

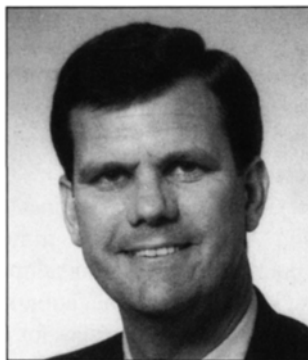
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two important items discussed during the strategic planning session held this past June addressed: (a) recruiting and educating the future leadership of the Technologist Section (SNM-TS) and (b) expanding and increasing the dissemination of information to the grassroots membership. Interestingly enough, while Virginia Pappas, CAE, Associate Director (SNM), Mickey Williams, CNMT, President-Elect, and I attended various chapter meetings and delivered similar presentations regarding the history and operation of the SNM-TS

for the express purpose of disseminating information to the membership, we encountered similar responses. "I didn't know the Technologist Section was involved in so many things;" "I wasn't aware that you are so well organized;" and "I'm amazed that the annual operating budget is \$800K." The remainder of this message provides a brief overview of the Section's organizational structure and highlights current and future activities in the hope of enlisting the needed support and involvement of our members and to further the goals of the Section's mission statement: "To encourage nuclear medicine technologists to join together in an association with The Society of Nuclear Medicine... for the purpose of maintaining the identity and quality of nuclear medicine technologists and providing the continuing development, improvement, and expansion of nuclear medicine technology for the betterment of health care services."

As of October 1990, active membership in the SNM-TS totals 4,956 and is 11,321 for the Society. There are currently 11,544 nuclear medicine technologists registered by the NMTCB and 9,828 by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. There is another group of part-time nuclear medicine technologists who also work as part-time ultrasound, radiologic, or cardiac technologists. The Section believes that this latter group is very small, and we can honestly boast that we represent approximately 45% of those persons involved in day-to-day nuclear medicine technology.

It is important to recognize that the SNM-TS was developed to address the special and unique interests of nuclear medicine technologists (see the June 1985 and June 1990 issues of *JNMT* for a historical overview of the Section). When the SNM-TS was established in 1970, there were no mechanisms for the creation or recognition of subgroups (sections or councils) within The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM). The active collaboration and participation of technologists and other nuclear medicine professionals is what makes the SNM and SNM-TS unique in the realm of medical professional societies. No other medical professional society has a governing body and



Brad Pounds
Houston, Texas

membership structure that provides for physicians, scientists, and technologists.

To be a member of the SNM-TS one must also be a member of the SNM. Only the technologist category of membership automatically places an individual on the membership roster of the SNM-TS. Any other member of the SNM can become a member of the SNM-TS upon request. In addition to technologists, there are three other SNM membership categories. Full members are those persons actively involved in nuclear medicine who possess an advanced degree (MD, PhD, MS);

associate members are individuals who have at least a bachelor's degree and may vote and participate in SNM activities, except for holding elective office. Affiliate members are individuals who have an active interest in the objectives of the SNM but do not qualify for other categories of membership. Please note that only active members of the SNM-TS receive the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. Another membership benefit is enrollment in the VOICE (Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education) program, a computerized recordkeeping system to document member's continuing education activities.

The SNM and SNM-TS are comprised of organizational components on both the national and regional levels. The national governing body of the SNM-TS is the National Council, which is comprised of nationally elected officers, appointed chairpersons of standing committees, the editor of *JNMT*, and elected or appointed representatives of each regional chapter and meets twice a year (during the Mid-Winter and Annual meetings of the SNM). Regional chapters of the SNM and SNM-TS are geographically defined groups of states and/or Canadian provinces that have a sufficient number of interested nuclear medicine professionals to satisfy the needs of the membership on a local basis. Chapters may be further divided into clusters of community nuclear medicine organizations (i.e., Los Angeles, Houston), but the community organizations have a direct relationship with the chapters and not the National Council. The community organizations are where we can be the most effective in educating and improving the skills of the majority of full- and part-time nuclear medicine technologists.

Timely issues arising throughout the year that require National Council approval are handled by mail ballot. Issues that may affect you directly (dues increase or change in member benefits) or indirectly (legislative or professional) are considered and acted upon by the National Council. Your council delegate should represent your regional concerns on these matters. It is equally important that your council representative keep the chapter

membership informed of what took place at each National Council meeting. This is most easily accomplished through a written report that is mailed to the chapter membership.

The Section successfully disseminates educational material to its members through the publication of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* and various books and through its scientific/educational program at the Annual meeting. Books slated for publication in 1991 include: *Computers in Nuclear Medicine: A Practical Approach*, *Review of Nuclear Technology*, *Curriculum Guide for Nuclear Medicine Technology Programs*, and *Nuclear Medicine Procedures Manual*. Two additional publications in the early stages of development include a clinical computer textbook and a neurology primer. The Section's scientific/education program is a year-long in planning to ensure a forum for nuclear medicine professionals to exchange ideas, report scientific research, evaluate the latest technologic developments, as well as socialize with old and new acquaintances.

The Section maintains the quality and identity of the profession through its affiliations with the SNM and other organizations such as the Joint Review Committee for Nuclear Medicine Technology, Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board, American College of Nuclear Physicians, American Healthcare Radiology

Administrators, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Association of Educators in Radiology Sciences, and the Summit on Manpower.

The Section is now gearing its government relations energies toward the following issues: federal funding for recruitment and training of technologists; immigration of trained technologists; clean air legislation; Medicare funding; and various regulatory activities (FDA, NRC, and EPA).

The financial base for most of the Section's activities comes almost exclusively from the membership. Membership dues, annual meeting registration, and publication sales constituted 91% of the Section's \$881K revenues for fiscal year 1990. Not surprisingly, membership, annual meeting, and publication expenditures constituted 68% of the Section's expenses.

The SNM-TS exists to further the goals of the mission statement. The Section's activities are many and varied. The Section encourages member participation on the national level. We need your support, but more importantly we need your involvement. If you are interested in learning more about the SNM-TS or in becoming involved in activities at the national or chapter level, please contact your chapter president, national council delegate, or the SNM central office.