Technologist News

The Section Celebrates: Tenth Annual Meeting

In conjunction with the SNM Board of Trustees and the Computer and Instrumentation Councils, the Technologist Section will hold its Tenth Annual Meeting in February in San Francisco.

This year's meeting features eight state-of-the-art teaching sessions with faculty selected for their expertise in each particular area. With such topics as Quality Assurance, Radiopharmacy, RIA, Cardiac, Instrumentation, Computers, and Gastrointestinal, faculty members will provide technologists with the barometer by which they can measure their own levels of knowledge and skills.

Radiopharmacy, for example, will look at the various methods for labeling red and white blood cells and examine several of the newer diagnostic studies developed with these blood constituents. The instrumentation seminar is designed to familiarize technologists with the latest changes in nuclear medicine imaging equipment in such areas as SPECT, linearity correction devices for gamma cameras, and radiation detection instruments.

Management seminars continue to attract technologists with managerial aspirations. Faculty from the University of California will present four management seminars on these topics: "Labor Relations," "Strategic Planning and Cutback Management," "Assessing your Administrative Skills and Political Awareness," and "Performance Appraisal."

In addition, two sessions for educators and a political forum on legislation will complement the 2½-day clinical track.

Unique to this year's meeting is a special full-day Sunday seminar on radiation health and safety. The program

is geared to non-nuclear personnel and other interested allied-health professionals but technologists are invited, indeed encouraged, to attend. The seminar will examine the properties of radioactivity and its medical applications, evaluate the risks and benefits of nuclear medicine procedures, and identify precautionary measures to limit exposure.

All technologist members planning to attend the meeting are urged to preregister and make air travel arrangements well in advance. Meeting programs with complete information on registration, housing, and discount air travel have been mailed to all members. Members who have not yet received the Tenth Annual Program should call or write the national office.

Air Travel

The Society has appointed Karson Travel to handle air travel arrangements for members attending the San Francisco meeting. Karson offers a special discount for members traveling roundtrip on *United Airlines* flights during the dates of Jan. 26-Feb. 14, 1983. Karson guarantees air fares as of Nov. 1, 1982.

The advance booking and ticketing restrictions that exist on all other discounted air fares have been waived and, in most cases, Karson permits ticketing up to the day of departure. You can travel with no restrictions, ticketing deadlines, or penalties for late changes. The special discount air fares are not available to the general public. Members may expect to save an additional \$15 off the super-saver air fare by using Karson.

To secure the special discount fares from your home city, call any of the following Karson Travel reservation numbers between 9 - 5 pm Monday — Friday: nationwide (800)645-2182; New York (212)347-0058; and Long Island (516)764-5300.

The Meeting City

San Francisco offers an abundance of things to see and do. A short distance from the Cathedral Hill Hotel members will find:

Chinatown, the largest Chinese community outside Asia. Restaurants, museums, and temples line the streets. The languages spoken here are Cantonese and Mandarin. Grant Avenue, in the heart of Chinatown, is in full regalia during the Chinese New Year, which is celebrated between mid-January and late February.

Golden Gate Park, offering miles and miles of green lawns, bridle paths, lakes, and flowers. The Morrison Planetarium is here, the Asia Art Museum, the Japanese Tea Garden, the Steinhart Aquarium . . . and much more.

North Beach, cabarets, jazz clubs, coffee houses, and theatres make this a center for entertainment.

Union Street, live music and restaurants galore. High above the marina, boutiques, import stores and Victorian architecture add a touch of nostalgia to the streets of this neighborhood. Fisherman's Wharf, site-seeing boats are available for a 75-minute cruise of the San Francisco Bay. Tours pass under the spans of the Golden Gate and Oakland Bay bridges. Fresh seafood is always available on the Wharf. Alcatraz, ferries link the waterfront to Alcatraz and Angel Island as well as the ports of Sausalito, Tiburon, and Larkspur. The National Parks Service

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NMTCB Report

On Sept. 18, 1982, 951 candidates at 50 test sites took the fifth annual Nuclear clear Medicine Technology Certification Board examination. This is a 32% increase in candidates compared to the first exam given in 1978, which had 652 candidates at 24 test sites, and a 108% increase in the number of test sites compared to that same exam.

