

■ Mid-Winter Meeting Wrapup and News from the Committees

SNM-TS Honors 26 Members as Fellows

Two new applicants for fellowship status, Marcia R. Boyd, CNMT, and Denise A. Merlino, CNMT, were accepted at the Mid-Winter Meeting. These new fellows are recognized by the SNM-TS for their participation in professional activities, education, professional experience, professional contributions and civic activities.

In collaboration with the PE-2, 25th Anniversary and Membership Committees, the SNM-TS awarded fellowship status to each of its 25 past presidents. These fellowships commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Technologist Section and recognize the valuable contributions of these individuals. The 25 past presidents receiving fellowship status are:

James F. Cooper, PhD
 Donald R. Bernier, CNMT
 Floyd L. Potes, CNMT
 Leonard Lopez, CNMT
 Vincent V. Cherico, CNMT
 Glen A. Isserstedt, CNMT
 Mark I. Mulenburg, CNMT
 James C. Langan, CNMT
 Susan C. Weiss, CNMT
 George W. Alexander, Jr., CNMT
 Michael L. Cianci, CNMT
 John J. Reilley, CNMT
 Dorothy Duffy Price, CNMT
 Shelley D. Hartnett, CNMT
 Maria V. Nagel, CNMT
 James J. Wirrell, CNMT
 Wayne J. Wcislo, CNMT
 Marcia R. Boyd, CNMT
 Paul Cole, CNMT (Posthumous)
 Author J. Hall, CNMT
 Bradley K. Pounds, CNMT
 Cardiff "Micky" Williams, CNMT
 Paul C. Hanson, CNMT
 Terri M. Boyce, CNMT
 Becky M. Cacciatore, CNMT

The fellows will be inducted in a ceremony at the Technologist Section business meeting on Wednesday, June

14 at 12:00 pm. The celebration will include presentations by James J. Conway, MD, President of SNM, Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, and Sue Weiss, CNMT, who will address change and progress in nuclear medicine technology since 1970.

VOICE Now Tracks Three RCEEMs

*Contributed by Cynthia Wharton,
 CNMT, Continuing Education
 Committee Chair*

The big news from the Continuing Education Committee was that they voted to have VOICE (Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education) record credits from all three RCEEMs. The RCEEMs, or Recognized Continuing Education Evaluation Mechanisms, that award credits to technolo-

In an effort to meet the growing needs of technologists, the Continuing Education Committee is exploring new, non-traditional ways to earn CE credits. The *Road Show* is one of the newest CE activities. This presentation is primarily geared for use at the local, grassroots level and attendees will be able to receive continuing education credits for participation. The committee also plans to compile continuing education articles from *JNMT* into a convenient volume. The DuPont Technologists Advisory Board is also working on a project that will provide credits.

Manpower Data Committee Moves Ahead

*Contributed by Frances L. Neagley,
 CNMT, Manpower Data
 Committee Chair*

As a result of the Strategic Plan, the Manpower Data Committee was di-

Photo credit: James Blank/San Diego Convention and Visitors' Bureau



Despite the balmy February weather in San Diego, SNM-TS members were busy at work at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Fortunately, more than a few members managed to get away for some recreation under the sun.

gists are SNM-TS, ASRT (American Society of Radiologic Technologists) and SDMS (Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers). This change means that one transcript will provide all your CE credits to ARRT (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists). Also, a nonmember VOICE category has been added. For \$70 per year, technologists may have VOICE keep track of their CE credits.

rected to develop a survey that could be used to determine changes occurring in nuclear medicine technology practice and to help technologists respond to these changes. In addition, the Technologist Section needed to collect data in order to respond to queries from groups, such as the Bureau of Health Professionals, about the demographics of nuclear medicine technology.

After analyzing suggestions and ideas,

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the committee decided on producing two surveys. One survey would establish the demographics, or minimum dataset, for nuclear medicine technology. The other survey would respond to the directive from the Strategic Plan.

The demographic survey was sent out to the membership with the December issue of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. The response to the survey was only about 20% of membership so an additional survey form was included in the March edition of *Uptake*.

