

Message From The President

Having the opportunity to work with and meet so many people involved in nuclear medicine this past year has been one of the real pleasures of the presidency. My thanks to the Committee Chairmen, Committee Members, Officers, and National Council Delegates for their support and dedicated work this year. I would really be amiss if I did not also thank the New York staff, especially Virginia Pappas, for their support and assistance. We can be excited about some of the accomplishments this year and the possibilities for future projects as outlined by the strategic plan.



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LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

The first Legislative Newsletter has been sent to the legislative network, National Council Delegates, and Chapter Presidents. This is an informational means of keeping the network aware of legislative developments.

Data collection for the additional nuclear medicine studies in the AHRA Radworks proposal is underway. After completion of the project, workload measurements will include bone imaging, thallium (planar and SPECT), lung (ventilation and perfusion), cardiac (gated and first-pass), hepatobiliary, inflammatory imaging (gallium-67 and indium-111 WBCs), and thyroid uptake and scans.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

Do not miss the opportunity to order your Nuclear Medicine Week posters, buttons, stickers, etc. early. You can really take advantage of this week for numerous public relations activities in your hospital and community. Art Hall is to be commended for an excellent job as Chairman of the Task Force this year.

MULTICOMPETENCY

Many people today are interested in the concept of the multicompetent technologist. The Task Force, chaired by Sheila Rosenfeld, met in February and presented their initial report to the National Council. Much time and energy has been expended by the members of

the Task Force. They plan to present a position statement for consideration by the National Council in June.

The major crisis we face today is the shortage of nuclear medicine technologists. Shortages are apparent throughout all of the allied health fields, so we are not alone in the quest for students. Following a summit meeting of 13 organizations associated with the radiologic technologies, there are plans underway to get Congressional support for the recruitment and retention of nuclear medicine technologists. This type of effort requires active participation by all members. Remember, you did it in 1985-1986 when you wrote your Congressmen for support of National Nuclear Medicine Week. Since this is an election year, the opportunity to gain the needed support is in our favor. The survival of our profession may be on the line, so a concerted effort by everyone is needed. When you are called upon by the leadership in your area, please respond quickly with your letters or calls.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

For a follow-up on the strategic plan, in February the National Council prioritized the objectives that had been developed by the members of the National Council in November and December. Each objective was assigned to a committee or committees, and a time frame was set. Two lists were generated, one

including those objectives requiring a budget, and the other including those objectives requiring no additional funds. I would like to give you some of the highlights so that you will have an idea of projects to expect to see in the future. One goal is to promote an awareness of nuclear medicine for the public and referring physicians. Specifically related to the goal are objectives to develop educational and marketing programs for the public and referring physicians that will include the cost effectiveness of nuclear medicine. Plans also include the development of a video in lay terms for a better understanding of nuclear medicine by the public.

An awareness of the growing shortage of nuclear medicine technologists resulted in a goal to increase the number of nuclear medicine technology graduates. Therefore, there are objectives to develop recruitment programs for careers in nuclear medicine. This would include working with the JRC to retain existing schools and encourage establishment of new schools.

The concern for recruitment of new members as well as retaining current members in the SNM is considered to be a major goal. There is an objective to recruit and retain students as members by devising a comprehensive program for student involvement. Some of your nonmember colleagues will be surveyed as to why they do not belong to the Technologist Section (TS). The Membership Committee will also be investigating a means of decreasing the processing time for new member applications; the possibility of offering other types of memberships such as via the hospital or institution; and the development of a dues incentive for those recruiting a required number of new members.

A vital function and goal of the TS continues to be education. New projects include a plan to provide, perhaps as a categorical seminar, a Management Workshop at the Annual Meeting. Another objective is to develop traveling "road shows." The TS is currently discussing possible plans for a joint project

with the ACNP to provide traveling SPECT QC workshops.

There is a strong incentive, and therefore a goal, to develop a solid financial base. Realizing that increasing dues is not a viable means, the TS will investigate other areas such as publications.

Two objectives receiving a high priority are the publication of a "Primer Series" on various aspects of nuclear medicine technology (NMT) and a study guide for certifying exams. Furthermore, an objective regarding the location of the national office received a high priority in the area of finance. Two objectives associated with the goal "to promote the identity of NMT through communication with 'grassroots,' other

allied health organizations, and government agencies" received the highest rankings. These proposed objectives will maintain a strong legislative network and reduce the threat of competition by working with other organizations to mutually agree upon standards for training and competence in imaging departments. Another high priority identity objective is the continual development of new ideas for keeping Nuclear Medicine Week alive.

There is a concern among the National Council members that we must develop "new blood" for our leadership roles. Consequently, there are objectives to: increase the involvement of program directors in the TS, develop a mentor pro-

gram, schedule a meeting of the TS President and the Chapter Presidents at the Annual Meeting, streamline the TS structure, and investigate the possibility of funding the National Council to the Winter meeting.

The strategic plan is a constantly growing and developing blueprint for the TS. The objectives that were prioritized came from Chairmen, National Council Delegates, as well as individual members. Your ideas are vital to the TS. Please communicate with the leadership the directions in which you think the TS should be headed. The future of the TS is your professional future.

Once again, thanks to all of you for making it a truly fun year.