

Title: EDUCATORS' FORUM: WELCOME TO A NEW SECTION IN THE JNMT

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As an educator of nuclear medicine technologists, I am one of a rare breed. There are only a few hundred of us in the entire United States. And we don't get many opportunities to meet with and learn from one another. Really, the annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging is our one chance each year to come together, share ideas and compare notes. Our Educator Forums always have sessions of great interest to me, and I would love to have those shared in additional formats. My fellow educators have many interesting and innovative ideas about nuclear medicine technologist education. But as things currently stand, I only benefit from those interactions and that learning if I'm present, and then only to the extent that I can remember it after the meeting.

So I was very happy to hear that Kathy Thomas, as the new JNMT editor, wanted to dedicate a section of the Journal to articles of interest to educators and students. There is no more logical place for articles about nuclear medicine education, but they don't fit the current section titles of Continuing Education, Imaging, Radiation Safety, Radiopharmacy, and Case Studies. Education-related articles are organized differently and require different kinds of peer review than a standard research article. Adding this section will stretch the Journal both literally (more pages) and in terms of its outreach and appeal.

Kathy's vision is to have an Educators' Forum in each issue of the Journal, including several offerings. A lead article on a subject of interest to educators might be paired with a "how-to" companion piece. Results of a survey of educators on the same subject might be included, and a textbook review or opinion piece. We hope that these articles might also be of interest to technologist students and to the Journal's more general audience. Some issues might even address a student perspective. And it will also be the logical home for the JRCNMT and NMTCB reports. Each issue's Educators' Forum will be put together by Kathy and her associate editors with an eye to creating a cohesive and interesting section.

Kathy and the JNMT editorial board and staff will need the assistance of the educator community to produce a consistently Educators' Forum each quarter. Our starting point will be the educator sessions at the SNMMI Annual Meetings; easily two or three presentations per year would be transferable to article form. We will need a good pool of writers and peer reviewers. We will need a set of ideas as starting points for the theme for each issue. And we'll need responses to short surveys from all educators, as a way to gauge the prevalence and value of each issue's topic to the nuclear medicine educator/student community.

For our first Educators' Forum, we have an article by Cybil Nielsen from Indiana University, on how she engages her students in research. She presented this at the 2017 Annual Meeting, and those of us present were fascinated with her approach and her success. But I for one would be hard-pressed to try to implement this in my own program based just on my notes from her presentation. I would have a much greater chance for success if I had an article describing her programs methods. Publication of this article will be very useful to me, and I hope to my fellow educators as well.

As I noted in my opening paragraph, the nuclear medicine educator community is a small one. Dedicating a section of the JNMT to our needs is a significant step, even a bit risky. I am very grateful to Kathy for taking this risk, and happy to have a part in bringing it to fruition. This section will be extremely beneficial to educators and to current students, and ultimately to the nuclear medicine community at large. We look forward to providing an interesting and informative Educators' Forum with each issue of the JNMT.