The Conjoint Congress: Ready for Orlando

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Technologist Section will convene with the SNM Board of Trustees and the Computer and Instrumentation Councils, February 1–6, 1984. The Conjoint Congress, as it has come to be called, will be held in Orlando, FL, at the Sheraton World Hotel.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, the Section's standing committees will meet, followed on Thursday, Feb. 2, by its governing body, the National Council. On Friday, Feb. 3, the scientific program begins.

Prominent among the topics assembled by the 1983–84 Program Committee, headed by Kathryn N. Wilkins, St. Joseph's Hospital, London, Canada, are three of the most exciting facets of nuclear medicine today: nuclear magnetic resonance, monoclonal antibodies, and single photon emission computed tomography.

"The emphasis at this year's meeting is clearly on new directions for nuclear medicine in the 1980s," says Ms. Wilkins. "We tried to design a scientific program that would address development in research and encourage professional growth."

Setting the tone for the 36 hours of continuing education to follow, William R. Hendee, PhD, a past president of SNM, will discuss the scientific advances of recent years and outline the specific areas nuclear medicine will seek to address in his opening lecture.

Keeping with the theme of new directions, two nonclinical sessions should attract participants in large numbers. They are: "Ethics and the Nuclear Medicine Technologist—An Outlook for the 80s" and "Nuclear Medicine Technology Student Program Accreditation—The Complete Process."

Ethics and Practice

Wanda Hibbard, MS, CNMT, of the Medical College of Georgia, will lecture on ethics and the nuclear medicine technologist. Her presentation will familiarize participants with ethics as theory and distinguish between ethical theory and clinical practice, a subject of growing interest within the Section and allied-health community. When does an ethical problem become a legal problem? How can ethical action prevent problems? Can a simple technique be used to analyze a problem and arrive at a solution? These and others are questions slated for discussion by Ms. Hibbard.

The session promises to be a lively one with model situations examined and actual case studies reconstructed, and participants will be asked to express their views.

"The malpractice suit," says Ms. Hibbard, "is the catalyst for growing interest in ethical conduct. Physicians have lost the 'knight in shining armor' image. That loss of image has had an effect on allied-health professionals, too. In fact, allied-health professionals have been sued, and found at fault in several cases. In such an environment, technologists must learn to recognize unethical situations as they develop. We can't go home, sleep on the problem, and decide the next day on a course of action."

Ms. Hibbard's presentation is scheduled from 1:30–5:00 pm on Friday, Feb. 3.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, Marcia Boyd, MS, CNMT, Richard Nuccio, MA, CNMT, and Charlene Rencher, MS, CNMT, will team up to present the accreditation process for nuclear medicine technology student education programs. "The forum," says Mr. Nuccio of St. Mary's Hospital, Milwaukee, WI, "will present an overview of the entire program accreditation process and a practical approach to preparing for it effectively."

A Refuge from Winter

As Program Chairman Kathryn Wilkins notes, one of the big attractions of the 11th Annual Meeting, in addition to the science, is the location. It's less than 12 miles to Disney World, home of the Magic Kingdom and the fabulous EPCOT Center. The Sheraton is less than 15 minutes from Orlando International Airport, and features a complete range of recreational facilities including tennis courts, mini golf, and pool. In February temperatures average in the mid 60s but can easily climb into the low 80s, making Orlando a welcome refuge from winter.

Technologists planning to attend the 11th Annual Meeting can reserve room accommodations ($57/night) by phone (1-800-327-0363), using either Diners Club or American Express credit cards. A first night's deposit is required. Registration for the Scientific Program is $75 for SNM members, $90 for all others.

