

## ***The Shape of NMT to Come Is the Topic Of National Conference at Rockville, MD***

Sponsored by the Bureau of Radiation Health, the National Conference on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology took place in Rockville, MD, May 10-12. The Conference's objectives were to review and evaluate the present overall national education programs for nuclear medicine technologists and to develop suggestions and recommendations for the continued strength and improvement of these efforts.

Proceedings began with a Conference Challenge delivered by Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Dr. Wagner defined four challenges facing the field today:

- The role of the general nuclear medicine technologist in contrast to the specialist NMT;
- The role the community colleges are to have in training NMTs as opposed to the NMT education four-year colleges can provide;
- The rewards and demands of the profession—how to maintain nuclear medicine technology's appeal and continue to recruit quality personnel;
- Better definition of career opportunities—through upgraded job descriptions.

Formulating responses to these and other challenges could not of course be accomplished in a three-day meeting but all contributions to the Conference are now being reviewed and will be published early this fall. The *Proceedings* will contain the summation of the conference.

Four workshops—Administration, Curriculum, Manpower, and External Influences—made up the bulk of the Conference and nuclear medicine technologists were very much in evidence in each.

### **Increased NMT Visibility**

Some of the Section participants, their Technologist Section offices, and their area of input were: Marleen Moore, Continuing Education Committee Chairperson—Curriculum; Louis Izzo, Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson—Administration; Dorothy Duffy Price, Government Affairs Committee Chairperson—Manpower; and James K. Langan, Section President, who gave a brief synopsis of the process by which the Section has become the leading provider of education and continuing education services to the NMT community—External Influences.

Additionally, Mark Muilenburg, Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) Chairman, outlined the Board's development to the External Influences workshop. Susan Weiss, President-Elect of the Section, is serving as recorder for this workshop; each recorder will supervise his workshop's contribution to the *Proceedings*.

The Conference will be discussed in greater detail in the course of the Educator's Forum, which will be held at the SNM 25th Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 29, in the Fullerton Room of the Anaheim Convention Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

## ***On to California...***

The biggest and best ever. This is the prediction for the Society of Nuclear Medicine's 25th Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Attendance at the Silver Anniversary Meeting is expected to go well over the 6,000 mark; this is in significant and pleasing contrast to the First Annual Meeting, held in Seattle, WA in 1954, which had some 150 participants.

The Scientific Program of the Technologist Section reflects this growth. Michael Cianci, Chairman of the Technologist Section's Scientific Program Committee, 1977-78, reports that abstracts for the submitted scientific papers portion of this year's program were received in record numbers. And the Technologist Section has contributed to this growth. Currently the fastest-growing branch of the Society, the Section will announce the results of the first phase of the membership drive, directed by President-Elect and Membership Committee Chairperson Susan Weiss, during the Technologist Party, to take place Tuesday night, June 27, at Knott's Berry Farm. Both the individual and the Chapter responsible for the greatest number of new members will be spotlighted.

One innovation of the Anaheim Meeting is the "Educator's Forum," which Louis Izzo, Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson, has arranged. The Forum will be held Thursday, June 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Fullerton Room of the Anaheim Convention Center. This will be an opportunity for nuclear medicine technology educators to meet and exchange ideas and all technologists are invited. Mark Muilenburg, president of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB), will be a guest speaker.

Don't forget the Technologists Hospitality Suite, which will be located in the Convention Center and open throughout the meeting hours. Meet your hosts—the technologists of the Southern California Chapter—as well as technologists from across the country.

## **Tennessee NMTs Tackle Licensure Question at State Level**

Although organized less than one year ago, the Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists (TSNMT) is currently involved in a major effort to write an NMT licensure bill. While this is often a formidable task for even well-established state chapters of the Technologist Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Tennessee nuclear medicine technologists felt compelled to respond to a licensure bill proposed by the Tennessee Society of Radiologic Technologists (TSRT), which licensed themselves to perform both x-ray and nuclear medicine procedures. Further, the bill did not define the role of the nuclear medicine technologist in the use of ionizing radiation and it did not provide for any NMT representation in the board of examiners it proposed to oversee technologist licensure.

