

Empowering Technologists, Elevating Care

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In 2023, as I contemplated running for the presidency of the Technologist Section, I reflected deeply on my vision for the future of nuclear medicine and how this leadership role could serve as a conduit for my passion. With a strong sense of purpose and commitment to the profession, I embarked on my presidency with the following goals:

1. Educating Students on Nuclear Medicine Careers

We must shift from promoting nuclear medicine as a “job” to presenting it as a meaningful, lifelong career. By educating high school and college students, we can inspire the next generation of technologists. Tools like the “A Day in the Life of a Nuclear Medicine Technologist,” “My Why: Advocacy Through Volunteerism,” and “My Career Path” videos—as well as examples of career progression frameworks—help paint a comprehensive picture of our profession’s potential.

2. Collaborating on Education That Reflects the Present and Future

We have seen tremendous evolution in molecular imaging and targeted radiopharmaceutical therapies. Collaborative educational content that mirrors this shift is essential—such as video demonstrations of newly approved therapies, expert-driven “Pearls and Pitfalls,” and modular education resources. These should be bundled and offered as member benefits to elevate clinical practice and continuing education.

3. Improving the User Experience on the SNMMI Website

Members need intuitive access to relevant resources. We have envisioned a bundled product experience that delivers up-to-date *JNMT* and *JNM* articles, webinars, reimbursement guidance, implementation tools, and professional development content in a way that supports real-time decision-making and growth.

As my presidency enters its final stretch, I feel immense pride in what we have achieved—yet I know the work is far from over.

One of the most energizing initiatives this year was the launch of the Nuclear Medicine Ambassadors Program (Nuclear MAP). During Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Week, we invited members to elevate awareness, educate their communities, and engage students and professionals in our field. In just the first phase, we welcomed 14 ambassadors and received 37 student submissions across 3 key areas for ambassadors:

- **Educational Outreach:** Presented at conferences, led webinars, partnered with schools, and brought nuclear medicine career opportunities directly to students
- **Networking:** Facilitated connections that fostered collaboration, mentorship, and exposure to the latest advancements in our field
- **Advocacy:** Participated in both grassroots and national advocacy efforts to support nuclear medicine’s growth and integration into health systems

All ambassador hosts were entered into a drawing for a trip to the 2025 SNMMI Annual Meeting in New Orleans,

and I am excited to congratulate Amy Brady (University of Alabama, Birmingham) as the winner of the fall phase.

Student engagement was equally inspiring. I extend heartfelt congratulations to Skylar Etten (University of Iowa), Allison Mitola (Northwestern Memorial Hospital NM Schools), Brooke McKenney (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), Alec Bergstad (Kaiser Permanente School of Allied Health), and Sean Dang (GateWay Community College) for their outstanding submissions showcasing how they discovered nuclear medicine and what they love about it. Phase II of the Nuclear MAP officially launched on World Theranostics Day, March 31, 2025, with new rounds of raffles and project funding.

At this year’s SNMMI Hill Day, more than 65 members—including technologists, physicians, and patients—met with legislators to advocate for key policies, research funding, and innovation. Representatives Neal Dunn and Ami Bera were recognized as the 2025 Legislative Champions for their dedication to advancing the role of nuclear medicine in modern health care.

I was fortunate to accompany a patient and patient advocate to Capitol Hill to share their personal story and elevate awareness of nuclear medicine’s critical role in precision medicine. These stories remind us why advocacy is so vital—because behind every procedure and protocol is a person. We are on the cusp of extraordinary diagnostic and therapeutic advancements. By attending advocacy events and partnering with patient advocates, we speak not just for ourselves but for every patient who will benefit from access to nuclear medicine. Advocacy matters in medicine because it empowers patients, improves health care access and outcomes, and addresses systemic issues affecting health and well-being. It is one of the most powerful tools we have to help build a more equitable and effective health care system.

We have also made significant progress in preparing technologists for their role in theranostics. During the 2025 Mid-Winter Meeting, the SNMMI-TS Executive Board approved the “Role and Qualifications of Nuclear Medicine Technologists on the Theranostic Team” white paper. This document outlines what technologists are currently doing in radiopharmaceutical therapy, what is permitted under



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existing guidelines, and what is on the horizon. It serves as a foundation for collaboration with allied organizations, such as the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the American Society for Radiation Oncology, as we continue to advocate for our role in this transformative area of care.

To support technologists in gaining familiarity and confidence in emerging therapies, we have also completed 15 therapy microvideos focused on key concepts, workflows, safety considerations, and best practices in radiopharmaceutical therapy. These short, targeted learning tools are designed to be accessible and practical for technologists across diverse clinical settings.

Additionally, we are excited to announce the launch of four new Technologist Theranostic Tumor Boards. These boards will serve as collaborative, interdisciplinary forums designed to elevate the role of the nuclear medicine technologist in clinical theranostics planning and implementation: BAMF in May 2025, Banner Health in August 2025, MD Anderson in October/November 2025, and Austin Outpatient in December 2025. These new boards represent a significant step forward in positioning technologists as clinical contributors within the theranostic care model and expanding peer-to-peer learning and mentorship opportunities.

Looking ahead, I am honored to serve as guest editor for the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology Theranostics Supplement*, slated for publication in December 2025. This issue will showcase the impact technologists are making worldwide and reinforce the value of their expertise in theranostics.

Finally, I want to thank the incredible volunteers who powered every initiative this year. With more than 243 committee volunteers, our energy and progress have been nothing short of remarkable. Our committee chairs showed tireless leadership in advancing our strategic goals and supporting our profession's growth.

This year has reaffirmed what I have always believed: When we lead with passion, purpose, and partnership, we can move mountains. And in nuclear medicine, we do not just imagine the future—we build it.

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