporary assignments at the NBS. He began graduate studies at the University of Rochester in the fall of 1957 but dropped out to get married. The need to support his new family led him back to the NBS and an assignment in the metrology laboratory.

Ney soon decided to study law on a part-time basis at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC. He thought there were parallels in the precision required in law and in physics that he would find interesting. He completed his Juris Doctor degree in 1964 after serving on the school's law review journal. He considered switching his employment to the law but was recruited to the NBS Division of Radiation Physics by Lauriston S. Taylor, founder and chief of the division. Taylor promptly involved Ney in the activities of the NCRP and the ICRU, which were centered at the NBS. Ney also became the staff officer for the publication of NBS handbooks on radiation safety, the predecessors to the NCRP reports.

After concerns were expressed about the propriety of a federal agency operating a voluntary standard-setting organization, the NCRP was separated from the NBS in 1964. The NCRP received a federal charter from Congress to operate in the public interest. Ney and his secretary became the newly independent organization's first employees late that year. They rented a one-room office near the NBS laboratory in northwest Washington, DC.

Ney says that growth was steady, if slow. Both the scientific societies and several federal agencies provided financial support to the NCRP. Today the NCRP has offices in Bethesda, MD with a staff of 18 who work with more than 400 volunteer members of the council and its expert committees. The NCRP's current annual budget is approximately \$2 million.

In 1966, the NCRP took over publication of the report series, beginning with Report 32. In addition to the reports, the NCRP now also publishes proceedings of its annual meeting and special workshops and issues brief commentaries on other radiation matters. The council's activities expanded beyond ionizing radiation to include ultrasound, electromagnetic fields.

In recent years much of the NCRP's financial support from federal agencies has come in the form of specific contracts to prepare needed policy positions. The NCRP also has attempted to project its services beyond the scientific community to serve as a resource for public information about radiation problems. NCRP reports in 1984 on the prevalence of radon were among the first efforts to alert citizens to the danger of naturally occurring radiation in homes and work places. Perhaps the most widely quoted NCRP reports are those which provide current estimates of population exposures from various radiation sources.

■ News Briefs

Calling All Technologists

Take advantage of a unique opportunity at the SNM Annual Meeting to learn how to communicate with members of Congress. With national licensure on the legislative horizon you

will be called upon to communicate your views to Congress. Joe Gagen, a respected congressional specialist, will give a presentation on Sunday, June 7, 1998 from 12-3 p.m. Learn with other technologists as Gagen explains the ins and outs of getting your message up to Capitol Hill. This presentation is a must for anyone involved with the legislative network. Contact Amanda Sullivan at 703-708-9773 for more information.

Los Alamos/Russians Team to Supply Heart Scan Isotope

Scientists at DOE's Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Institute of Nuclear Research (INR) in Troitsk, Russia are providing thousands of heart disease patients nationwide with a supply of ^{82}Sr . Currently all three North American facilities capable of producing the irradiated metal sources, or targets, for the isotope are shut down for system upgrades or repairs until June.

The collaboration between Los Alamos and the Russian nuclear research institute helps ensure a reliable source of ^{82}Sr for all the cardiac care clinics doing PET imaging. A routine production schedule has been achieved despite constant battles against import, export and shipping procedures. The work is also a race around the world against the unrelenting decay rate of the radioisotope itself because each passing day means that another 3% of the valuable material is lost.

Los Alamos spearheaded a collaboration beginning in 1995 with the INR in Troitsk, where a particle accelerator the Russians designed for medium-energy physics experiments can be used for production of targets. The partnership was supported by the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (IPP) program with encouragement from DOE's Office of Isotope Production and Distribution.

Funded by the DOE, the IPP program teams U.S. industry, universities and national laboratories with institutes in the former Soviet Union to develop potential commercial partnerships. The medical isotope program has become a source of revenue for all the partners and a success story for the IPP. The Russian institute is incorporated into the global isotope market while its scientists are dissuaded from selling their nuclear expertise to rogue nations.

Los Alamos and Brookhaven national laboratories produce ^{82}Sr part of the year, and Canada has one production source. With the

FDA-approved Russian supply, hospitals can depend on having their demands for the isotope met throughout the year.

P.E.T.Net and Geodax Technology to Open New Radiopharmaceutical Manufacturing and Distribution Site

P.E.T.Net Pharmaceutical Services, LLC (Norcross, GA) announced plans to open a new positron radiopharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution site in Baltimore. P.E.T.Net is working with Mid-Atlantic Isotopes, Inc., a division of Geodax Technology, Inc. (Greensboro, NC), to form P.E.T.Net Mid-Atlantic, LLC. P.E.T.Net Mid-Atlantic will be located adjacent to the current Mid-Atlantic Isotopes facility near Baltimore Washington International Airport. The opening of the new site is scheduled for late summer 1998. James H. Monaco, president and COO of P.E.T.Net, stated, "Currently we are serving the mid-Atlantic area from our New York facility. Opening the Baltimore site helps us to better serve our customers, lowers transportation costs for customers in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC and allows us to increase the number of customers we can serve."

P.E.T.Net's primary radiopharmaceutical is FDG. P.E.T.Net currently operates 12 positron manufacturing and distribution centers throughout the U.S., manages a positron imaging facility in Sacramento, CA and is expanding to additional locations. Geodax Technology owns and operates 15 radiopharmacies in 10 states that supply radioisotopes and related services to the nuclear medicine community.

BARCO Receives FDA Approval for Imaging Display

BARCO (Orlando, FL) recently received certification approval 510(k) from the FDA for the BARCO MWD321 medical workstation display. The BARCO TrueGrey MWD321 is a multimodality color monitor that offers a clear base/blue base medical film simulation function which allows the viewer to see the diagnostic information displayed in their preferred color mode. The MWD321 was designed for a variety of medical imaging applications requiring consistently accurate grayscale images as well as long-term color stability. With its broad range of diagnostic features, the MWD321 is suited for applications such as modality viewing (CT, MRI, nuclear medicine), ultrasound mini-PACS and image fusion.