Alerted to this situation in late November 1977, Harold D. Hodges, a research associate at Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Oak Ridge, TN, and the first President of the TSNMT, began an intensive campaign to alter the bill. Because the bill was scheduled to be presented to the Tennessee legislature in mid-January 1978, a quick response was necessary.

### **Fuzzy Distinctions**

The main problem with the TSRT bill—that it did not clearly and distinctly define and represent the two separate technologies of radiology and nuclear medicine—is a recurring one and because of this, Mr. Hodges thinks that the TSNMT's experience would be of interest to all nuclear medicine technologists.

Immediately after obtaining a copy of the TSRT bill, Mr. Hodges sent copies of it to officers, the board of directors, and several members of the TSNMT.

Then Barbara K. Horton, President of the Southeastern Chapter,

*Harold Hodges: "One of the most significant things about our whole ordeal is the way in which members of the TSNMT reacted when suddenly confronted with this problem..."*

Technologist Section, SNM, and Douglas Anderson, Chairman of the Technologist Section's Legislative Committee for the Southeastern Chapter were contacted. They received copies of the bill and helped to formulate specific objections to it. At the same time, all members of the TSNMT were asked—in a grass roots effort—to read and comment upon the bill.

Mr. Anderson and Ms. Horton advised Mr. Hodges to meet with Tennessee State Representative Keith Bissell and Senator Anna Belle O'Brien, influential health legislators. Mr. Hodges did meet with the state legislators and conveyed his Society's opposition to the bill. At the same time, TSNMT members were beginning to provide their feedback on the bill.

During this same time span—between first becoming aware of the bill and the January date for which it was scheduled to be introduced in the legislature—nuclear medicine technologists across the state were urged to write to their Representa-

tive and Senate legislators to voice their objections to the bill. It was stressed that letters should be personally written, not form letters, to present a professional image.

It is noteworthy, Mr. Hodges says, that the TSNMT received letters from legislators from across the entire state acknowledging letters from TSNMT members and their opposition to the TSRT bill. Many legislators assured Mr. Hodges that they would not vote on the TRST bill without further consultation with the TSNMT, after having been informed of the NMT's objections.

### **NMT/RT Meeting**

To complement this approach, which was aimed at blocking early passage of the bill, Mr. Hodges also made arrangements to meet with the TSRT and discuss the bill.

A joint meeting between representatives of nuclear medicine technologists and radiologic technologists was held in late December. The



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## The VOICE Box

Six CEU courses and over one hundred opportunities to earn VUE and PAR credits towards the VOICE Certificate of Achievement are available to technologists at the SNM Annual Meeting in Anaheim.

In addition to VOICE credits, the Technologist Section Continuing Education Committee has requested program approval from the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the American Society of Medical Technologists (ECE and PACE credit).

Technologists earn CEUs by attending all sessions of any of the six approved courses in Education, Management, RIA, and Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine, and by successfully completing the required examinations or projects.

VUEs are earned after successful completion of an examination or project that serves as the conclusion to a designated portion of an approved program. Certain portions of CEU programs have been specifically designed for VUE candidates.

### How to Earn PAR Credit

PAR credits can be earned by:

- Attendance at sessions of CEU programs without participation in or without successful completion of the final examination or project.
- Attendance at any individual scientific session in either the technologist or physician program (1-hour minimum attendance required).
- Participation in Exhibit Rounds under the direction of Jan K. Siemsen, MD.
- Independent visits to scientific exhibits or each of the poster sessions, or both (1-hour minimum attendance required).
- Presentation of scientific papers or exhibits, or both.
- Participation in workshops or scientific sessions as moderator, course director, or instructor.

The details concerning credit applications are explicitly outlined in the Technologist Section portion of the SNM 25th Annual Meeting Program.

In addition to the courses themselves, there are many other VOICE-related events for technologists attending the 25th Annual Meeting.

