

vac[®], which is administered in hepato-biliary studies; Persantine[®], and adenosine, both used for cardiac procedures; Lasix[®], used in renal studies; and heparin, used to keep the blood in a butterfly needle from clotting. Many technologists have been routinely administering these drugs, but recently a debate has arisen in the medical community over who should administer these pharmacologics.

Some physicians ask technologists to administer interventional pharmacologics to patients. Other physicians and hospitals refuse to allow such administration by technologists, delegating that authority to nurses or other physicians. While physicians have the legal power to delegate pharmacologic administration duties to technologists, this authority often conflicts with the regulations of many hospitals that forbid anyone but physicians or registered nurses from administering interventional pharmacologics.

The legal ambiguity is not the only issue. According to Susan C. Weiss, CNMT, Children's Memorial Hospital

in Chicago, who is a member of the Section's Government Relations Committee and past president of the Technologist Section, the current restriction on technologist's duties may lead to economic hardship for many nuclear medicine departments. "Departments will have to increase their nursing staffs (during a nursing shortage) in order to have enough personnel to administer interventional pharmacologics. The resulting cost increases would have to be passed along to patients [and to health insurance companies.]"

Currently, there is no national standard on what constitutes acceptable practice for technologists. In order to alleviate the uncertainty surrounding a technologist's legal responsibilities in the administration of interventional pharmacologics, the Section would like to see the emergence of a national standard.

The first step in creating such a standard is to determine the content of the existing state regulations. Sharon Surrrell, CNMT, Chairperson of the Government Relations Committee,

says that the Committee is preparing a survey for dissemination to Section members, the Section's Legislative Network, and state agencies to determine what the current state regulations are and how individual hospitals are interpreting those regulations. Once this information has been gathered and analyzed, the Committee will present its results to the National Council at the 38th SNM Annual Meeting in June 1991. At that point, the Technologist Section can determine what proposals it wishes to make to national and/or state legislative bodies.

Joan Hiam
Section Editor, *JNMT*

■ Nuclear Medicine Week Display

Nuclear Medicine Week (NMW), celebrated during the week of July 29 - August 4, 1990, was recognized by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with a booth and video display at its headquarters. Sponsored by The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM)

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TECHNOLOGIST JOB NETWORK

The New England Chapter—SNM/TS announces "The Job Hotline," a national toll-free, hotline for nuclear medicine. The hotline is designed to provide a quick link for technologists seeking jobs and for hospitals seeking technologists. Institutions seeking technologists should call the hotline number, leave the name of the institution, title of the job opening, and name and number of the contact person; data are then stored for three months in a database for anyone who calls the hotline seeking employment. Technologists seeking employment should call the hotline number, specify state(s) which are of interest, specify type of job desired, and leave name and address. A listing will then be sent out in 48 hours; all inquiries are kept confidential. If an opening has not been filled within three months, the institution should call again to have it listed. The institution should also call if an opening has been filled so that it can be deleted from the database. The hotline numbers are **1-800-562-6387 (1-800-JOB-NETS)** or **1-990-4212 in Maine**. Questions or comments should be directed to: Tom Starno, Manager, Job Hotline, New England Chapter—TS at **(207) 845-7186**.

The Mideastern Chapter—SNM/TS will provide a referral network for technologists seeking employment and for hospitals in need of technologists. Interested individuals should call Cathy Gonzalez at **(301) 855-1712**. Please leave your name, address, phone number and a brief description of your request.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The **TECHNOLOGIST JOB NETWORK** will be a regular feature in *JNMT*. SNM chapters are invited to submit job referral service listings for publication. Pertinent information—name and brief description of the service, telephone numbers and/or address, name or number of contact person for inquiries—should be sent to: Joan Hiam, Section Editor, *JNMT*, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760.



NRC Chairman Kenneth Carr with Kristen Morris, Director of Government Relations and Valerio Fedio, Assistant Director of Government Relations.

and the Technologist Section (SNM-TS), NMW provides a forum for the medical community and the general public to learn about the status and progress achieved by nuclear medicine in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

This year marks the fifth annual observance of NMW, officially proclaimed by President Reagan.

The NMW exhibit at the NRC displayed brochures and publications from the SNM and the SNM-TS, as well as a video developed by Art Hall, CNMT, immediate past president of the SNM-TS, which highlighted the technologist recruitment video. The poster selected as the Best of Show

award for the SNM-TS Scientific Exhibits at the recent 37th SNM Annual Meeting was on loan from its authors for display at the NRC. (The poster, "The Nuclear Medicine Technologist and PET," was developed by D.J. Perry, L.K. Griffeth, A.H. McGuire, and T.R. Baird, Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.)

