

Technologist News

The National Council Meets for Two Days at 27th Annual Meeting

Technologist Section National Council deliberations were very much a part of the 27th Annual SNM Meeting held June 24-27 in Detroit.

In fact the agenda was so full that the usually one-day meeting had to be carried over to a second day.

Topics of discussion and resolutions ranged from expanding continuing education opportunities for VOICE members (see "The VOICE Box," page 144, this issue), to increasing membership and the Section's involvement in appropriate federal and non-federal organizations.

Resolutions passed by the National Council include the following:

□ It urges all Chapters to participate in a drive to have former members renew their membership in the Section;

□ It requests that the Executive Committee seek technologist appointments to the FDA's Radiopharmaceutical Drug Advisory Committee, the NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, the BRH's Medical Radiation Advisory Committee/Subcommittee on Nuclear Medicine, and the BRH's Panel on Review of Radiological Devices.

□ Further, the Council resolved that the Section will ask the Society to endorse its activities to increase the Section's identity and representation in these areas.

□ The Council also resolved that the Section will take an active role in the MultiState Advisory Committee on State Credentialing of Radiologic Technologists (MSAC). The MSAC is looking into the pos-

sibility of establishing one examination (ARRT's) as the national standard for licensure of radiologic technologists. Because there exists the potential that the ARRT exam—rather than the NMTCB examination—might be established as the national standard for NMT licensure, the Section will actively monitor and become involved in MSAC deliberations.

□ The Council also decided that the Section will establish closer liaison with Task Force Number 5 of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. This Task Force is in the process of developing model legislation, minimum standards, and implementation guidelines for states to use in developing a licensure/regulation control program in every state.

Because the Task Force is expected to develop minimum standards for nuclear medicine technologists the Section will work to develop a closer working relationship with it.

□ The National Council encourages technologists to contact their state radiation control organizations and communicate that nuclear medicine technologists are interested in education and certification standards that may be developed in their states.

□ In another area of licensure, the Council endorsed the NMTCB examination as the national standard for state licensure of NMTs in those states where licensure or regulation of NMTs has been deemed appropriate.

□ The Council also approved the selection of Patricia Weigand to serve another three-year term as Editor of the *JNMT*.

TECHNOLOGIST SECTION'S AWARDS FROM DETROIT MEETING

The following are the best scientific papers and scientific exhibits from the 27th Annual Meeting, Detroit 1980.

Scientific Papers

- 1. Positioning Criteria for 7-Pinhole Cardiac Tomography.** *J.M. Clare, J.H. Thrall, T.J. Brady, W.L. Rogers, and B. Pitt, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI.*
- 2. The Technique of Dual Radionuclide Gastric Scintigraphy (Liquid-Solid Gastric Radionuclide Emptying Studies).** *J. Reilley, G. Applegate, E. Rock, P. Bandini, R.S. Fisher, and L.S. Malmud, Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA.*
- 3. A Reproducible New Method for Radionuclide Assessment of Right Ventricular Ejection Fraction Using Pre-Processed Multiple Gated Equilibrium Scintigraphic Images.** *K. Van Train, D. Matsouka, M. Freeman, J. Maddahi, D. Berman, A. Waxman, and E. Garcia, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA.*

Scientific Exhibits

- 1. Artifacts Encountered in Nuclear Medicine Imaging.** *J.A. Hughes and M. Fernandez, Eugene L. Saenger Radioisotope Laboratory, Cincinnati, OH.*
- 2. Positioning Criteria for 7-Pinhole Cardiac Tomography.** *J.M. Clare, B. Harkness, J.H. Thrall, and W.L. Rogers, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI.*
- 3. Evaluation of a Micro Z Uniformity Correction.** *M. Madson, S. Fitzpatrick, and K. Bujnowski, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA.*

The First Conjoint Winter Congress:

First Look at Program Planned for New Orleans

As Scientific Program and Teaching Sessions Committee Chairman, I would like to extend to all technologists a most cordial invitation to attend the First Annual Conjoint Winter Congress of the Technologist Section and the SNM Board of Trustees.

This meeting is a "first." Never before have the Technologist Section, the Society's Board of Trustees, and the SNM Computer Council gathered together to hold their business meetings and their scientific programs at the same time and place—as we will do in New Orleans from February 5–7, 1981, in the Marriott Hotel.

As befits a meeting that will be a first of its kind, the Scientific Program Committee has decided to change the format of our midwinter meeting scientific program offerings. We do this to serve the members of the Section better.

