

TECHNOLOGIST SECTION NAMES GARY WOOD DISTINGUISHED HONOREE

Momentum to form a professional organization for nuclear medicine technologists built during the 1960s, in part because of rapid changes in techniques. For the integral role he played in the creation of the Technologist Section of The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), Gary Wood was named distinguished Honoree at the 1987 Technologist Section Winter Meeting in San Antonio, TX last January. Mr. Wood, a graduate in physics of Central State College, Edmond, OK, was assistant in physics and supervisor of the Nuclear Medicine Laboratory at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, TX, in the late 1960s when technologists first began to organize.

"It was a dynamic time for nuclear medicine," said Mr. Wood. Technetium-99m first became available, as an oral dose, and "we had no good ways to assay the output of the generators to even know how much activity we had," he explained. "Eventually we got sterile generators and kits were developed." In addition, many departments were shifting from scanners to cameras, and most technologists were trained on the job.

"There was a lot of in-service education that had to be done for the people who had been in the business for a while, as well as for new people coming in," said Mr. Wood. "The need for communication was extremely high among the technologists, especially about technique and safety."

At the encouragement of, among others, Thomas P. Haynie, MD, then a member of the SNM Southwestern Chapter Board of Trustees, and physician in charge of nuclear medicine at M.D. Anderson, Mr. Wood began getting technologists together in the Houston area in 1966. They drew up a proposal for a technologist group in the Southwestern Chapter, and drafted bylaws to include technologist activities there.

At the same time, a competing group called the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technology formed in Chicago. "Many of us within the SNM felt that it was not a good idea for there to be an independent technologist group," said Mr. Wood. Although some members wanted the SNM to be strictly a physician's organization, "there were enough people who felt the SNM was unique, and that it should encompass all nuclear medicine professionals, physicians, basic scientists, and technologists," he continued. In part because of the Chicago group, SNM members stepped up efforts for an SNM Technologist Section.

Noting the success of the technologists in the Southwestern Chapter, Merrill H. Bender, then president of the SNM, appointed Dr. Haynie to chair a new Committee on Technical Affiliates. This committee met in 1967 to discuss organizing technologists nationally. "I've never seen anything move faster," said Dr. Haynie. "There are many times when you are trying to do something, and it just won't happen. And there are other



Wayne J. Wcislo, CNMT (right) presented Gary Wood (left) with the Distinguished Honoree plaque.

times when it happens almost despite what you try to do." The Technologist Section was an idea whose time had come.

The forerunner of the National Council, the Subcommittee on Technologist Affairs met the next year at the 1968 SNM Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Mr. Wood chaired this committee, which was made up of technologist representatives from most chapters.

The Subcommittee on Technologist Affairs spent the next two years organizing technologists within chapters and preparing a constitution and bylaws for a Technologist Section at the national level. "Gary Wood played the crucial role in helping to get it organized in the Southwestern Chapter," said Dr. Haynie. "At the national level he worked with the technologist representatives and put together the bylaws." The SNM Board of Trustees approved the bylaws in July of 1970, and the Technologist Section became official. "Presenting those bylaws to the Board of Trustees and getting them accepted were Gary Wood's genius," commented Dr. Haynie.

Although nuclear medicine procedures and instrumentation have changed over the years, and with them the jobs of technologists, the concerns of the Technologist Section have remained constant. "We felt that if it was going to be successful as part of the SNM, it could not be just a political organization. It had to be scientific and educational," said Dr. Haynie. The Technologist Section Program at the SNM Annual Meeting, the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, and the popularity of VOICE (Verification of Involvement in Continuing Edu-



Thomas P. Haynie, MD (left) and Gary Wood (right) at the Technologist Section Winter Meeting.

ation) credit are all evidence of the Technologist Section's success. Training and certification continue to be important issues as well.

Since his involvement in the Technologist Section's beginnings, Mr. Wood has gained experience in nearly every ap-

proach to nuclear medicine practice. After a year in a private practice in radiation therapy and nuclear medicine in California, he returned to Texas and has worked in a commercial radiopharmaceutical firm, as technical director in nuclear medicine at St. Paul Hospital in Dallas, and as a private consultant in radiation physics and nuclear medicine. He is now radiation physicist at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco, TX. Mr. Wood has also done graduate work at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Houston, and the University of Texas Health Center in Dallas.

"Forming the Technologist Section was a response on the part of the SNM to the interests and needs of the technologists," said Mr. Wood. "Working to have them in the SNM was a unique and stong opportunity at a very changing and productive time in nuclear medicine." [For more Technologist Section history, see *J Nucl Med Technol* 1985;13:110-112.]

Betsy Hanson
Coordinating Editor, *JNMT*

CALL FOR JRC DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

The Academic Affairs Committee is seeking applications from Technologist Section members who would like to represent the Section as a Director 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 educational 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 September 1, 1987. The Committee will then recommend applicants it deems most qualified to the Section's Executive Committee. During the fall 1987 meeting, the Executive Committee will select three applicants from this pool; the President of the Section will then make one appointment, pending approval of the Executive Committee.

The Director's term will begin January 1, 1988. The appointment will be for 4 years. 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 Delegates.

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

Applicants should submit a current curriculum vitae using the Technologist Section Curriculum Vitae Form for Nominees for Elective Office and a letter that demonstrates knowledge of the philosophy, functions, and duties of the JRCNMT, as well as indicates availability of time, willingness to serve, and availability for necessary travel. Support of the applicant's employing institution must be submitted in writing before the appointment can be finalized. Applicants must 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.

Address all submissions to: Charlene F. Rencher, CNMT, Educational Coordinator, School of Nuclear Medicine, St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross Road, Detroit, MI 48236.