**The Awards Ceremony.** VOICE members who have earned a total of 150 points in accordance with the Certificate of Achievement qualifications within 2 years of VOICE membership (verified by

National Office VOICE records as of May 15) will be announced and presented with certificates during the meeting. Your registration packet will contain a notice with more details about the awards ceremony.

**The Education Workshop.** Are you aware of Standard V of the February 1978 edition of the *Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*, which says, "The medical staff shall participate in a program of continuing education." Are you meeting this requirement? Is your hospital? Let us help you do it! Workshop leaders will show you how to develop education programs including weekly in-service meetings, state chapter meetings, bi-annual national chapter meetings, and the annual meeting itself. See the program for further course description information.

**The Educator's Forum.** The perfect opportunity for administrators and instructors to meet and discuss nuclear medicine technology training programs as they exist today and what they may entail in the future. Learn in detail what was accomplished at the National Conference on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology that took place May 10-12 in Rockville, MD.

**VOICE Information Panel.** As usual, there will be a VOICE information meeting for all local VOICE representatives and all interested members and prospective members. Technologists' registration packets will have the details of this meeting. The philosophy and administrative details of the system will be explained and members of the VOICE Committee will be on hand to answer your questions.

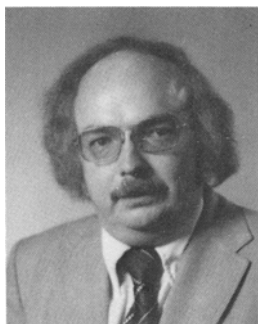
**The VOICE Booth.** If you can't attend the Information Panel, be sure and stop by the Information Booth, open throughout the meeting, for the latest VOICE Up-Date and other policy explanations.

In related matters, the Continuing Education Committee is delighted to announce that VOICE membership is expected to break the 2,000 mark during the meeting. The Committee would also like to announce that following the June election of Section officers and committee chairpersons, a change in committee membership is also mandated. If you are interested in participating in the Continuing Education Committee, please contact incoming Section President Sue Weiss, Committee Chairperson Marleen Moore, or Education Coordinator, Karen J. Chang as soon as possible in care of the National Office.

## Message from the President

As nuclear medicine technology increases in complexity, our educational programs need to be re-examined to see if they still meet the needs of the profession. Today technologists need to understand computer technology, radioimmunoassay procedures, and administration, as well as how to perform imaging studies. Therefore, more emphasis should be placed on developing baccalaureate degree programs in nuclear medicine technology. We need to develop a curriculum for these programs so that the student is introduced to the science of nuclear medicine early in the program.

Two-year programs are still needed and we must increase our efforts to make certain that they are of high quality and adhere to the requirements



described in the *Essentials* for nuclear medicine programs. But this is no longer enough. We need four-year programs as well.

As "on-the-job training" is being phased out, we may need new programs. We must ensure that they are of high standards. The Technologist Section is developing a forum for educational directors that I hope will evolve into a council of educational directors within the Section. Through high quality educational programs, we can continue to grow in our profession.

Since this is my last Presidential message, I would like to thank all of you for your support. This year has been an enjoyable and rewarding one for me, particularly because of the new people I've met and the constant help of everyone. I hope you will agree that it's been a good year.

JAMES K. LANGAN  
The Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore, Maryland

## Tennessee NMTs Outspoken in State Licensure Bill Debate

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three-hour meeting, Mr. Hodges recalls, was cordial but it became apparent that the nuclear medicine technologists' original intent—to rewrite the bill and include nuclear medicine technology as a separate profession—was unfeasible. The TSRT, in response to the wishes of its membership, wanted to present the bill to the legislature sometime in January. The TSNMT thought that this deadline did not allow enough time for them to restructure pertinent areas of the bill, and therefore recommended that all references to nuclear medicine technologists be deleted from the TSRT bill.

This was agreed to by the radiologic technologists, with the understanding that the TSNMT would support the TSRT's efforts to promote radiologic technologists licensure. Additionally, the TSNMT

would also notify legislators previously contacted of this decision.