The exhibit was also staffed by nuclear medicine technologists and nuclear pharmacists who volunteered to serve as representatives of the Section. The volunteers are members of the Mid-Eastern Chapter of the Technologist Section and include: Harish Vaidya, BS, June Steel, CNMT, Cathy

Gonzalez, CNMT, Kevin Grabowski, CNMT, Sharon Surrell, CNMT, Jonathan Tull, CNMT, Regina Bittenbinder, Christina Simmons, Philip Tompkins, Mary Anne Faulkner, and William Boeger.

By all accounts, the exhibit was very popular with the staff of NRC, including Chairman Kenneth Carr, who visited the display on Tuesday, July 31.

■ News Brief

Government Relations Committee Focuses Upon Health Care Appropriations and Immigration Issues

Recent activities of the Technologist Section's Government Relations Committee have addressed allied health appropriations for fiscal year 1992. The Committee is primarily concerned that other Federal budgetary considerations (e.g., increased military expenditures in the Persian Gulf and national deficit reduction) will impact upon federal spending on domestic programs such as allied health. "We can stand to lose a lot as a result of these events," states Sharon Surrell, CNMT, who chairs the Committee.

The House has allocated \$1.4 million (HR. 4371) and the Senate approximately \$2.0 million (S.1552) for allied health programs in faculty and curriculum development, recruitment, and interdisciplinary training under the provisions of Title VII of the Public

NMTCB RECOGNIZES ARRT AND ASCP CERTIFICATION

Effective January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1990, the NMTCB will recognize previous certification for those individuals holding ARRT(N)RT or ASCP(NM) certification granted prior to December 31, 1985. Once certification is recognized, technologists will receive full benefits of NMTCB registry including:

- **Certificate**
- **Annual membership card**
- **Listing in the next annual directory of NMTCB certificants**
- **NMTCB newsletter**
- **CNMT designation**

Technologists who would like to be certified by the NMTCB should send a letter of request, a copy of their certificate showing the date of issuance, and a check made payable to the NMTCB in the amount of \$40.00 to: NMTCB, P.O. Box 29103, Atlanta, GA 30329; Telephone (404) 315-1739. Please note that *all materials must be received during the 1990 calendar year for certification recognition.*

Health Service Act. However, future congressional action on these appropriations is not expected until January 1991.

Ms. Surrell encourages technologists to write to their senators and representatives, particularly those who are on the appropriations committees, about this issue. According to Ms. Surrell, recruitment of technologists will be difficult if funding is not provided. "An aggressive grass roots lobbying effort is necessary," Ms. Surrell stated, "to ensure that Congress adopts these programs. We cannot allow the practice of nuclear medicine technology to be compromised by those individuals, agencies, and organizations responsible for legislative action."

In other action, the committee is also awaiting a policy decision from the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) regarding reclassification of radiologic technologists. Current INS policy does not recognize the radiologic fields as professions. Technologist Section President Brad Pounds, CNMT, wrote a letter to Michael Miller, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, INS, to request an

amendment of the schedules of the U.S. -Canada Free Trade Act that would include radiologic technologists (particularly nuclear medicine technologists) who have graduated from an approved training program and are certified by a national certification program in order to relieve the chronic

shortage of technologists in the U.S. The INS is expected to convene later this year to discuss this proposed measure.

To keep members abreast of current and future activities, the first of three annual newsletters was published by the Committee in October. Copies may be obtained by contacting the Committee or the Legislative Network. In addition, formulation of a strategy to increase congressional lobbying is pending while the Committee awaits survey results from the 30 Section members who contacted House and Senate members in Washington during the Annual Meeting.

Ms. Surrell also stated that the SNM-TS will begin a grass roots letter writing campaign early in 1991 for support of Title VII funding and any other bills affecting allied health. More information on this campaign will be included in the March issue of *JNMT*.

For more information about the Government Relations Committee, contact Sharon Surrell, CNMT, Washington Hospital Center, 110 Irving St. NW, Washington, DC or Virginia Pappas, CAE, at the SNM central office.

Examination Dates

**The Nuclear Medicine
Technology
Certification Board**

1990-1992

Year	Exam Date	Application Deadline
1990	September 22	July 21
1991	June 22	April 20
1991	September 28	July 20
1992	June 27	April 18
1992	September 26	July 18

For more information or to request an application, contact:

NMTCB
P.O. Box 29103
Atlanta, GA 30329
(404) 315-1739