

Is It Really Broken?



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The old adage says "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Recently it was decided to restructure the Society, i.e., it's broken! But, is it really broken? Although the proposed reorganization does not directly affect the Technologist Section, usually when the Society makes a change, the Technologist Section follows suit. Thus, this is an opportunity for us to take a long hard look at the Technologist Section's structure to see if it is really broken and needs fixing.

What are the reasons for restructuring? There are three primary reasons given by the Society leadership: deficiencies identified by the strategic planning process, the need for councils to have increased involvement, and the inability of the Society to respond quickly to issues because of its cumbersome structure. Do these issues apply to the Technologist Section? Do we have groups that need increased involvement? Is the Technologist Section able to respond quickly when necessary? Are there other areas of deficiency in the Technologist Section's operation? Most important of all, can we serve our membership better? Do we know what the members need and want?

Maybe we do need to run a reality check. But, before we plunge into restructuring, let's look at what works in the Technologist Section. Maybe we don't need the complete overhaul that the Society does. If something isn't working, maybe we can address it within our current structure.

The most important aspect of this whole issue is the care that the Society is taking in the proposed structure to protect and preserve the Technologist Section's unique position. If the proposed bylaws are accepted, there will be only one section allowed in the Society, the Technologist Section. This, I believe, is a direct recognition of our talents and abilities. We have a unique collaborative relationship with the physician and scientist members of the nuclear medicine team.

We have a strong voice in the governance of the Society, as well as almost complete autonomy to govern the Technologist Section as we see fit. In the nuclear medicine department, we work as a team: we are expected to use our judgment and to make decisions. Our opinions matter. We have a *professional* relationship. Sometimes I think we lose sight of this unique relationship in our everyday life; we learn to take it for granted. We need to look for ways to preserve and nurture this relationship. We ought to tell the members of the Society leadership that we appreciate their efforts to preserve our unique position in the bylaws. We need to let them know that we want the relationship to continue. Let's not always go to the Society with problems. Let's remember to respond and react appropriately to the good things too!

Technologists who are associate members of the Society will eventually be asked to vote on the new bylaws. Therefore, it is imperative that we understand the changes and the implications for the Society as a whole, as well as the Technologist Section. Copies of the draft bylaws are available from the central office or your National Council delegate. Of great importance, technologist representation is preserved. Indeed, on the Executive Committee level, it is even greater because the Executive Committee is smaller. In fact, the Technologist Section could have even greater representation since the House of Delegates (Board of Trustees) elects some members of the Board of Directors from among its own membership. The Technologist Section will still have five seats in the House of Delegates and possibly more.

Watch *JNM* and *JNMT* for news articles on the progress of the restructuring. Talk to your officers and National Council delegates to make sure that you are fully informed.