A Report from the Continuing Education Committee

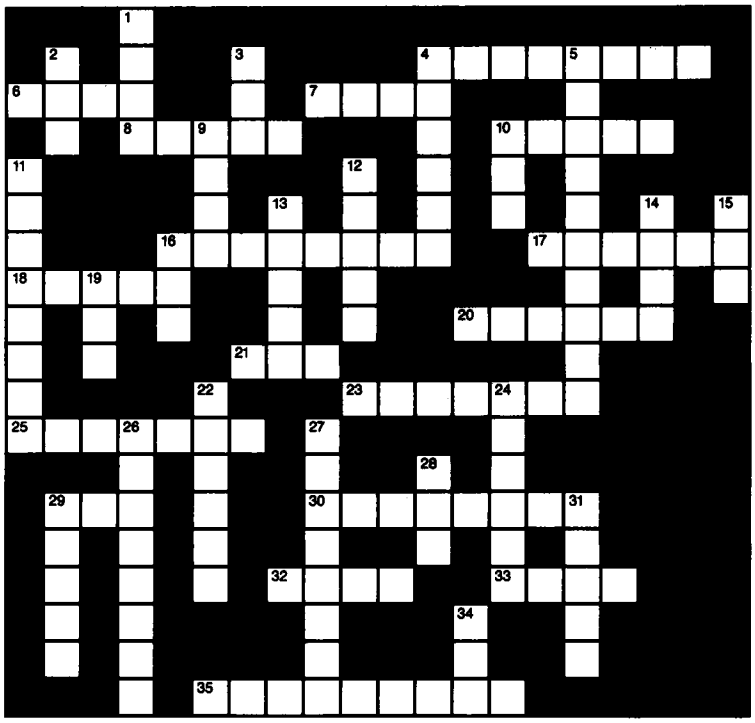
The Technologist Section issued 1,890 VOICE transcripts in 1983; this denotes a marked increase over previous years in continuing education activities among Section members. The number of transcripts issued and the credit hours awarded per transcript have risen steadily since 1980, due in effect to technologists' commitment to professional growth and a corresponding commitment from the more than 160 sponsors of continuing education. SNM/Technologist Section Chapters, medical institutions, commercial companies, and course directors are to be congratulated for their efforts on behalf of all technologists.

In 1984 the Continuing Education Committee intends to simplify the process by which technologists report their continuing education activities. It is our hope to reduce yet further the amount of paperwork required of course sponsors and directors while at the same time improving the record-keeping system.

Presently, the Committee is working to market audiovisual programs produced from the 1983 Annual Meeting and publish CE articles in the Journal. Both the audiovisual programs and CE articles have been awarded VOICE credit, thus expanding the scope of the Section's home-study programs. The Section and particularly the Continuing Education Committee look forward to renewed member and sponsor support in the coming year.—*Susan Brown, CNMT, Chairman, Continuing Education Committee.*

NMT Crossword

—John T. Clarke, CNMT, Dept. of Nuclear Medicine, St. Paul Hospital, Dallas TX



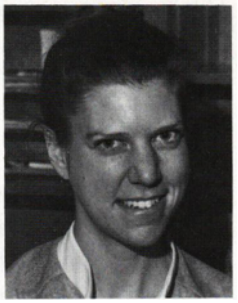
(answers on page 152)

Across

4 This particle annihilates itself when it comes in contact with an electron
6 Abbreviation for technologist certified by the NMTCB
7 Neils _____; this physicist gave us the model for the atom
8 ++ charged particle
10 Prefix for 1/1,000,000
16 He discovered x-rays; also, a unit of measure of x- or gamma radiation
17 662 kev nuclide often used as a standard
18 She started it all!
20 Element metabolized by the thyroid; also used to diagnose and treat it
21 Federal agency that issues radioactive materials licenses (abbreviation)
23 Nuclide used for tumor and infectious process imaging
25 Common particle with no charge
29 Organization for all MDs (abbreviation)
30 Nuclide used for pancreas imaging
32 Prefix for 1/1,000,000,000
33 Unit of measure of molecular weight
35 Third of three common factors that minimize radiation exposure