The Manpower Data Committee worked with the Technology Marketing Group (TMG) to prepare the second survey, develop a cover letter and create a telephone marketing script. This second survey was mailed out in late March. TMG has used their databases to assure a broad spectrum of institutions was surveyed—from large to small facilities, from university medical centers to free-standing clinics. Data from this survey on trends in nuclear medicine technology will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June. Later this year, the data will be covered more fully in an article in the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*.

42nd Annual Meeting Preview

This year's Annual Meeting offers a full program to meet the needs of nuclear medicine technologists, physicians, scientists and pharmacists. The Scientific and Teaching Committee has developed course offerings that provide the best educational opportunities in the nuclear medicine field. Twenty continuing education courses, specifically for technologists, include such topics as pediatric nuclear medicine, radiopharmacy, nuclear cardiology, multiskilling, brain perfusion and scintillation camera quality control. Approximately 22 VOICE credits will be offered.

Categorical seminars, exhibits and the plenary session round out the conference activities. You'll have the opportunity to examine more than 1,000 scientific papers, posters and exhibits on cardiovascular nuclear medicine, SPECT, PET, NMR, computers, neu-

rology, hematology and oncology.

The opening and plenary session, on Monday, June 12, will include the presentation of two prestigious awards. The Sixteenth Annual Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award will be presented to Joseph F. Ross, MD and the founding members of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. John Katzenellenbogen, PhD will be honored with the Paul Aebersold Award.

Celebrate the Technologist 25th Anniversary

Since its founding in 1970, the Society's Technologist Section has been dedicated to advancing nuclear medicine technology by establishing high standards of patient care, education and research. This silver anniversary marks twenty-five years of significant contributions. Special activities and keepsakes are available to help you honor the past and celebrate the future of nuclear medicine technology.

Kick off the Technologist Section's 25th Anniversary celebration by joining your colleagues at the Technologist Party on Wednesday, June 14 from 8:00 pm until midnight at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. A great band will play your favorite cuts and some surprise entertainers will be on

hand to make you laugh.

Don't miss the technologists' historical display booth in the exhibit hall. SNM members have graciously contributed memorabilia chronicling a quarter century of technological advancements.

As the voice of nuclear medicine technology practitioners, the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* will publish a special 25th anniversary issue. This October issue will feature articles by recognized physicians and scientists in the field of nuclear medicine. These articles will address diverse topics that reflect the past, present and future of nuclear medicine.

Show your support of the Technologist Section by wearing or displaying a commemorative, 25th anniversary keepsake. These items will be available at the Annual Meeting. Of course, you may want to join the June festivities wearing your anniversary T-shirt or commemorative button. The tote bag will not only show your support, but will come in handy when picking up literature at the exhibits. Other popular anniversary items are a ceramic mug, full-color poster, pewter lapel pin, pen and decorative sticker. To purchase anniversary items by credit card before the Annual Meeting, call 1-800-251-1240.

Photo credit: Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association



The dynamic shapes and dazzling colors of the skyline remind visitors that Minneapolis is a world-class metropolitan center.

Cruising Minneapolis, City of Waters

Minneapolis is the Midwest's jewel at the headwaters of the Mississippi. Take some time out from the convention to explore. The Twin Cities metropolitan area offers a rich variety of cultural, sports and gastronomic experiences.

A number of special summer activities are available in June. Take a drive and enjoy music at the Summer Concert Series at the Depot, Depot Park on Lake Minnetonka, or stay closer in and catch a show at a jazz club. Walk along the Mississippi Mile, an historic part of downtown Minneapolis with a unique flavor. Here theaters, night-clubs, comedy clubs, shopping and restaurants line cobblestone streets. Tours of area attractions will be available through DayTours. You may register on-site at the tour desk in the Minneapolis Convention Center.

■ ACNP News

*Contributed by Sharon Surrel, CNMT
ACNP Project Coordinator*

Announcing Two New Members of NMIC

The Technologist Section announced the appointment of Paul E. Christian, CNMT, as a member of the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) Nuclear Medicine Imaging Committee effective June, 1995. The committee is responsible for the creation and administration of the ACNP Proficiency Testing Program.

