
MESSAGE FROM THE P R E S I D E N T

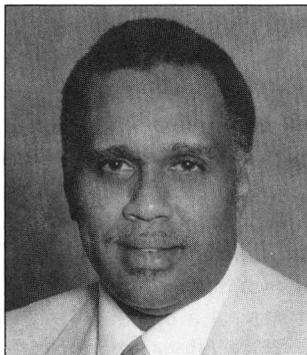
To be selected by my peers as the 23rd president of the Technologist Section is not only an honor and a privilege but indeed a very humbling experience and one which I will cherish for the rest of my life. It is my intention to do my best to continue the work of my predecessors who have ably dealt with the challenges facing the Section. Their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm have led to high levels of professional identity and competency among technologists, significant advances in technology, improved patient care, and a sound financial structure for the Section.

As members of the Technologist Section, we are a nationwide association of individuals committed to advancing the art, skill, and science of nuclear medicine technology by bringing together professionals with a common interest in the diagnostic and therapeutic use of radionuclides to share their medical, technical, and scientific knowledge. The commitment of our members to advance the state of nuclear medicine technology challenges our organization to develop educational and business activities that will further this goal.

During the next ten months, I plan to pursue the directions set by our strategic plan and mandated by the National Council at our 1990 Annual Meeting. Our immediate past president, Brad Pounds, CNMT, did a masterful job in initiating the plan. He improved communication and service to general membership through chapter visits by the leadership. He also put into action a workable plan for recruitment and retention. The increase in the number of clinical training programs is evidence of his success. However, there is still a shortage of technologists, and we will vigorously continue our efforts in that area until we are convinced that the issue is resolved. Former nuclear technologists are being encouraged to re-enter the field because of noticeable improvements in salary and the working environment.

The main focus of the Technologist Section during the coming year will be to educate the public about nuclear medicine. Lack of knowledge, fear of the unknown, and a total misconception of nuclear medicine have seriously compromised our efforts to provide quality patient care. It is essential to educate the public as well as the uninformed referring physician as to the benefits and cost-effectiveness of diagnostic nuclear imaging. I am in the process of appointing a special Technologist Section public relations committee whose charge will be to address all aspects of this issue. I also hope to combine our efforts with the SNM public relations committee to make this an effective campaign.

To date, neither the House nor the Senate has introduced



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authorizing legislation for Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Title VII includes loans, scholarships, and traineeships for health professions students. However, the House Appropriations Committee has designated \$1.659 million to allied health special grants and contracts for fiscal year 1992, the same amount appropriated for this year. At press time, the Senate Appropriations Committee had recommended a \$4 million appropriation and the full Senate was expected to consider the recommendation in late July.

Representative Terry Bruce (D-IL) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) have introduced the Allied Health Professionals Promotion Act of 1991, which would authorize several allied health programs, including project grants and contracts, student traineeships, advanced training, and an advisory council on allied health. Congress has not yet taken any action on this legislation.

Other technologist section issues that will remain top priorities are efforts to have the job of nuclear medicine technologist included as one of the professions recognized in the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement and delineation of the Scope of Practice, involving the administration of interventional pharmacologies. On behalf of the Government Relations Committee, I urge SNM-TS members to write to their respective congressmen and senators to support SNM initiatives as they arise. For the coming year, the Government Relations Committee will remain in the capable hands of Sharon Surrel, CNMT. I am sure she will deftly guide us through the legislative maze with help from Kristen Morris and Valerie Fedio of the joint SNM/ACNP Washington Office.

Management of the Section's finances will fall under the keen, watchful eye of Frances Neagley, CNMT, who will chair the Finance Committee this year. Frances has inherited a balanced budget from Jackie Bridges, CNMT, the previous chairperson. Due to generous gifts of \$30,000 from Mallinckrodt for educational purposes and \$1,000 from Syncor for recruitment projects, the outgoing Finance Committee decided not to increase membership dues. On behalf of the Section, I would like to thank Jackie for all her efforts and commend her for a job well done.

In keeping with our efforts to improve the professional image of the Technologist Section, the National Council adopted a resolution that charges the President to appoint a special committee, which will investigate the feasibility of adding a technologist fellowship category to the Technologist Section Awards Program. Jim Wirrell, CNMT, a past Technologist Section president, has kindly consented to spearhead this project aided by a few selected members of the leadership corps.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had an enjoyable, successful nuclear medicine week this year. The response again was tremendous, and a great big thank you and congratulations go to Mickey Clarke and her hard-working committee for putting together a most memorable campaign.

The Society's 38th Annual Meeting in Cincinnati this June provided myriad educational opportunities. My heartiest congratulations go to Dr. John Keyes, Jr., Scientific Program Chairman (SNM) and Terri Boyce, CNMT, Scientific and Teaching Committee Chairman (TS) who with their respective committees produced one of the best scientific educational programs ever.

The visit by four distinguished guests from other countries' nuclear medicine societies was one of the Meeting's highlights. Brad Pounds extended invitations to Adelheid Maringer, President of the Austrian Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Section; Caroline Townsend, Chairman of the British Nuclear Medicine Society Technology Group; Dirk Buys, President of the Dutch Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists; and Keisuke Kanao, President of the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists. I hope this event will mark the beginning of a lasting international coalition through which our Section can fully benefit from the sharing of expertise, skills, and knowledge with our international counterparts.

I also wish to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and efficiency of the SNM National Office staff. Under the leadership of Torry Sansone, Virginia Pappas, and Jim Spellos, they orchestrated one of the most successful meetings ever.

I look forward with enthusiasm to a successful and productive year and ask all Section members to actively support the Section's endeavors. I hope to see you all in Los Angeles, California next June.