The next step was for the Tennessee nuclear medicine technologists to write their own licensure bill and this has been an ongoing concern for the Society for the last several months. Intensive research and cooperative efforts among TSNMT members, as well as discussions with physicians, legislators, and other concerned parties have been taking place.

### Separate Bills

"We regret that we could not work out a joint bill with the TSRT," Mr. Hodges says, "but because of the different work responsibilities of technologists in both groups, it might be just as well that NMT licensure not be included in the radiologic technologists' bill but on the separate bill that we are now writing."

Valerie Maner, a nuclear medicine technologist at Oak Ridge Hospital

was appointed by Mr. Hodges to be chairperson of the TSNMT Licensure Committee that is drafting the NMT bill. Robert Bowen of Nashville and Susan Taylor of Memphis are the other members of this committee.

Mr. Hodges summarizes the events: "One of the most significant things about our whole ordeal is the way in which members of the TSNMT reacted when suddenly confronted with this problem. It reminded me of a very close-knit family reacting to an emergency.

"Everyone called upon made some kind of contribution toward solving the problem and they did it willingly, efficiently, and enthusiastically.

"I cannot find words to express my appreciation for the support received from the members of the TSNMT. We really have unbelievable talent among our membership and this situation simply acted as a stimulus to bring us all together."

## **Washington Update**

### **CLIA Making Progress**

During the past year, much has been said and done about proposed new legislation intended to substantially strengthen existing federal statutes governing the operation of clinical laboratories.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy's version of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act recently passed by the Senate is of special interest to nuclear medicine technologists. It would provide the basis upon which administrators of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare could develop new regulations governing everything from definitions of the technician/technologist and their respective certifications of competency, to methods for inspection (announced or otherwise) to assure that standards of quality are met.

Similarly, Rep. Paul G. Rogers's version of the act has now been approved by the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, and joint jurisdictional hearings have been concluded by Rep. Dan Rostenkowski's Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health. While House and Senate versions differ in a number of respects, presently both versions remain essentially similar with regard to their applicability to technicians'/technologists' eligibility and review provisions, as well as to provisions for governance of standards of practice. It is likely that the act will proceed to the full House of Representatives during the next month, where a great deal of attention will be focused on a number of professional groups who are strongly opposed to the legislation, either in part or in whole. However, it is unlikely that any significant changes can be engineered at that point.

Therefore, House- and Senate-passed versions will probably arrive at a conference committee during mid- to late summer. In a subsequent issue of *JNMT* following adoption of the final version of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act, a more detailed description of the provisions of the act, which will have applicability to the practice of nuclear medicine technology, will be provided.

### **Radiation Safety Hearings**

Beginning in March 1978, Rep. Paul G. Rogers, Chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, launched a series of oversight hearings into environmental radiation resulting from nuclear weapons testing and other non-natural

sources and the effect of this radiation on human beings.

The hearings began as a result of concerns felt by Rep. Tim Lee Carter, ranking minority member of the Rogers subcommittee, for his constituents in Kentucky who had been exposed to nuclear weapons testing procedures during the 1950s and had subsequently developed forms of cancer but been denied benefits for these service-related illnesses by the Veterans Administration. Media coverage of these hearings has been extensive. To date, the Rogers subcommittee has not yet approached medical applications of radiation.

However, virtually all aspects of testimony taken during more than six days of hearings, together with lines of questioning being developed by the subcommittee members, all make it very clear that eventually the subcommittee plans to include medical applications within the scope of its activities. Exactly when this year this will take place remains to be seen.

What is clear at this point is that Congressional health legislators are becoming increasingly interested in the subject of radiation and its effects on human subjects. Whether their interest stems solely from political exploitation of a popular issue or from genuine concern for evidence which may or may not be present makes little difference in terms of the net outcome. Standards of exposure are already coming under very close scrutiny and have a high probability of being changed. Extremely stated recommendations have come from noteworthy scientists calling for as much as a tenfold reduction in industrial exposure standards, which would include medical personnel such as nuclear medicine technologists.