The exam assessed competency in the areas of nuclear instrumentation, radiation protection, dose calibration, and radiopharmacy. There were a total of 225 items on the exam; 200 of these were for scoring and 25 were pre-test questions. The cut-off score was 126.

As part of the continued competency study undertaken in conjunction with the Technologist Section, 109 technologists were selected to take the 1982 NMTCB exam. The results will be published in the Journal as they become available. I would like to thank all the technologists who took part in the study and the Task Force on Continued Competency.

The NMTCB met with its Advisory Council in Atlanta on Oct. 14-17 to review the exam results. We also work with the American College testing service, which provides professional exam consultation during exam development, administers the exam, and also provides all psychometric evaluation services. With the addition of the successful candidates from the 1982 exam, the total number of technologists certified by the NMTCB is now approximately 7,150.

At this meeting we also elected our 1983 officers. They are Shiela Rosenfeld, CNMT—Chairman, George Alexander, CNMT—Secretary, and Susan Weiss, CNMT—Treasurer. Mel Freundlick, MD, was elected Chairman of the Advisory Council.

We have now entered another examination cycle. Our current highest priority is to develop next year's exam, which will be given on Saturday, Sept. 10, 1983. Deadline for applications for this exam is June 2, 1983. Please make a note of these dates to eliminate any last minute confusion.

Our task analysis validation material and content guidelines can be found in this issue of the Journal. This material will be incorporated into future exams and will be made available to any technologist associated with the NMT education process.

The NMTCB recently adopted a policy regarding annual registration and established an "active and inactive" status for technologists, which was reflected in this year's annual directory.

In order for a certificant to maintain current credentials, a renewal of annual registration must be submitted and fees must be paid during the year in which they become due. Certificants maintaining current credentials will be listed as active on the certification rolls, retain all privileges, and receive an annual card, a year seal, and a directory.

Inactive status is reserved for those persons who are no longer employed in nuclear medicine. Certificants must officially request inactive status and pay the annual registration fees for the year in which the request is made. These certificants will be maintained as inactive on the certification rolls for four more years at no additional charge. After five years, the certificant must either submit a renewal of annual registration or be dropped from the certification rolls.

The NMTCB Directors whose terms end as of Dec. 31, 1982 are James Conway, MD, Frances Kontzen, CNMT, John Kozar, III, CNMT, and Mark Muilenburg, CNMT. Names of candidates to fill these vacancies were submitted to the NMTCB Chairman by the National Council of the Technologist Section. The National Council will vote for three nominees by mail ballot and all ballots will be returned to the Technologist Section President, who will tabulate the votes. The three nominees receiving the largest number of votes will be elected NMTCB Directors for the 1983-85 term, which starts Jan. 1, 1983.

This is my last official Chairman's report for the Journal and I would like to take a minute and reflect on my past two

years as Chairman. The Board has grown to maturity since its inception five years ago. The NMTCB is now *the* certification exam for nuclear medicine technology. The hard work and long hours put in by all technologists involved have made the NMTCB truly the leader in the field of certification of nuclear medicine technologists.

We can all be proud of being part of the "certification of nuclear medicine technologists by nuclear medicine technologists." In closing, I would like to list the past Directors of the NMTCB and say thanks to them for a job well done.

1977-78:

Violet Custer, CNMT Anthony Mozzola, CNMT Barbara K. Horton, CNMT Susan L. Shlegel, CNMT 1977-80:

James J. Kellner, CNMT Joan L. Herbst, CNMT Donald R. Bernier, CNMT Susan C. Weiss, CNMT 1977-79:

James J. Conway, MD Frances N. Kontzen, CNMT James K. Langan, CNMT Mark I. Muilenburg, CNMT 1979-81:

Louis M. Izzo, CNMT John Reilley, CNMT Shiela Rosenfeld, CNMT Susan L. Shlegel, CNMT 1980–82:

James J. Conway, MD Frances N. Kontzen, CNMT John J. Kozar, III, CNMT Mark I. Muilenberg, CNMT 1981-83:

George W. Alexander, CNMT Douglas J. Anderson, CNMT Donald R. Bernier, CNMT Susan C. Weiss, CNMT 1982-84:

Marcia R. Boyd, CNMT Vincent V. Cherico, CNMT Louis M. Izzo, CNMT Shiela Rosenfeld, CNMT



Dorothy Duffy Price, CNMT President, Technologist Section University of California, San Francisco (415)666-1521

The Need for Good People

There is no question that for our technology to be able to respond to the developments in high technology, i.e., computers, NMR, hybridoma technology, we will continue to need qualified "knowledge workers."