This year, we will offer an "all workshop" scientific program. The workshops will be either all-day or

half-day events and the list of topics the workshops will cover is impressive. Each workshop will be presented by a physician-technologist team and we hope the attendees will also consist of physician-technologist teams. Workshops will be professionally designed—the ultimate educational aim is to meet the needs of physician-technologist teams as they work together every day in nuclear medicine departments.

The workshops to be given in New Orleans are the following: Myocardial, Gastrointestinal, Pulmonary, Grand Rounds, Cardiac Stress, In Vitro Nuclear Medicine, Quality Control, Educators, Instrumentation—Radiopharmaceuticals, Management, and Computers.

Meeting with the Society of Nuclear Medicine Board of Trustees, the SNM Computer Council, and other related SNM committees who will be in New Orleans gives us a wonderful opportunity to draw upon the experts in nuclear medicine to teach and work with us. It will

also, we hope, promote a closer working relationship among all of us.

So, fellow technologists, the Program Committee extends a cordial and enthusiastic invitation to you—and your physician—to attend the First Annual Conjoint Winter Congress. Plan to take part in a really exciting learning experience in the festive but not too hectic pre-Mardi Gras atmosphere of this lovely city.

Mark the dates Feb. 5-7, 1981, on your calendars now!

—*Jack Kozar, Chairman
Scientific Program Committee*

DON'T FORGET!

RSNA Annual Meeting

Nov. 21

Dallas, TX

In cooperation with the Associated Sciences Committee of RSNA, SNMIs sponsoring a one-day workshop on Quality Control. (William R. Hendee will be the keynote speaker.)

For information and registration material contact Virginia Pappas at the SNM National Office.

A Report from the Finance Committee Chairman

The 1980–81 Technologist Section budget is balanced after many long hours of fine tuning, belt tightening, and program adjusting. This, however, is not the end of the budgetary process. The Finance Committee, in concert with the Executive Committee, Committee chairmen, and the National Office will continue to fine tune the budget and will actively solicit input during this process.

The Section was successful in its attempt to hold an expected dues increase to \$15.00 per member. And because we are increasing our dues, the Society will not increase its dues to technologist members.

We are now budgeted for a full-time staff position of continuing education coordinator in the National Office. This is in response to the Section members' request.

Financing for an in-house computer was approved by the SNM Board of Trustees in Detroit. This will automate the laborious, manual tasks the National Office now does for financial updates and membership

rosters. The in-house computer will not only "free up" staff time to work on more pertinent duties but will be a cost savings to the Section as well.

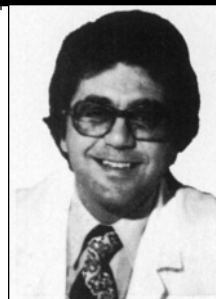
What do these activities mean to every individual member of the Section? By having our Section dues increased, we can offer increased services to you as we move into and beyond the 1980–81 fiscal year.

One of the hallmarks of professional responsibility is pride in one's specific area of interest or specialty and a willingness to support one's own professional organization. Your attendance at our Annual Winter Meeting this February in New Orleans will, therefore, support the Technologist Section of the Society. Plan now to attend the scientific sessions—and the revenue-generating workshops that will be offered! In doing so, you will strengthen your specialty and add to your technical expertise.

—*Mark Lanz
Finance Committee Chairman*

Message from the President

MICHAEL L. CIANCI
President
Technologist Section



The year ahead is a year of challenge for me and the other officers of the Section and, ultimately, to you as members. We must meet the challenge of providing educational opportunities to disseminate the complex and rapidly increasing technology of our field. External pressures and influences from regulatory agencies and other organizations challenge the continued existence of nuclear medicine technology as we now know it. The state of the economy places a burdensome challenge on the Section and the Society. I am confident that with your support we will meet these challenges.

This year I intend to use this column to keep you informed of the "nitty gritty" action and I will attempt to keep the philosophizing to a minimum. To that end let me share with you the important events that occurred in Detroit during the 27th Annual SNM Meeting.

With much disappointment we were informed that Mr. Paul Hubbard, the Section's administrator for the past 18 months, was resigning. Paul accepted the position of Executive Director of the A.S.M.T. in Houston. We all wish him the best of luck and are grateful for the positive and stimulating influence he provided. Ms. Virginia Pappas and Mr. Henry Ernstthal will share Paul's responsibilities for the Section. Virginia will assume duties as Administrator and Henry as Executive Director will provide input for policy decisions.

