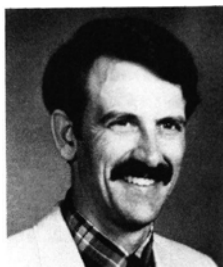


Message From The President

In my first message as President of the Technologist Section, I would like to address issues of concern to the Section. While serving as Acting President, I have spent the past year dealing with problems facing the membership and leadership. As I reflect back on the past year, I am pleased with the progress of the Section. The profession's membership responds to the needs and provides the drive to move forward in these intriguing times. Various issues still confront both the Society and the Section: the technologist shortage, relative value studies, reimbursement, and PET. The search committee continues in its endeavors to find a new executive director. I would like to thank the employees of the national office for their help and understanding as the leadership and membership deal with this process.



Author J. Hall, CNMT
Athens, Texas

The Annual Meeting in St. Louis provided me with an opportunity to meet with many people. I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the excellent technologist program put together by Dayton Rich and the Scientific Teachings Sessions committee. I also was pleased to see that the Exhibit Hall was packed. Member patronage of the exhibitors is appreciated since the sponsorship of many activities at both the Annual Meeting and chapter meetings are provided by these exhibitors. The Annual Meeting also provides a forum for addressing issues important to the Section. These activities are summarized as follows.

Although lengthy, the National Council

meeting on Saturday addressed a number of important issues such as renewed discussion to shorten the amount of time we would be at the Mid-Winter and Annual Meetings; the development of a career ladder model for technologists; and the formation of a task force to deal with the shortage.

During the Plenary Session, I presented the Distinguished Honoree award and the President's plaque and gavel to members of Paul D. Cole's family. Paul was certainly deserving of this recognition and award. I have missed him as I am sure you have. In addition, the Section requested and received permission from the Board of Trustees to include a one time line item on the annual statement for a \$10 donation to the Paul D. Cole scholarship fund. Currently, this fund has approximately \$8,000. I hope to extend this amount to about \$30,000 to support at least three annual scholarships. Please remember to contribute when you receive your dues statement. We could raise about \$20,000 if 50% of our membership contributed to this fund. Also remember that your contribution would be of great help in dealing with the shortage by providing aid to recipients and by publicizing the field of nuclear medicine as a career path.

Other activities at the meeting included special one-day workshops and seminars on topics such as managing the student recruitment crisis, evaluating student performance in the clinical setting, and contacting key legislative people. The recruitment video, mentioned in my last message, was worked on by Mark Crosthwaite and Larry Rowell during the meeting. Hopefully, a video will be produced soon to help in the recruitment process. Lastly, I would like to thank the following individuals for their

input during the meeting: Beverly Buck, ASRT President who gave a presentation for the National Council delegates and Mary Wright of AHRA who gave a report at the Section Business meeting.

The Technologist Shortage

The shortage dilemma continues! I believe our efforts should be concentrated toward filling the current slots in all of our schools, seeking funding to develop schools in areas that need them, and in publicizing and advertising our profession. Commercial companies are offering their help in dealing with this problem. They are working with our leadership to develop videos, brochures, promotions and other innovative ideas to attract students. For example, Syncor is working with the Section on possibly developing a video on nuclear medicine technology as well as a brochure describing nuclear medicine. Du Pont and the Technologist Advisory Board is working to develop scholarships and is currently completing a professional development program emphasizing patient relations, communication, professionalism and customer focus in addition to journal articles geared toward administrators and physicians. Retention however is as strong an issue as recruitment. We must educate physicians and administrators about this dilemma and generate a sensitivity to these issues. This will be a difficult task since relative value studies and hospital reimbursement are issues of great concern to them.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the commercial vendors for their support of the Section. It is with their help and with that of our fellow physicians and scientists that will enable us to overcome the shortage problem and generate a new wave for nuclear medicine.