Our NMT educational programs need to continue to attract applicants of high quality. This places an important responsibility on the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Technologist Section. We must face up to this. To do so, we need first of all to assess what the current supply and demand is for technologists in the field. Additionally, we need to know:

- What are the vacancy rates and the opportunities for career advancement?
- Do we anticipate a shortage or a surplus of technologists?
- What is the impact of changes in Medicare legislation and cost containment on personnel, resources, and staffing levels in our nuclear medicine departments?
- How many credentialed technologists are there in the work force? How many uncredentialed technologists are there?

Before we can begin to develop appropriate strategies to deal with these issues, we must find out the answers to basic questions.

Need for a Manpower Survey

The Technologist Section has not developed a manpower data base to date. This puts us in a position of responding to data developed by other organizations and professional groups. Because of the interest expressed by so many technologists, academicians, management staff, and our National Council, Michael Cianci (Past President, Technologist Section) and I recently met with repre-

sentatives of the Health Resources Administration. We discussed mutual areas of interest, specifically, credentialed and uncredentialed personnel in nuclear medicine technology. We shall continue to work closely with HRA on this issue. There is no question that we have an obligation to continue to recruit good people into the field of nuclear medicine technology. It is a responsibility of the Society to make this a top priority for the '80s.

Recruitment-Career Slide Tape

The Academic Affairs Committee has just produced and released for sale a slide/tape package titled "What is Nuclear Medicine Technology-How To Begin Your Career." It presents nuclear medicine technology in a simple and direct manner and explains such topics as radiation safety, imaging, instrumentation, radiopharmaceutical preparation, and patient rapport. The package contains 54 color slides, an audio cassette, and various brochures and is supplied in an 8½ × 11 3-ring binder. NMT program directors, allied health schools, and guidance counselors will find this program indispensable for career days and it may also be shown to nurses and other allied health professionals interested in pursuing a career in nuclear medicine technology. "What is Nuclear Medicine Technology" sells for \$63 and is available through the book order department at the national office.

Radiation Protection in Allied Health

Consistent with our interest to expand into new areas of involvement, the issue of radiation protection for nurses and allied health personnel will be part of the winter meeting in San Francisco. As the organization that represents nuclear

medicine technology, it is our responsibility and obligation to offer continuing education on radiation protection issues. A one-day seminar has been designed for nursing and allied health personnel. A one-day registration fee will be charged for this program. Again, this expands our "public" and extends our boundaries of involvement in an area that we anticipate to be cost effective.

The Third World Congress

In another effort to extend our boundaries, I attended the Third World Congress on Nuclear Medicine and Biology held in Paris Aug. 27–Sept. 4, 1982. I represented the Technologist Section on a panel discussion: "Nuclear Medicine Technology as Practiced Around the World."

Professor Jacques Ingrand invited me to be the first speaker on the program because, as he said, "the United States is the most advanced as far as nuclear medicine technology is concerned." Using slides and a prepared paper, I was delighted to share our successes in the development of the Technologist Section, academic and educational achievement, and the credentialing process. My prepared remarks were translated into French and German and made available to the participants. Other participants included technologists representing France, West Germany, the Netherlands, and Australia.

Michael Cianci served as a liaison technologist; he worked closely with Professor Ingrand in organizing the technologists' presentations. Technologists from the United States who participated in the program were: Patricia Weigand, Michael Cianci, David Wells, John

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Membership Report

Because of the support and cooperation of the chapters and local membership organizations, we have gone up, up, and away in our membership drive. Progressing steadily, we have already recruited 380 new and reinstated members. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

I suggest that all of you actively discuss with technologists who do not belong to the Section that we are the best means to enable them to voice their opinions regarding professional responsibilities and needs.