The Society's Board of Trustees and business meetings were very beneficial for us. The Board unani-

mously passed a resolution that provides for voting representation by five technologist members on the Board of Trustees. At present the Technologist Section President is the only technologist member of the Board. The resolution will require a Society bylaws change in order to be implemented. However, with its initial strong support from the Board, we feel success is assured. With the passage of all the Society's bylaws amendments at its business meeting, a technologist member is now officially a voting member of all the Society standing committees, with the exception of the nominating committee. Society President Dr. William Hendee has appointed to the committees those individuals that I recommended to him. Again, the Society of Nuclear Medicine has proven that its unique combination of physicians, scientists, and technologists can join together in a professional society.

At the Detroit meeting the National Council emphatically endorsed a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for the acquisition of an in-house computer by the national office. This issue, which has been under deliberation for some time by the Board, was resolved favorably and will become a reality within the next few months. The highest priorities for the new computer system will be membership records, accounting services, and the continuing education member records. The new system should vastly improve these and other areas.

The 1980-81 budget proposed by the Finance Committee and adopted by the National Council is an austere

one. This committee spent many hours revising its original proposal and in the final

analysis many expenditures were eliminated. To increase revenues, membership dues had to be raised. The January 1981 membership dues assessment will be increased by \$15.00; however, the new dues will include *automatic* enrollment in our continuing education program (VOICE), which previously cost members \$7.00 annually. In addition, provisions of the new budget allow the newly created position of a full-time education coordinator. This individual's challenge will be to develop and implement education programs with input from the Continuing Education and Academic Affairs Committees.

The CE Committee, with the National Council's approval, has taken preliminary steps to approve nuclear medicine-related audio visual programs for CEU credit. Sheila Rosenfeld will be reporting the details of this new VOICE offering.

On a final note, a second Future Plan! meeting was held in conjunction with the National Council meeting in Detroit. An attempt was made to expand upon and rank by importance the priorities developed at the Midwinter Meeting in Louisville. In essence, Future Plan! is designed to focus on the future goals and direction of the Technologist Section. Our Immediate Past President, George Alexander, will present the details of this undertaking in the next issue of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*.

Best Scientific Exhibit from Louisville Meeting Honored in Detroit

In the course of the Section Business Meeting in Detroit, Jayant I. Patel, K. Ayyangar, and C. Park were awarded a "Best Scientific Exhibit" plaque for their contribution to the Louisville Winter Meeting scientific program.

The authors are with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA and their exhibit was titled "The Use of Computer in Performing Quality Control on Gamma Cameras."

The Voice Box

Sheila Rosenfeld, Chairman
Continuing Education Committee

On June 21, 1980, at the 27th Annual SNM Meeting, the National Council approved the CEU audiovisual packet that was presented by the Continuing Education Committee. Audiovisual programs relating to nuclear medicine and meeting the requirements defined by the National Council on the Continuing Education Unit will be applicable for CEU credit as of Oct. 1, 1980.

For initial VOICE approval of an AV, a producer must request a VOICE application from the National Office. The application is similar to an application for program approval, requiring a minimum of 50 minutes of instruction, clearly stated objectives, and a faculty description form. If a program is less than 50 minutes in duration, the producer must include supplemental material with the AV that will make the total learning experience a minimum of 50 minutes. The producer then forwards the application, review fee, and a copy of the AV to

the National Office for viewing. The initial fee assessment to the producer for an AV review for CEU credit is \$200.00 for a for-profit organization and \$50.00 for a non-profit organization. The AV and application will then be forwarded to one of our AV reviewers for comment. When the subject matter of an audiovisual is outdated, a renewal fee of \$50.00 will be charged to a for-profit organization and \$10.00 to a nonprofit organization.

The current AV reviewers are Bob Bontemps of Montefiore Hospital, New York, Richard Pollack of JFK Hospital, New Jersey, and Wanda Hibbard of the Medical College of Georgia.

Producers will also be authorized to state in their advertisements that a specific AV meets the criteria for a certain number of CEUs as prescribed by the VOICE program of the Technologist Section of the Only CEU credit recorded by VOICE will be eligible for VOICE-

approved AVs. There will be no transfer of CEU credit as there is for programs. After viewing an AV approved by VOICE, a participant will send an audiovisual evaluation form to New York as proof of his or her participation. Audiovisual evaluation forms will be distributed to producers on approval of specific AVs for inclusion in their packages.

The approval by the SNM Board of Trustees to purchase an in-house computer should greatly reduce VOICE data processing costs; and beginning Oct. 1, 1980 there will no longer be a \$7.00 VOICE membership fee. All members of the Technologist Section will automatically be members of VOICE; your Society account number will then be used as your VOICE number.

