

Technologist News



The river, the arch, the skyline: St. Louis! Site of the 30th Annual SNM meeting, June 7-10.

The Society, many of its Councils, and the Technologist Section have prepared an array of programs to address the state of nuclear medicine today.

Under the direction of Frances L. Neagley, CNMT, the Technologist Section program will provide a comprehensive treatment of developments and procedures currently practiced in the clinical setting. The program also features workshops and forums for educators, managers, and those working to affect legislation on technologists' behalf.

A Day-by-Day Look

Technologists interested in an intensive full-day seminar on nuclear magnetic resonance, cardiovascular nuclear medicine, or tracer kinetics and physiologic modeling may register for the SNM categorical seminars. All three seminars carry VOICE credit. The seminars precede the formal opening of the 30th Annual

Meeting and are geared to nuclear medicine practitioners, referring physicians, and senior nuclear medicine technologists.

On Tuesday, June 7, at 9:00 am, SNM President John A. Burdine, MD, will call the 30th Annual Meeting to order. B. Leonard Holman, MD, Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee, and Duffy Price, CNMT, President of the Technologist Section, will also offer comments. Shortly thereafter the technologist program will begin with an instrumentation workshop that includes such topics as single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), uniformity and linearity correction devices for gamma cameras, and instrumentation for radiation protection. An advanced cardiac workshop will examine quantitative thallium, right ventricular function analysis, and phase analysis.

Wednesday, June 8, is devoted almost exclusively to technologists' scientific presentations. Two morning and after-

noon sessions will present 48 papers on such topics as radiation safety, quality assurance, cardiology, oncology, instrumentation, and computers. The abstracts of the scientific papers may be found on pages 85-95 of the Journal; page 97 lists the titles and authors of the technologist scientific exhibits.

Thursday, June 9, marks the heaviest day of technologist workshops with a second cardiac program offered. This session will assess the newer imaging and radiopharmaceutical developments, in particular, mercury/gold generators: a new agent for first pass; and clinical applications for SPECT in cardiology. In addition, managerial and legislative sessions are scheduled on Thursday. A new look at the brain, dual isotope studies, pediatric trauma imaging, and radionuclide venography are among the topics to be presented during Thursday's clinical program.

Friday's program includes a computer
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30th Annual Meeting

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workshop featuring representatives from ADAC, MDS, and Siemens and a workshop on slide preparation and video displays. The latter will examine television systems for nuclear medicine and effective slide-making, presented by representatives from Eastman Kodak.

Nonclinical programs presented throughout the four-day meeting include two NMTCB-sponsored workshops, a JRC-sponsored workshop to discuss the revised Essentials, and a workshop and forum for educators.

All technologist sessions take place on the second floor of the Cervantes Convention Center, which is a modern facility in the heart of St. Louis proper. The Convention Exhibit Hall will contain a 100,000 square foot exposition of the latest nuclear medicine products and services; nearly 100 commercial companies will be exhibiting. In addition to the technologist program, the Society will offer over 300 paper and 200 poster presentations, 16 state-of-the-art refresher courses, a nuclear medicine review course, and a host of other programs that mark the SNM Annual Meeting as the single largest presentation of nuclear medicine topics to be offered each year.

Last year's Annual Meeting in Miami Beach attracted approximately 25% of the Technologist Section's membership. With St. Louis' convenient central location and a large percentage of the membership living within 300 miles of St. Louis, the Section hopes to see an even larger turnout for the 30th Annual Meeting. By now all members should have received the *Annual Meeting Program*. If by chance you have not and would like to attend, call the Society's New York office, (212)889-0717.

Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board Report

It is my pleasure to announce the NMTCB's first Assistant Administrative Director: Jennifer Fisher, CNMT. Jennifer, who currently resides in Stone Mountain, GA, is certified in both nuclear medicine technology and ultrasound and has more than twelve years experience as a staff and chief nuclear medicine technologist. As Assistant Administrative Director, Ms. Fisher's responsibilities are in the areas of fee processing for annual registration, exam application administration, as well as other office administrative duties. Jennifer Fisher's experience as a practicing nuclear medicine technologist and her involvement in the Technologist Section make her highly qualified for this position.

The NMTCB held its spring meeting on March 23-27, 1983, in Cincinnati, OH. Because of increased interest over the past year regarding the NMTCB's policy on foreign applicants, the Board reviewed mechanisms for evaluation of foreign student academic records. To determine academic equivalency for all foreign applicants seeking to qualify for examination under the OJT eligibility requirement, the NMTCB will require that as of Jan. 1, 1984, official transcripts must first be evaluated by the International Education Research Foundation, Inc., PO Box 24679, Los Angeles, CA 90024. This evaluation must be submitted with a candidate's application for the NMTCB examination.

The Board further reaffirmed its existing policy that clinical experience obtained outside the United States would not be recognized as

meeting the eligibility requirements. The Board agreed that the only exception to this is either clinical experience obtained in a country with which reciprocity has been established or clinical experience obtained in a United States military facility.

