
Letter from the Editor

Technologist Section's 15th Anniversary

In celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Technologist Section, this issue of the JNMT contains a special anniversary article. This article begins with a historical look at the formation of the Technologist Section and heralds the efforts of a number of individuals who have made major contributions to the growth of the Section. In addition, we have invited comments by James F. Cooper, PharmD (first President of the Technologist Section) on radiopharmaceutical changes that have occurred over the past 15 years, a look at instrumentation changes by Trevor D. Craddock, PhD (Consulting Editor, JNMT), and a physician's perspective of nuclear medicine technology by Thomas P. Haynie, MD, who has been a long-time supporter of technologists and is a distinguished honoree of the Technologist Section for the important role he played in the founding of the Section.

In the history of nuclear medicine, technologists have played an important role in implementing the many new and technically varied advancements that have formed nuclear medicine into the specialty that it is today. Technologists also shoulder the responsibility of providing quality health care and serving as the primary link between this "high-tech" medical field while also meeting the personal needs of the patient.

The strength of nuclear medicine and nuclear medicine technology has been the ability of individuals to change and adapt to the technical advances of this specialty. Today's technologists must have a functional understanding of a wide variety of sophisticated fields that include elementary radiation physics, radiopharmaceuticals, nuclear instrumentation, computers, and human physiology, all of which provide the tools for not only routine clinical procedures, but innovative approaches to solving new problems efficiently.

Over the last 15 years the Technologist Section has been the primary source for nuclear medicine technologists to become better educated in the many advancements that changed and will continue to change the practice of our medical specialty. The numerous services of the Technologist Section such as the *Journal*, educational programs, the formation of the NMTCB, and socioeconomic and governmental affairs committees give unique opportunities for us to share our individual ideas and have a voice together for the benefit of our colleagues and our patients. On this 15th anniversary, we recognize the great strides made in the field of nuclear medicine, take pride in our organization, and look forward to the opportunities and challenges of the future.



PAUL E. CHRISTIAN, CNMT
Editor