

# NMTCB REPORT

Nancy M. Blosser, CNMT, Chairperson

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) directors completed work on a mission statement for the Board at a recent meeting. A mission statement of any organization should be an important document for several reasons and this statement, we hope, fulfills that expectation.

This mission statement informs the public, members of the profession, and employers of nuclear medicine technologists of the level of knowledge and skills possessed by entry level certified technologists. It is a statement to certificant about the value of the certification process and the certifying organization. Lastly, it provides NMTCB board members with a guide to the Board's reason for existence and the direction it should be following. The mission statement of the NMTCB is as follows:

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board was founded in 1977 to establish and maintain a voluntary program for certification of nuclear medicine technologists. The Board endeavors to promote quality patient care and to serve the public, the profession, and employers by establishing and developing standards and procedures for individuals to enter, continue, and advance in nuclear medicine technology. The standards include educational requirements, practical experience, and successful completion of an appropriate competency based examination. The Board certifies that these individuals have developed the requisite body of skills and knowledge and are prepared to practice nuclear medicine technology, and registers those individuals who meet these criteria. The work of the Board is accomplished with technologists, scientists, and physicians, representing the profession.\*

Many of the words in this mission statement are important but I would like to highlight a few. First is the word voluntary. This has meaning for both the certificant and those who work for the process in various capacities. The certificant has voluntarily submitted to the examination process in order to prove

to employers, coworkers, and most important, the patients served that a certain level of competence has been reached. Second, the NMTCB depends heavily on the many professionals who serve voluntarily as Board members, item writers, advisory members, and in many other capacities. Without these dedicated volunteers the NMTCB could not exist.

The second word to consider is standards. The standards that the Board follows have been developed over a number of years and are modified periodically to reflect the ever-changing state of the art of nuclear medicine technology. These standards are designed to evaluate the entire process of certification. They permit review of the educational background of a certificant candidate, including the candidate's practical experience, as well as the entry level body of knowledge required to practice nuclear medicine technology. Most important is that these standards are established by nuclear medicine professionals working in the field who have the best knowledge of what these standards should be.

The last word to consider is certified. This word describes the main purpose of the NMTCB. The Board certifies that an individual has mastered a certain body of knowledge in nuclear medicine technology. Certification is accomplished by conducting an examination, which involves developing test items, constructing a legitimate exam, administering that exam, and then evaluating the results. After candidates are certified, they may become registered on the list of qualified nuclear medicine technologists maintained by the NMTCB.

There are many other important words in our statement above, which would take too long to elaborate upon: quality patient care, service to the public, continuation and advancement in nuclear medicine technology, and work. All of these and more make up the essence and spirit of the mission statement of the NMTCB.

\* Technologist Section-The Society of Nuclear Medicine; The Society of Nuclear Medicine; Board of Registry, American Society of Clinical Pathologists.