At the Society's 30th Annual Meeting in St. Louis, the NMTCB's critical task survey will again be explained. There will be a meeting on June 10, 1983, from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon in room 262 of the Cervantes Convention Center. This survey is part of the NMTCB's on-going process of validation to ensure that the exam continues to reflect current practice. The Board additionally intends to mail the survey to physicians, scientists, and technologists on all levels to assist in the determination of those skills that are critically important for entry-level competence. Your participation in the NMTCB critical task survey permits practitioners of nuclear medicine to have direct input and impact upon the certification process for nuclear medicine technologists.

Plan to attend the NMTCB's item writers' workshop at the Convention Center on June 7 from 1:30-5:00 pm. The purpose of this workshop is to present information relevant to exam item construction and analysis.

The NMTCB would like to welcome its newest Board member, Jim Trainor, CNMT. Mr. Trainor was elected to fill the unexpired term of a resigning Board member.

See you at the NMTCB booth in St. Louis!

—Sheila Rosenfeld, CNMT,
Chairman, NMTCB

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



The State of the Section

When I assumed the office of President of the Technologist Section in June 1982, I enthusiastically undertook its many responsibilities. The office immediately provided an opportunity for creative problem-solving with the creation of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee to resolve a major problem: the allocation of revenues and expenses within the Section and the Society.

The fiscal crisis facing the Section was the result of not facing certain financial realities. This went on for many years in both the Society and the Section. The combined problem-solving skills of Drs. Myron Pollycove and Kenneth A. McKusick, Robert Bontemps, Virginia Pappas, and myself were brought to bear on this issue. I am happy to report to you that through our combined efforts and with the support of many others in the Section and the Society, the Section has a promising new future. One that a few of us who have been around awhile might have never thought possible.

Now, at the end of my term as President, I would like to report to you on the state of the Section. I truly suffer from only lack of space to share with you all the achievements the Section has made during 1982-83.

Current Direction

The Technologist Section membership—the key to our basic strength—stands at 3342. It is an ongoing and primary goal of the Section to maintain membership. The Section currently represents 28% of the estimated 12,000 nuclear medicine technologists in the United States. By contrast, the ASRT represents approximately 1,000 nuclear medicine technologists. It is clear that the Technologist Section represents the

mainstream of our technology.

All of our activities and resources are targeted to serve our members. There is a considerable array of such endeavors—publications, meetings, continuing education, academic affairs, chapter activities, and government relations, to name a few.

The Strength of our Organization

Our volunteer effort has increased considerably during this past year. I believe this is the most important strength of the Section. Without volunteers working together, this organization would truly be adrift. Volunteers built this organization to the success it now is and through volunteer efforts we shall continue to grow and represent the technology professionally.

In my opinion, our major problem area for the future will be to continue to maintain active recruitment at the chapter level and to maintain a strong, committed volunteer effort. We should not be overly dependent on national office staff support, which is costly.

Accomplishments for 1983

• *Chapter Involvement:* Progress has been made to further our goal to involve our Chapters. The audiovisual program has been developed through a collaborative effort with Section leadership and the Central Chapter. The Greater New York Chapter undertook a manpower survey, in an effort to make a contribution to the needs of the national organization. During the year we have seen an increase in the level of involvement by chapter members. I base this observation on the fact that almost 50% fewer members dropped membership this year than in the past and that the number of manuscripts submitted to the Journal is at an

all-time high and, also, the nominations for office produced a greater number of candidates than we have ever had in the past.

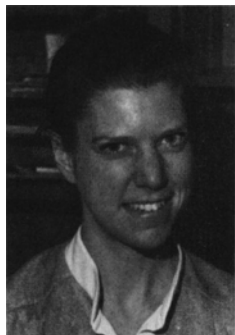
• *Extending Our Boundaries:* We have interacted on many levels with external organizations to develop areas of mutual interest. Principally, we have had discussions and goal-setting sessions regarding legislative and educational issues with the ASRT and the American College of Nuclear Physicians. We were also successful in encouraging registered nurses to attend a Section-sponsored workshop on radiation protection and safety. Expansion in this direction will continue.

• *Continuing Education:* Fifteen new audiovisuals were produced during 1982-83 and they are selling well. In the Journal, the continuing education series of articles has been well received by technologists. In addition, our meetings provide CE workshops of significant dimensions.

• *Long-Range Planning:* The National Council has developed long-range planning goals and a profile of the Section. The Council also developed an updated mission statement this year.

• *Business Aspects:* The Section has never been on a more sound fiscal base than it is now. In 1983 we redefined our financial relationship with the Society. The new arrangement allows us to plan effectively for the future. The Finance Committee under Jeff Kelly's leadership has established a reserve fund that will assist us in meeting our financial planning goals. These new financial arrangements will be finalized this June in St. Louis. The budget for 1983-84 stands at a total of \$497,000; 60% is allocated for

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Membership Report

Shelley D. Hartnett, CNMT
President-Elect
Chairman, Membership Committee
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Because of the challenges we face—rising costs and leveling membership—every effort has been made to continue our aggressive membership campaign. I am pleased to report that we increased our membership in 1982. We did this by providing new services that both attracted new members and brought back some delinquent accounts. Our membership campaign increased 1982 membership revenues by \$10,000 compared to 1981.