If you have any questions regarding the changes in the VOICE program, contact me at the VA Medical Center, Cochran Division-115JC, St., Louis, MO 63125; phone: (314) 652-4100, ext. 215 or 529.

Reader Survey

Professional Liability Insurance

The Technologist Section is exploring the possibility of providing professional liability insurance to members.

Will you help?

Simply take a few minutes and answer the confidential survey below by circling the appropriate numbers on the reader service card contained in the back of this issue.

Fill out the rest of the card and drop it in the mail today—no postage is necessary.

- If you think the Technologist Section should develop a professional liability insurance plan for members, circle 101.
- If you think the Section should not develop a professional liability insurance plan, circle 102.
- If you now have professional liability insurance, circle 103.
- If you do not have professional liability insurance, circle 104.
- If your annual premiums are now \$250 or less, circle 105.
- If your annual premiums are now \$250 or more, circle 106.
- If you now have an individual policy, circle 107.
- If you now have an association policy, circle 108.
- If you now have an employer-related policy, circle 109.

JNMT's BEST PAPER AWARD —1979— PRESENTED IN DETROIT

The Technologist Section presented Victor J. Wedel, Gerald E. Green, and Raymond E. Thomas with an award for the "Outstanding Paper" published in the *JNMT* during 1979.

The authors, from the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, won for their paper, "Exercise-Radionuclide Ventriculograms: Methods for Eliminating Motion."

The award was given during the Section's Business Meeting at the 27th Annual SNM Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, June 24-27, 1980 in Detroit, an announcement was made regarding reciprocity between the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) and the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT). After three years of reciprocity negotiations, a reciprocity agreement was signed. This agreement is truly a major breakthrough in the field of nuclear medicine technology. It is the first time reciprocity has been established in nuclear medicine technology with any other country for either the U.S. or Canada.

Reciprocity addresses the mutual recognition of examinations as equivalent. Those individuals passing the CAMRT examination in Canada will be recognized by the NMTCB; likewise, those in the United States passing the NMTCB examination will be recognized by the CAMRT. Although there are differences in examination approaches and philosophy, the goal of assuring the competence of the nuclear medicine technologist is mutual. This agreement will benefit both Canadian and American technologists in sharing knowledge and increased employment opportunities. The Board of Directors and the committees of both CAMRT and NMTCB are to be commended for the perseverance necessary to attain this goal. Further information may be obtained by contacting the NMTCB, Box 1034, Stone Mountain, GA 30086.

As the 1980 examination cycle nears completion, the 1981 examination process has already been initiated. The next NMTCB meeting, to be held Oct. 17-19, 1980 in San Francisco, will mark the transition from one cycle to another. Using the examination data from September, we will review the overall performance of the examinees. The Board will then review the psychometric analysis of each item. Items eligible for replacement will be identified. At the time of the October meeting, newly submitted items will be available for preliminary review. Our efforts to maintain and improve the quality of the NMTCB examination are ongoing. The task analysis, which provides the content base upon which the examination was developed, is currently undergoing a verification process.

In addition to providing a competency-based examination for the profession, the NMTCB is representing the certification needs of nuclear medicine technologists in the development of national standards. The NMTCB has received a conditional Category "A" membership in the National Commission of Health Certifying Agencies (NCHCA). The NCHCA continues to make progress in the development of national standards for certifying agencies. The NMTCB participated in the formation of the NCHCA and continues with representation on its Executive Council.

The application response for the 1980 examination has been ex-

tremely good. In all, 915 applications have been received. There has been great support from nuclear medicine technology educators, as most of the applicants are from accredited schools.

The item writers' workshop held in Detroit during the SNM Annual Meeting proved very successful. The workshop was well-attended, productive, thought-provoking, and generated much enthusiasm. A special thanks to all attendees for their participation.

As you read this report, the application deadline of Sept. 15, 1980 for certification by the recognition-of-previous-certification method will have passed. Now the only route available for certification by this Board is by examination. Only graduates from CAHEA-accredited training programs in nuclear medicine technology and those individuals meeting the criteria for eligibility by on the job training may submit applications to take the exam. Detailed information concerning eligibility may be obtained from the NMTCB office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals who have applied for certification by the NMTCB, either by recognition of previous certification or by examination, for their support of this Board—which is truly a Board devoted to "Certification by Nuclear Medicine Technologists for Nuclear Medicine Technologists." I would also encourage each of you to use the CNMT designation whenever appropriate.

TECHNOLOGIST SECTION OFFICERS 1980-81

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Secretary: Margaret M. Perry, Radiation Center, Ft. Worth, TX

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