Down

1 Negatively charged particulate radiation emitted by I-131, and many other radionuclides
2 Organization we all belong to (or should!) (abbreviation)
3 Federal agency whose sole purpose is radiation safety
4 Common positively charged particle
5 The most common nuclide used for imaging
9 Prefix for 1/1,000,000,000,000
10 Million electron volts
11 Negatively charged particle that spins around nucleus
12 High-speed electron from the nucleus (proper name)
13 He invented the gamma camera!
14 First of three common factors that minimize radiation exposure
15 Unit of measure of atomic mass (an electron = 1; a proton = 1836)
16 Unit of measure of radiation-induced biological damage in man
19 Unit of measure of radiation absorbed in tissue
22 Nuclide used in Schilling's test, and to simulate Tc-99m
24 Nuclide commonly used for cisternography
26 Nuclide used for myocardial imaging; also activates the crystal
27 Second of three common factors that minimize radiation exposure
28 Thousand electron volts
29 Negatively charged atom
31 Prefix for 1/1,000
34 Any charged atom



Shelley D. Hartnett, CNMT
President, Technologist Section
St. Joseph's Hospital
Denver, CO; (303)837-6840

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The key to the strength of the Technologist Section is our members. Currently the Section represents 35% of all full-time nuclear medicine technologists in the US. This is good: it makes the Section *the* representative of the mainstream of nuclear medicine technology. Of course, the other side of the coin is: where is the other 65% of the nuclear medicine technologist community? Why don't they belong to their professional organization?

This concern becomes all the more important because nuclear medicine is increasing almost daily in its complexity. The Section can best serve the needs of the nuclear medicine technologist because all of our efforts and endeavors are directed to this purpose. At the same time, one can only benefit from our services if one is a member.

On the Legislative Front

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and the Technologist Section have worked diligently with many different government agencies and private sector organizations to maintain and develop standards for the competent performance of nuclear medicine technology. In this regard, the "Standards for the Accreditation of Educational Programs for and the Credentialing of Radiologic Personnel" were promulgated for comment via the *Federal Register* last July.

In September, our immediate past president, Dorothy Duffy Price, CNMT, represented the Society and the Section at an AMA meeting on "Credentialing Radiologic Technologists." The meeting was arranged to bring together various organizations that have an interest in the certification of radiologic personnel and to allow an exchange of ideas on the recently promulgated "Standards." Ms. Price reports that the consensus from this meeting was that the organizations present would develop a position and recommend a course of action to deal with the implementation of the "Standards" on the state level. In light of this, the Technologist Section is formulating its "Legislative Guide," a compendium of source documents.

The Society and the Section were in the process of responding to the "Standards" as this message is being written, and one thing is certain: this is another type of activity that calls for heightened awareness and increasing involvement from our members.

Similarly, you are no doubt aware by now of major changes in Medicare payments to hospitals for in-patient services. These changes, which in essence establish in advance what Medicare will pay for 467 standard diagnosis related groups (DRGs), will affect health-care delivery in the US. The role of nuclear medicine and the practice of nuclear medicine technology may be significantly altered by this new payment system. We need to be ready to develop plans and programs that will best represent the nuclear medicine technologist—and our plans will be most beneficial only if our membership is active.

Long-Range Planning

We have been working with ASRT, ACNP, and NMTCB to develop effective operational relationships. In addition, we have initiated a dialogue with the American Hospital Radiology Administrators. My hope is that the leadership will be able to work together to increase understanding and to cooperate in areas of mutual interest.

In 1983, our National Council (the Section's policy-making body) developed specific, well-defined goals during its long-range planning sessions. One result is the following, the Section's redefined mission statement:

"To encourage nuclear medicine technologists to join together in an association within the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. for the purpose of maintaining the identity and quality of nuclear medicine technologists and providing the continuing development, improvement and expansion of nuclear medicine technology for the betterment of health-care services."

We will continue to emphasize these goals and objectives.

I can also report that phase II of our manpower survey is now underway; questionnaires will be mailed in spring 1984 and we expect this important project to be completed by the end of next year.

Elsewhere in this issue, readers and members will find information about our upcoming Annual Meeting, which will take place in Orlando, FL, Feb. 1–6, 1984. The Scientific and Teaching Sessions Committee has worked hard and long to present an interesting program. Orlando promises to be a beneficial experience, and I look forward to seeing you there.