Christian is the technical director of nuclear medicine at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has worked in nuclear medicine for over twenty years, presented more than 150 papers and participated in many clinical research projects. As a former editor of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* and an educational program director, Christian is well acquainted with the clinical needs of the nuclear medicine community. The Nuclear Medicine Imaging Committee (NMIC) is pleased to have such a distinguished Technologist Section member serving on the committee and

participating in the creation of phantoms for the Proficiency Testing Program.

The American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) has accepted an invitation to join the NMIC, effective June 1995, with the appointment of Frans J. Th. Wackers, MD. For many years, Dr. Wackers has been involved in the specialty of nuclear cardiology and the development of radiopharmaceuticals for cardiac imaging. As president of ASNC and medical director of the Cardiovascular Nuclear Imaging and Exercise Laboratories at Yale-New Haven University, Dr. Wackers brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise for the next two cardiac phantoms planned for 1996 and 1997.

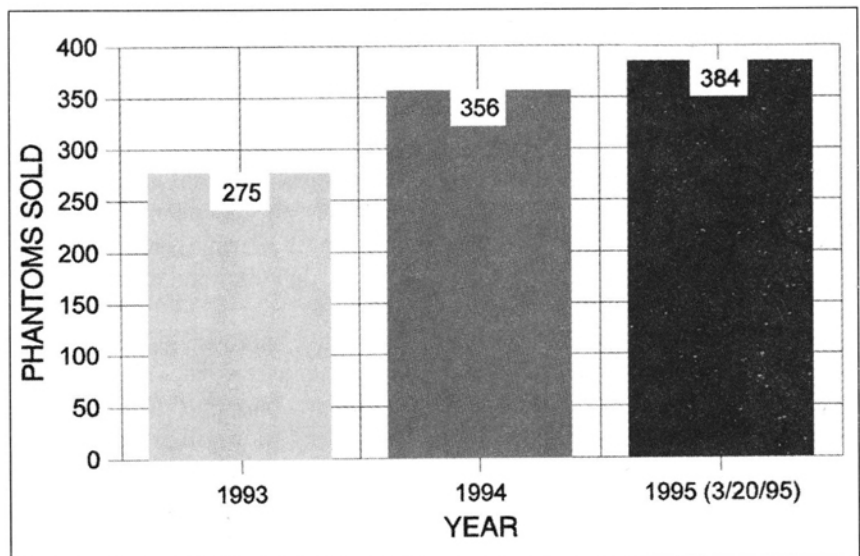
Proficiency Testing Program

The program is continuing to grow as more people are learning about the many benefits of participation. As of

The 1994 IM-B SPECT cardiac phantom was a resounding success. Many nuclear cardiology practices became new participants in this exercise. The device was designed to permit SPECT and/or planar imaging of the heart with ^{201}Tl or $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -sestamibi. Three lesions of varying size and location were incorporated into the phantom. Respondents were asked to scan the device using their method of choice within parameters determined to reflect as closely as possible actual patient studies for dose and target-to-background ratio. Participants were asked to report the number of defects identified, sites of occurrence, whether these represented single or multivessel disease, and which coronary arteries were involved.

Some participants encountered difficulty in reorientation of the left ventricular chamber. Current processing programs used for realignment are quite varied and make certain assumptions

ACNP Proficiency Testing Program



March 20, 1995 the ACNP Proficiency Testing Program has received orders for more than 384 spring and fall phantoms. In 1994, the ACNP initiated its marketing program, with the assistance of the Technologist Section leadership, and received 355 orders. This figure was up from 275 when the ACNP took the program over from the College of American Pathologists.

about the position of the chamber in relation to the camera system. Reconstructed images could be different from standard display. Participants were advised to query their manufacturer about any restrictions to which their particular software may be subject.

There is still time to join the program by subscribing to the 1995 Fall Phantom, the IM-B Spinal Bone Study. This

study is designed to assess the subscriber's ability to detect and diagnose spinal bone abnormalities using both planar and SPECT images. The fall exercise will include two separate problems if the information on the diskette can be made compatible with the nuclear medicine computer systems of the vast majority of subscribers.

