
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

How quickly this year has passed. Not long ago, we were packing up from last year's Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, and now we are about to open the doors of the Cincinnati Convention Center for this year's Annual Meeting. However, this has been another successful year for the Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologist Section (SNM-TS) with numerous opportunities still to be investigated.

The ever present problem of student recruitment has not disappeared. The SNM-TS's recruitment tools have been very well received by their respective target audiences, but we cannot rest on our laurels now. There is anecdotal evidence of increased interest by prospective students in pursuing nuclear medicine technology as a career. This is not enough. Until we reach enrollment capacities nationwide, we must continue to "beat the bushes" and "spread the message" about nuclear medicine technology. Even with exposure in the print media (USA Today) regarding this field and other allied health careers, we need more media attention on a wider scale.

Recently, I had an opportunity to participate in a high school career day. I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the invited participants who were eager to meet with the students and hopefully get them interested in pursuing careers in nuclear medicine technology. As a professional society, we have an obligation to visit communities and schools and make students aware of allied health professions as a viable career opportunity. I challenge the membership of the SNM-TS to contact one high school in your area and volunteer to participate in their career day program.

The plans made and the discussions initiated throughout the year are in various stages of development. One accomplishment, the result of the work by the DuPont Technologist Advisory Board, was a significant financial contribution to the Paul Cole Scholarship Fund. At the Mid-winter Meeting of the National Council, Pat Wise of DuPont-Merck presented the SNM-TS with a check for \$15,000.00. Thanks to the contribution of DuPont-Merck and others, there will be six scholarships awarded by the SNM Education and Research Foundation this year. The SNM-TS extends sincerest thanks to the DuPont-Merck



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corporation and its employees.

This past year the SNM-TS focused on strengthening international relations. The SNM-TS has extended an invitation to the presidents of six international nuclear medicine technologist organizations to attend the SNM Annual Meeting in Cincinnati as a means of furthering communication and exchanging solutions for common problems.

As I approach the end of my presidency, I can happily say that we have accomplished many goals, but I also realize the job is not completed. It is unlikely we will

ever accomplish everything we would like. I have had the distinct honor of working very closely with a number of very successful, talented, and highly respected individuals. Each of the committee chairpersons had a "goal-oriented" focus. Much of this can be attributed to the strategic planning process accomplished last summer.

Over the past year, I have collectively spent more hours talking with Art Hall and Mickey Williams than with any other person (perhaps including my wife). My friendship and respect for these two "guidance counselors" have grown significantly. Without their input and lengthy discussions, this would have been a difficult year. I would like to thank each of them for their tireless, although always, available support.

Undoubtedly, the success of the SNM-TS and the SNM is largely dependent on the central office staff. Virginia Pappas, Torry Mark Sansone, David Teisler, Jim Spellos, Robert Amoroso, Judy Osteller, Chris Brogna, and the entire staff work diligently to make our organization as successful as it is. I wish to express my sincerest thanks to the office staff for their assistance and support this year.

Although challenging, this year has been a great deal of fun. I have enjoyed the continuous involvement in dealing with the critical issues facing our profession. Unfortunately, I did not get an opportunity to play as much golf as I would have liked, but there is plenty of time for that now. I have literally met hundreds of SNM-TS members and have made many new friends. I wish the best for each of you, and I am still committed to making "nuclear medicine" household words by the end of the century!