

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

**Becky Cacciatore
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Greetings and farewell. By the time you read this letter, I will have handed over the gavel to your new president, Lynn Fulk. Being president of the Technologist Section has been a most rewarding experience. The past two years have been filled with health care reform, Summit Meetings, Congressional hearings and meetings, NAFTA and AHRA, ACNP, SNM and chapter meetings. Most of all, these last two years have been a pleasure because I met and heard from so many of you.

The following events have taken place since my March message.

■ **NAFTA.** We are still awaiting government approval from our application requesting professional status.

■ **Continuing Education.** In February, the Mid-Winter SNM-TS National Council and committee meetings provided a forum for lengthy discussions on this issue. Two action plans were set in motion. First, we sent a letter to the NMTCB requesting a final decision on mandatory credits for recertification. Mark Crosthwaite, Chair, responded stating this issue would be addressed at their March meeting. The results will be published as soon as they are known. Second, the SNM-TS Continuing Education Committee finalized a mechanism to record all continuing education credits given by the RCEEMs, which are radiology, ultrasound and nuclear medicine. By June, the recording mechanism will be available for nonmembers as well as members.

■ **SNM/ACNP Committee on Government Relations.** As of March 1, Marc Associates, a lobbying organization in Washington, DC, began representing the ACNP, SNM and SNM-TS. Lynne Roy, CNMT, Chair of the SNM-TS Government Affairs Committee, is working with this organization. They will monitor Title VII, NAFTA's progress and other legislative issues, as well as contribute to our newsletter and help our grassroots networking.

■ **Corporate Committee.** The SNM-TS accepted the invitation to assume a voting position on this exciting committee. We attend our first meeting in June.

■ **PPIP Program.** Our participation in the ACNP/SNM/CAP/SNM-TS Proficiency Testing Program is working. As of March 20, 384 memberships had

been signed. If you have not joined, please contact Sharon Surrel at the ACNP at 202-857-1135.

■ **Cardiology.** In February, the National Council decided to open dialogue between the SNM-TS and the working groups of nuclear cardiology technologists. We hope to achieve an educational relationship with this excellent group of technologists.

■ **Uptake.** This newsletter continues to grow and evolve. Positive comments have been received from all parts of the U.S., Canada, Britain and Japan.

■ **Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology.** The transition was smooth as Susan Gilbert, CNMT, assumed editorship. The exciting new

cover is welcomed by all.

■ **SNM-TS Fellowships.** Applications were approved at the February National Council Meeting. Fellowships will be announced and awarded at the June meeting.

■ **SNM-TS 25th Anniversary.** Commencing the year-long celebration, the kickoff party was given at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Sponsored by the Greater New York Chapter and the Southern California Chapter, the social event was a huge success. Watch *JNMT* for announcements about the events taking place at the Annual Meeting in June.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as president. The SNM-TS is highly regarded and respected in the allied health community. While we all have varied backgrounds, I have found it takes a special type of individual to be a nuclear medicine technologist. Throughout the year I have heard about the various effects of health care reform—downsizing, rightsizing, additional job duties, layoffs. These events have caused NMTs to become a closely knit group, sharing experiences and innovative ideas. This networking is bringing about many positive outcomes for many NMTs.

I would like to leave you with a challenge. Market and position yourself by learning any job criteria available to you and become more multiskilled and valuable to your organization. You can gain knowledge anywhere, but the only one who can use it and effect change is the person you see in your mirror in the morning. I wish each of you success and happiness. Thank you for this opportunity.