The components of the first problem include the patient's history, a film of a posterior planar view of the spine, and a transmission phantom allowing for the generation of SPECT images of the spine. The participating nuclear medicine physician is required to detect and diagnose the abnormality or abnormalities.

If possible, a second problem will include the patient's history and physical findings and a computer diskette containing planar and SPECT acquisition data of the spine. The participating technologist is required to generate the planar images and reconstruct the acquired projections into tomographic images using her nuclear medicine computer system. Using these images along with the patient's history and findings, the participating nuclear medicine physician is required to identify and diagnose the abnormality or abnormalities.

How does the ACNP Proficiency Testing Program work? For your subscription fee of \$445, you receive the phantom and a questionnaire to fill out and return to ACNP. A statistician collects and analyzes the data from all the facilities across the country that participated to be incorporated into a final report called the *Final Critique*. The NMIC member authors responsible for the creation of the exercise will provide an explanation of the performance of all participants, what was expected and what was considered a good clinical study. Your facility will also receive a copy of the individual report for your own facility so you can see how well you did in comparison to everyone across the country. This is a voluntary program and the information is completely confidential. In addition, for each phantom you may send in up

to six submissions. For instance, you may have three physicians, two technologists and one camera that you wish to test. The choice of variables is yours. You know the quality assurance needs of your department and what parameters you would like to address.

The ACNP National Office is still accepting orders for the 1995 Fall Phantom. You can pay by purchase order, check and credit card. Orders may be sent by fax. If you have further questions, call Sharon Surrel, BA, BS, CNMT, RT(N), Project Coordinator, at 202-857-1135 at the ACNP National Office. Your comments are always welcome.

■ News Briefs

Five Guidelines Approved by Board of Trustees

The SNM Board of Trustees unanimously approved five nuclear medicine procedure guidelines at the Mid-Winter Meeting in February. These are the guidelines for guideline development, bone pain treatment, thyroid uptake measurement, thyroid scintigraphy and extended scintigraphy for differentiated thyroid cancer. The guidelines were all unanimously approved by both the Commission on Health Care Policy and the Executive Committee.

These five approved guidelines will be distributed to the membership through the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. Distribution will probably be in July. Fifteen additional guidelines are currently being developed. Henry Royal, MD, chair of the Technology and Outcomes Assessment Committee anticipates that another three to five guidelines will be ready for final approval by the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting in June.

Dr. Royal explains, "These guidelines are intended to describe how to perform nuclear medicine procedures in a way that provides the most diagnostic information and expends the fewest resources. These guidelines are not intended to describe the state-of-the-art procedure, nor are they intend-

ed to describe the minimally acceptable procedure."

SNM to Offer New Publications

SNM will be showing sample chapters and taking orders for the third edition of *Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography: A Primer*, authored by Robert J. English, CNMT, at the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. Eleanor Tapscott, Associate Director of SNM publications, explains, "The newest edition of this highly successful book covers new applications of SPECT, including the brain and heart." Copies of the soft-bound primer will be available by this fall.

Another title, appearing in SNM's library during 1995, will be *Nuclear Medicine: Self-Study Program II. Program II* covers instrumentation and nuclear cardiology. This two-volume, soft-cover set provides a syllabus and self-test questions in part one and test answers with detailed explanations in part two.

Other books on the horizon include *Cardiac Primer*, by Jeff Whitworthy, and a new title by the MIRD Committee. Two collections of symposium proceedings will also be published this year. *Workshop and Symposium on Quality Control in Nuclear Medicine*, sponsored by the ACNP Program Committee, and *Proceedings of the Ninth International Symposium on Radionuclides in Nephro-Urology* will feature peer-reviewed papers presented during these meetings.

In addition to texts, SNM will also be introducing a series of nuclear medicine brochures to help practitioners communicate better with their patients. These patient pamphlets are being developed to answer commonly asked questions from patients. The brochures will address what happens before, during and after nuclear medicine procedures and what a patient can do to be prepared. Two brochures, covering an introduction to nuclear medicine and cardiac stress-rest procedures, will be available at the Annual Meeting in June. Additional brochures are planned for bone imaging, pediatrics, and gastrointestinal and renal tests.