NMTCB Report

Sheila Rosenfeld, CNMT
Chairman, NMTCB

The NMTCB administered its sixth annual certification examination on Sept. 10, 1983. Over 1,000 applications were received for this exam, indicating our continued growth. The cut-off score for the exam was 119. This year a comment section was added to the answer sheet. The Board felt that comments received are most useful and we will continue to provide this section on the answer sheet.

The NMTCB has now entered another examination cycle. The date of the 1984 exam will be Saturday, Sept. 15, 1984. Deadline for application for this exam is June 2, 1984. The 1984 application fee will be $75.00 with an annual registration fee of $20.00

Beginning in 1985, the NMTCB will administer two exams per year. This will allow on-the-job-training candidates and recent graduates of CAHEA-approved training programs more latitude regarding application for certification, upon meeting eligibility requirements.

The guidelines for these two exam administrations are:

	Exam Date	Application Deadline
1st Exam	last Sat. of June, 1985	3rd Sat. of March, 1985
2nd Exam	last Sat. of Sept., 1985	3rd Sat. of June, 1985

The NMTCB met with its Advisory Council October 13–16 and approved the following policies:

- NMTCB defines full-time clinical experience as 40 hours per week, excluding overtime and call. Technologists who work part-time may apply for examination if their total experience (required number of total hours) is equivalent to the full-time requirements stated above.
- To determine academic equivalency for all foreign applicants seeking to qualify for examination under the OJT eligibility requirement, the NMTCB will require as of Jan. 1, 1984, that official transcripts first be evaluated by the International Education Research Foundation, Inc., PO Box 24679, Los Angeles, CA 90024. This evaluation must then be submitted with the application for certification examination.
- NMTCB will not exam applicants outside of the continental United States. The Board reaffirmed its policy that clinical experience obtained outside the United States will not apply towards an applicant's eligibility.

At our recent meeting 1984 officers were elected. They are Sheila Rosenfeld, CNMT—Chairman, Ann Steves, CNMT—Secretary, and Jim Senecal, CNMT—Treasurer. Mel Freundlich, MD, was elected chairman of the Advisory Council.

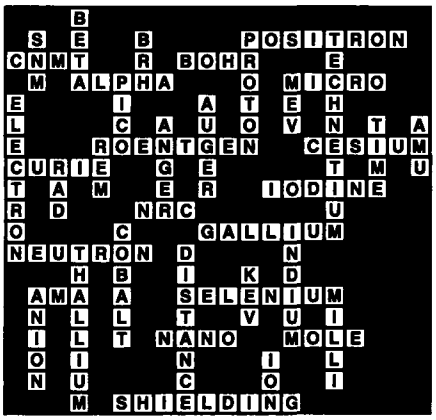
The NMTCB Directors whose terms end on Dec. 31, 1983 are George Alexander, CNMT, Douglas Anderson, CNMT, Donald Bernier, CNMT, and Susan Weiss, CNMT. Names of candidates to fill these vacancies were submitted to the NMTCB by the National Council of the Technologist Section. A ballot was returned to the National Council delegates, who will vote by mail. The four nominees receiving the largest number of votes will be elected NMTCB Directors for the 1984–86 term, which starts Jan. 1, 1984. This year for the first time the Board of Registry of the ASCP will be electing a physician and a technologist to the NMTCB Board.

I am pleased to announce that at its fall meeting the Board agreed to change Barbara Horton's title from Administrative Director to Executive Director and correspondingly Jennifer Fisher's title from Assistant Administrative Director to Assistant Executive Director.

In November the NMTCB moved its office. However, our address has remained the same: PO Box 1034, Stone Mountain, GA 30086. Please note our new phone number: (404) 493-4504.

On behalf of the NMTCB Board, I would like to wish the nuclear medicine community a happy new year. The year ahead will be a busy one and we look forward to your continued support.

NMT Crossword Answers



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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete; (signed) Laura Kosden, Publications Director.

