

NMTCB REPORT

**Mark H. Crosthwaite, CNMT
Chair**

During our spring board meeting, the NMTCB focused on numerous issues that will affect our profession and, more specifically, our examination process.

From the last NMTCB Report you may recall that the board was accepting proposals for a new exam format, computer adaptive testing (CAT). After extensive review of all the proposals, I am pleased to announce that we have decided to accept the plan submitted by American College Testing, one of the most respected national testing organizations. The decision to continue with ACT was based on several points. Since the 1970s, ACT and the NMTCB have worked together on the certification exam using the traditional pencil and paper format. This experience of working together created a superior certification exam that tests entry level competency. There is no doubt that the NMTCB has set a standard that is widely regarded as the premier certification instrument in our profession. In part, ACT has helped us attain this standard of excellence and will continue to do so in the future. Cost for development and implementation of CAT was also a factor and ACT was able to meet our budgetary guidelines and implementation time table. An explanation and briefing on the CAT examination format will be given during a luncheon presentation by the NMTCB at the SNM Annual Meeting.

The first CAT administration is scheduled to begin in 1996. Prior to the first exam there will be a lot of work with the exam blueprint. In 1994 a Practice Trends Analysis Survey was completed and the results were collated. The Task Analysis and Examination Committees will be incorporating the results of this survey into the exam blueprint to better reflect the definition of entry level competency in nuclear medicine. The results of this survey will be submitted to the *JNMT* for publication so that our profession is aware of current practice in nuclear medicine as well as the expectations of entry level technologists.

The NMTCB has also been working on a computer-based review guide that will elaborate on the current components of preparedness (COP) statements. The COP statements are a composition of tasks which identify the role of a nuclear medicine technologist (currently there are 93 tasks). It is from these COP statements that item writers develop NMTCB

EXAMINATION DATES

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board 1995

Exam Date	Application Date
June 24, 1995	April 15, 1995
Sept. 23, 1995	July 15, 1995

For more information or to request an application, contact:

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exam questions. This review guide will also incorporate example test questions and will contain a special section on current NRC regulations. Therefore, this computer-based review guide will help students and educators become familiar with our new exam blueprint and help the students prepare for the exam in a CAT format. If you would like to find out more about this, please attend the exam review session sponsored by the NMTCB which will be offered at the national meeting in June.

Earlier this winter, the SNM-TS initiated resumption of negotiations between

Nominations For NMTCB Directors

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board is seeking nominations for NMTCB Directors for the nuclear medicine community. Terms for new Directors will be from January 1996 to December 1999. Individuals interested in serving and who have questions should contact Jim Greene at the NMTCB office at (404) 313-1739. Nominations should be sent to the attention of Virginia Pappas, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 22090-5316.

the ARRT and the NMTCB for a single certification examination for nuclear medicine technology. Concerning discussions about a single certification examination in nuclear medicine technology, a letter dated February 28, 1995 was received from the executive director of the ARRT which stated, in part, "The (ARRT) board concluded that while a single examination had certain advantages, a conjointly controlled process was not feasible. The board did not feel that further discussions along these lines would be productive at this time."

At the request of the National Council, the question of continuing education was again addressed by the NMTCB at the spring board of directors meeting. A full report and statement of policy will be given by the NMTCB at the National Council meeting in June.

A REMINDER

The NMTCB is actively seeking nominations for new board members and several four-year term openings will be available in January of 1996. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact Virginia Pappas at the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Candidates for these positions will be nominated by the Technologist Section following the national meeting in June. The election of new directors is held at the fall NMTCB board meeting.

The NMTCB is looking for additional item writers. If you are interested in writing exam questions, please contact Scott Anderson at the NMTCB office. The NMTCB will conduct an Item Writers Workshop at the SNM Annual Meeting. If you have never attended this workshop or think you might be interested in writing test questions, the Item Writers Workshop would be an excellent opportunity to develop your question writing skills and receive VOICE credit.

The NMTCB recognizes our ever-changing health care environment. The board continues to stay abreast of those changes and is responding to these new demands. I challenge my colleagues to work together in supporting one another for the betterment of our profession as we forge ahead. Nuclear medicine's ability to adapt to these ever-changing and increasing demands is the responsibility of all of us. Your comments and advice concerning these critical issues are always welcome.