Additionally, materials have been sent to your chapter to publicize the membership campaign through your local chapter newsletter and at all chapter events. Feel free to put them to good use.

The Membership Committee has also developed new incentives. For example,

- -Every member who recruits ten new members between June 1982 and May 31, 1983, will have his dues waived for one year.
- -Any member who recruits three or more members during this same time

will have his name published in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology and Newsline along with the number of members he has recruited.

-The member who recruits the most new members (again during this time) will be given an award at the June 1983 business meeting.

For the Chapters:

-A monetary award of \$200 will be given to each chapter recruiting a specific number of new members or a portion of that amount according to the number of new members recruited. To receive the full \$200 your chapter must recruit either 25, 75, or 100 new members, depending upon the size of the chapter, between June 1, 1982 and May 31, 1983.

Another phase of our campaign will consist of sending promotional mailings to prospective members. For instance, in my own area, we solicited help from central pharmacies. A cover letter and application was sent to the chief technologist of every hospital in my metro-

politan area encouraging involvement; the central pharmacies provided their names. Each potential member was also contacted by telephone inviting him or her to join or ask any questions about the Technologist Section, and also offering to help obtain a sponsor's signature for membership. The response at this time has been quite favorable. I sincerely hope you will initiate a membership campaign within your own chapter.

Remember, what better way to continue your professional development than to join your professional organization—the organization that provides a means to keep your education up-to-date—through the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, through VOICE, your formalized education program, and through professional local, chapter, and national meetings.

If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

—Shelley D. Hartnett, CNMT, Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist, St.

Joseph's Hospital, 1835 Franklin St.,
Denver, CO 80218; (303)837-6840.

The Need for Good People (continued from page 183)

Reilley, Janice Brewster, Vincent Cherico, and myself. We were pleased to have the opportunity to represent our technology in this international forum.

I personally feel that we made an excellent contribution to sharing our similarities and our differences—thus increasing understanding among nations. We encouraged membership in the Section. Indeed, a number of technologists completed the applications in Paris enabling them to become members. It was interesting to note that other countries' education and training requirements are similar to ours, but that their credentialing process requires not only a written examination, but both orals and practicals. It might interest you to know that salaries for nuclear medicine

technologists averaged between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in those countries represented on the panel.

We encouraged additional involvement of those present in the Technologist Section through membership and by contributing to our publication. Many foreign technologists said that they were very interested in receiving the *Journal* of Nuclear Medicine Technology.

The next meeting of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology will be held in Buenos Aires in 1986. It is my recommendation, based on our success at the Third World Congress, that we work closely with the organizing committee in order to include and expand the Technologist Section's involvement internationally.

Every issue of the Journal contains a reader service card (RSC); its main function is to provide our readers with an easy way to request information about the Society, the Section, VOICE, books, audiovisuals, etc. In addition, the RSC provides valuable information to our advertisers; every time you circle a number on the RSC that corresponds to an ad and send us the RSC, we forward these leads to the appropriate advertiser. The more leads generated, the more likely our advertisers are to continue using the Journal to reach the movers and shakers in nuclear medicine. We strongly urge you to use-or continue to use-the Journal's RSC.

Monitor on Government Relations

Danielle Kavanagh, CNMT Chairman, Government Relations Committee St. Joseph Hospital 1100 Steward Drive, Orange, CA; (714)771-8140.

Legislative activity is picking up throughout the United States in response to the Consumer-Patient Health and Safety Act of 1981.

Here are two examples-

Colorado: a bill has been introduced in the Colorado legislature entitled "A Bill for an Act Concerning Radiologic Technologists."

The bill includes standards for medical radiologic technologists, nuclear medicine technologists, and radiation therapy technologists. All allied health personnel who use ionizing radiation are identified in this bill as "radiologic technologists."

Should the bill be enacted into law, Colorado technologists can qualify for state licensure by submitting evidence of prior, recognized qualification from a reciprocal licensing board.

Technologists who do not meet this criteria will be required to take an examination. Colorado will issue certificates, special permits, or temporary certificates depending on the status of each applicant.

Illinois: the state legislature has passed SB 1942, "An Act in Relation to Radiation Safety," which is an addendum to this state's Radiation Protection Act of 1959.