Membership Report

"The question always arises concerning what services do you derive from being a member. In answering we tend to concentrate on the tangibles, such as the JNMT, audiovisuals, and conferences, while neglecting the intangibles. In today's world it is the intangibles that control our future. You have representation on the national and state level in political affairs, representation on various health certifying agencies, and you have input into the committees and agencies that promulgate rules and regulations that have a direct impact upon how you earn a living.

"It is no secret that the squeaky wheel gets the oil and that numbers influence. It is difficult for our leadership to effect changes that are positive and beneficial to all of us if they cannot speak for all of us, because we have not taken the opportunity to join and the opportunity to make our individual position known. If a large segment of the nuclear medicine technology community are not members, then that creates an element of doubt in the minds of the movers and shakers as to whom our leadership really represents."

The above, which appeared in a recent chapter newsletter, describes some reasons why membership in the Section is important.

I would like to welcome to the Section all technologist members of the Society who were not formerly Section members (all technologist members of the Society are now automatically Section members). You are no longer in limbo, without a voice in either the Society or Section. Among your benefits as Section members, you may now be appointed to serve on committees, and you have the right to vote and hold elective office. We hope you find all your additional benefits to your liking and will continue your Society and Section memberships.

The goal of the Membership Committee this year is to retain all active Section members (who number 4252 as of Sept. 20, 1983), and have each chapter reach its membership goal. To aid members who have membership problems, I have asked each chapter to designate an ombudsman who will receive and investigate complaints, such as not receiving mailings.

I am sure many of you have had concerns voiced to you about being a member. One concern "The dues are too high!" can be answered by the following (adapted from an AMA recruitment packet).

The Section operates in the business and economic world—just as you do. The people and things needed to provide services to you, to the profession, and to the public cost money. Salaries, supplies, and space, for example, are operational costs you bear. If more technologists would join, these costs would be spread over a larger group, and the dollar impact would not be as great on the individual technologist. The Section has not raised dues for the last three years even though inflation has been high and salaries have increased.

Further, as of Oct. 1, 1983, all dues paid to belong to the Technologist Section (SNM and TS, SNM dues) are returned to the Section. The dues for a Technologist, SNM, and Section member are less than $1.15 per week, which can be compared with receiving other services such as subscription magazines (*Time, Newsweek*). The cost of one service, the JNM and JNMT, would be $2.40 per week without SNM and Section membership.

We hope to answer other membership concerns in future articles. I urge you to contact any of us on the Membership Committee: Karen Stuyvesant, CNMT (515)283-6458, John Capuzzi, CNMT (215)447-2539 or me, with your concerns, comments, and complaints.—*Maria Nagel, CNMT, President-Elect, and Chairman, Membership Committee, (402) 559-7224.*

Government Relations Update

Legislation affecting nuclear medicine technologists has been proposed in Washington, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, New Mexico, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota, Maryland, Texas, and Iowa, to name but some of the states.

The Government Relations Committee is working on a standardized response form that Committee members can use to evaluate all such proposed bills. We will then use this as a frame of reference to consider each bill in terms of: allowance for an appointed advisory board, its composition—including nuclear medicine representation, proposed educational curriculum, methodology of accreditation, and similar issues that affect the practice of nuclear medicine technology. Each member of the committee will review the proposed bills and responses will be kept on file for access by anyone interested.

The "Legislative Guide" packet is nearing completion. At the Technologist Section's upcoming meeting, which will be held in Orlando, FL, in February, we expect to have the initial phase of its contents available for distribution. (The "Legislative Guide" is intended as an instructional/advisory aide to licensure legislation for nuclear medicine technologists.) The completed guide is expected to be available to members at the SNM 31st Annual Meeting, June 1984, in Los Angeles, CA.

Our legislative network is continually being revised to keep it up to date and pertinent. The current network listing will also be available to members at the Orlando meeting. Or you may write the Technologist Section, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016, to request a copy. — *Danielle Kavanagh, CNMT, Chairman, Government Relations Committee, (714)771-8140.*

The Journal's fourth and what was to be final article on pediatric nuclear medicine will not appear. In its place, we begin a new series on nuclear cardiology in this issue. The first of this four-part series, entitled "Evaluating Coronary Artery Disease," begins on page 157.