At the same time, other respected members of the scientific community are stating before the Rogers subcommittee that stringent reduction in exposure standards would have extremely drastic effects on the nuclear energy industry, such as in power production and a variety of other commercial and industrial applications, including medical. Subcommittee members, on the other hand, have tended to make it clear that their sympathies lie with individuals who have been or may be exposed and therefore feel standards should be made more stringent. The burden of figuring out how to cope with new standards is being placed squarely on industry and the professions. Resolutions to the argument may be a long time coming.

# International Technologist Meeting Slated for WFNMB Congress

The Second International Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB) will take place Sept. 17-21, 1978, at the Washington, DC, Hilton Hotel. This will be the organization's first Congress in the United States—the first was held four years ago in Japan and the next, in 1982, will most likely take place in either Europe or South America—and all nuclear medicine technologists in this country are encouraged to take advantage of this proximity.

On Thursday Sept. 21, a three-hour morning session has been scheduled to discuss "The Role of the Nuclear Medicine Technologist" from an international standpoint. The co-chairmen of this meeting, which begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Washington Hilton, are James K. Langan, President of the Technologist Section, and Vincent Cherico, Training Manager, Union Carbide Corporation, and also a Past President of the Section. They extend an cordial invitation to all nuclear medicine technologists to attend this particular session.

Mr. Langan and Mr. Cherico are assembling a panel of nuclear medicine technologists from throughout



WFNMB President Henry N. Wagner, Jr.

the world who will discuss NMT in their own countries. The educational background needed to become a nuclear medicine technologist, certification requirements, and the job responsibilities of the NMT are some of the topics that will be discussed on a nation-by-nation basis. Audience participation will also be encouraged.

Meeting planners expect attendance to reach the 3,000 mark for the Congress, and a good number of these are likely to be from out-

side the United States. Hopes are, of course, that nuclear medicine technologists from around the world will also make up a sizeable percentage of meeting-goers.

The scientific program, according to WFNMB President Henry N. Wagner, Jr. MD, will offer some 300 papers on the basic science and clinical application of radioactive tracers. Symposia on instrumentation, radiochemistry, radiopharmaceuticals, data analysis, radioassay, and biochemical and physiologic in vivo measurement will also be presented.

Contributed papers sessions on topics such as bone, joint, cardiovascular, endocrine, metabolic, pulmonary, and renal disorders in adults and children are now being collated.

The WFNMB has applied for CEU credits from the Technologist Section's VOICE Program for technologists who participate in certain sessions. To further encourage technologists to attend the Congress, reduced registration rates will be in effect for them.

For all information about the Congress, including the scientific program and registration, contact Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, 1629 K St., Washington, DC 20006.

## Best Scientific Papers and Best Exhibits—Fifth Annual Meeting

The following are the winners of awards for the three best scientific papers and the best exhibit presented during the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Technologist Section, Society of Nuclear Medicine, held in Orlando, FL, February 2-4. A prize of \$100, donated by E. R. Squibb & Sons, was also awarded to the first-place paper.

### Scientific Papers

*First Place*—"Serum Myoglobin Determination: Laboratory and Clinical Evaluation," Robert E. Sonne-

maker, John L. Floyd, William E. Craig, and Robert Bode, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, TX.

*Second Place*—"Correlation between Serum Thyroxine Levels and Whole Blood Filter Paper Thyroxine Levels," Christine A. Auerbach and Edward G. James, Washington, Hospital Center, Washington, DC

*Third Place*—"Performance of Routine Radionuclide Venography in Conjunction with Perfusion Lung

Imaging," Jeffrey R. Shewmaker and Sheri L. Pasternak, Penrose Hospital, Colorado Springs, CO.

### Scientific Exhibits

*First Place*—"Scan of the Lacrimal Drainage System," Teresita M. Pellegrin, St. Michael's Hospital, Ontario, Canada.

The papers and exhibits were judged by the Technologist Section's Awards Committee, Margaret Iannone, Chairperson.