The revised act calls for the creation of a Radiologic Technology Accreditation Board, consisting of 13 members, to "further the purposes of the Act." The Board will include five physicians and one of each of the following: physicist, dentist, chiropractor, podiatrist,

nurse, radiologic technologist, radiation therapy technologist, and nuclear medicine technologist.

The Act also defines criteria for "administering radiation to human beings after Jan. 1, 1984," and includes minimum standards of education and continuing education for "nurses, technicians, or other assistants who administer radiation to human beings under the supervision of a person licensed under the Illinois Medical or Podiatry Acts."

"Accreditation" will be granted upon submitting "proof of compliance with the minimum or continuing education requirements as the case may be. Accreditation shall be renewed every five years."

The Act also establishes standards for the inspection of "radiologic installations." Guidelines for permissible limits [of radiation exposure] are another part of the Act for the state of Illinois.

National Standards for Nuclear Medicine Technologists: I am committed to keeping you informed and upto-date on the progress of the Consumer-Patient Health and Safety Act of 1981. In my last conversation with staff members of the Health Resources Administration, I was informed that the standards are in the process of being approved. The draft standards for nuclear medicine technologists, which will serve as guidelines for state licensure efforts, were circulated in June 1982.

They have now travelled through the Office of Health Care Finance, the National Institutes of Health, and many other federal agencies or departments that are interested in their acceptance and implementation. Many professional organizations, including the Technologist Section and the Society of Nuclear Medicine, have had the opportunity to comment on them as well.

I understand changes have been made to these draft standards. The next step will be the publication of standards in the *Federal Register*, after which the interested public (including, of course, the Technologist Section) will have 90 days to offer any revisions. If all goes smoothly, the standards may be enforceable as early as the spring of 1983.

The San Francisco Meeting: we have assembled an excellent program regarding legislation and regulations affecting nuclear medicine technologists. The program is titled "You: The Regulated" and will take place on Saturday, Feb. 5 from 1:30 to 5:30 pm during the course of the Section's Tenth Annual Meeting. The agenda includes presentations on nuclear energy and the public health; low-level waste; trafficking of radioactive materials; and the potential impact of proposed NRC revisions for using medical radioisotopes. Representatives from the Airline Pilots Association will also speak to us about transporting radioactive materials by air.

Please plan to attend; this program has been designed to make all of us more knowledgeable and better qualified to deal with the changes that await us in the daily practice of nuclear medicine technology.

Management—Continuing Education Series

The fourth and concluding article of the "Management Series" presented by Michael J. Hierl and William S. Dunnington, E.R. Squibb and Sons, Inc., does not appear in this issue. It has been rescheduled for the March 1983 issue.

Section Seeks Techs for JRCNMT

The Academic Affairs Committee is seeking applications from Technologist Section members who would like to represent the Section as Directors of the Joint Review Committee on Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT).

The JRCNMT is composed of medical and health professionals from six professional organizations. It is involved with establishing and maintaining standards of appropriate quality for NMT education programs and providing recognition for educational programs that meet or exceed the minimum standards set forth in the Essentials.

The Academic Affairs Committee must receive applications by June 1, 1983. The Committee will then recommend to the Section's Executive Committee those applicants they deem most qualified. During its fall 1983 meeting, the Executive Commitee will select three applicants from this pool; the President of the Section will then make two appointments, with approval of the Executive Committee.

The Directors' terms will begin Jan. 1, 1984. The two appointments will be for two and four years respec-

tively. The Directors' duties include: attending JRCNMT meetings (spring and fall), submitting a written report to the Section President after each JRCNMT meeting, and submitting summaries to the Section's National Council of Delegates.

Directors serve without pay but are reimbursed for expenses incurred for attending official JRCNMT meetings.

To apply, submit a current curriculum vitae, using the Technologist Section Curriculum Vitae Form for Nominees for Elective Office and a letter to demonstrate knowledge of the philosophy, functions, and duties of the JRCNMT. Indicate availability of time; willingness and ability to serve; and availability for necessary travel. Support of employing institution must be in writing before appointment is finalized. Applicants must also hold current certification of registration as a nuclear medicine technologist. A statement of any potential conflict of interest must be submitted but this does not preclude appointment.