This year, we have already noted a significant decrease in suspended members, even though dues are now required to be paid earlier than in previous years. However, we still need your help to keep this momentum going.

On the Chapter level, one individual from every Chapter has come forward to serve as a membership contact person. These people will concentrate their energies specifically on the campaign recruitment effort. The national office will send these Chapter representatives a list of prospective members to contact about joining the Technologist Section. Chapter representatives will also be contacting suspended members to try and bring them back into the "fold."

If your Chapter is unable to follow through with this drive because of lack of funds, please contact Virginia Pappas at the Technologist Section, 475 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016, (212)889-0717, or me as soon as possible. Also, please send a list of any prospective members in your area to the national office (address above).

One incentive offered to every Chapter for new membership recruitment is a monetary award of \$200 if it reaches a specific number of new members from June 14, 1982, through May 31, 1983. Please note that if a Chapter does not reach its total goal, the Technologist Section will award a pro-rated portion of the \$200 based on the total increase in that Chapter's membership. What follows is a list of new member growth since June 14, 1982, and the number of new members each Chapter must still recruit in order to reach its goal—

to the Section. You must participate! Make sure that your National Council Delegate is responsive to the Chapter membership. At the same time, it is your responsibility as involved members to seek out Chapter delegates and see that they are provided with the input that enables communication. Keep those lines of communication—between the National Council, the national office, and all the members—open and flowing.

Your participation and support is appreciated. It will not only help improve the Technologist Section, but also the

profession of nuclear medicine technology, to the benefit of all.

During my term as President, the Technologist Section leadership will be working diligently to provide additional services to help involve the local Chapters in continuing education programs, public relations, and legislative affairs, and in understanding policy needs and

Chapter	Goal	Total New Membership from 6/14/82-4/1/83	New Members Needed by 5/31/83
Central	100	117	0
Eastern Canada	25	0	25
Eastern Great Lakes	25	13	12
Greater New York	100	55	45
Hawaii	25	0	25
Mideastern	75	39	36
Missouri Valley	75	45	30
New England	75	24	51
Northern California	75	30	45
Pacific Northwest	25	18	7
Pittsburgh	25	13	12
Rocky Mountain	25	10	15
Southeastern	100	105	0
Southern California	100	30	70
Southwestern	75	30	45

If you have any questions regarding the incentive program or these figures, please contact me or the national office.

Participation assures success. You must extend your hand in fellowship to those technologists who do not belong

membership desires. This will include support from Section Committees in response to individual member input. In that regard, as our membership campaign continues toward new horizons, please contact me at any time.

The Missouri Valley Chapter

cordially invites you to attend the
Technologist Party on

Tuesday, June 7, 1983, at the Sheraton-St. Louis Ballroom
from 9:00 pm-1:00 am

*There will be live music and a cash bar.
We hope you'll meet us in St. Louis*

State of the Section

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direct expenses and 40% is for staff support. This represents a slight reduction in staff support, down 4% from the 1982-83 budget.

It is important for us to realize that we have continued to increase our levels of service to members over the past three years without increasing our dues (very few allied-health organizations have done that). Dues have not been raised for three years.

An \$8,000 surplus was achieved in fiscal 1982. This will be used to fund new projects in 1984. A surplus is projected for the fiscal year 1983-84 while we have already reduced the anticipated budget deficit for 1983 from \$27,000 to \$15,000. We are hopeful that through reduction in direct expenses and staff support, fur-

ther expense reductions will allow us to quite possibly break even or perhaps generate a surplus. This is possible only by increasing the voluntary effort and by prudent management of the leadership and the national office. I am very encouraged by the results that I have seen this year. We can manage our own affairs effectively, we have demonstrated fiscal responsibility, and we can build a strong financial base allowing us to plan new programs to meet our members' needs.

Future Directions

With the framework in place to support our endeavors, we now need to look at our resources and how best to allocate them. We should:

1. Continue to make the Journal the principal cornerstone of our organization.
2. Increase our growth through increased membership recruitment.
3. Continue to develop effective external relationships with outside organizations and agencies.
4. Continue to monitor our bureaucra-

cy—not to have it interfere with delivery of services and recruitment of individuals into our organization.

5. Balance our efforts in socio-economics and science in order to best serve our members.

Finally, we must maintain our efforts to increase a sense of professionalism among our members. While the Section, in and of itself, cannot directly motivate professionalism for individual members (only individuals can do that) the organization can provide the framework to allow the individual to test his or her abilities in creative problem-solving, participation, developing and testing new ideas, and leadership.

It is my sense that during this year we have increased the level of professionalism among our members. You deserve to know that you have demonstrated a willingness to participate in the future of your professional organization. This has been an extremely vital year. May I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.