Submit this information to: Marcia Boyd, CNMT, Nuclear Medicine, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, TN 38146.

San Francisco—1983

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conducts tours of Alcatraz with boats leaving from Fisherman's Wharf. Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco's most famous landmark and the world's second longest suspension bridge. Pedestrians can cross free of charge.

Embarcadero Center, a showcase for the modern and sublime in city architecture. Spacious gardens, promenades, sculpture, and tapestries create a model environment for urban life. Pier 39, views of the Bay and the city skyline are spectacular by day or night. The Pier provides shopping and restaurants offer various cuisines. Clement Street, where the international influences are evident. The most prominent nationalities and cultures are Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Jewish, Russian and, of course, American. Every type of food imaginable is available within 14 blocks.

San Francisco is a visitors' paradise best seen on foot. Visitors are advised to bring comfortable shoes. In February, when temperatures average in the mid-50's, it's a good idea to pack a warm suit and be prepared for rain.

If you'd like to learn more about San Francisco, write: San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1390 Market St., Suite 260, San Francisco, CA 94102. Telephone (415)626-5500.

THANKS TO THE CLOSET CONTRIBUTORS

During 1982, I had the pleasure of receiving many discerning and provocative critiques from the *JNMT* manuscript reviewers. Running true to form, these "closet" contributors helped to hone the contents of this scientific publication to the edge our readers have come to expect.

Please help me by thanking these individuals at your next opportunity.—The Editor

DONALD R. BERNIER, CNMT
PAUL CHRISTIAN, CNMT
JANE H. CHRISTIE, CNMT
R. EDWARD COLEMAN, MD
SUSAN ISOM COX, MT (ASCP)
TREVOR D. CRADDUCK, PhD
MICHAEL J. EYMONTT, MD
GARY GALLAMORE, CNMT
ALLAN GOBUTY, PhD
HAROLD A. GOLDSTEIN, MD
DONALD R. HAMILTON, CNMT
JOHN R. HANSELL, MD
MARTIN HEYERT, CNMT

HAROLD D. HODGES
FRANCES KONTZEN, CNMT
RICHARD J. KOWALSKY, PhARMD
C. DOUGLAS MAYNARD, MD
MARIA V. NAGEL, CNMT
BUCK RHODES, PhD
KAREN S. SARGENT, CNMT
C. MARIT SHERRY, CNMT
KENNETH SMITH
ANN STEVES, CNMT
SUSAN C. WEISS, CNMT
JAMES J. WIRRELL, CNMT
A. MICHAEL ZIMMER, PhD

TECHNOLOGIST SECTION PROGRAM 30th ANNUAL MEETING THE SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Call for Abstracts, Commentaries, and Issue Responses

June 7-10, 1983

St. Louis, MO

The Scientific and Teaching Sessions Committee of the Technologist Section welcomes the submission of abstracts, commentaries, and responses to issues from nuclear medicine technologists for the 30th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Contributions accepted for the program will be presented at the meeting and published in the June issue of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. Original contributions on a variety of topics and in one of three distinct formats will be considered as follows:

Abstracts of Technical Papers:

Computers and Instrumentation
Radioassay
Imaging
Radiopharmacology
Clinical—
Cardiovascular
Gastroenterology
Other
Radiation Safety
Quality Assurance
Other

Short Commentaries:

Management and Administration Training and Education Communication (with physicians, peers, and patients) Politics

Issue Responses:

Should we support commercial, centralized radiopharmacies? Would state licensure be preferable to federal licensure? Should we support hospital-based or college degree educational programs? Should we perform RIA tests or let the labs take over?

Abstracts must be submitted on the official form, which may be obtained simply by calling or writing:

Society of Nuclear Medicine/Technologist Section ATTN: Abstracts
475 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016
(212)889-0717.

An official form must be used for each title submitted. Authors seeking publication for the full text of their contributions are strongly encouraged to submit their work to the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* for immediate review.

At the 1983 Annual Meeting, cash awards will be given to the three best papers; first prize is \$200, second prize \$150, and third prize \$100.

Deadline for receipt of the official form is Monday, January 17, 1983.