

---

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

---

Lynn Fulk, CNMT



Ten years ago the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* published the results of the 1984 human resource survey of nuclear medicine technologists (NMTs). The Technologist Section realized that current data were essential for effective government relations activities, to provide staffing and salary information, and to assess educational needs. The 1984 survey showed that the average NMT was a 35-year old, white female with 8 years of nuclear medicine experience. In 1984: 76% of NMTs were certified or licensed; 73% worked full-time in nuclear medicine only, while 19% worked full-time in nuclear medicine as well as other modalities. In 1984, 56% of technologists had formal education in nuclear medicine technology, while 43% had on-the-job training.

In 1994, Frances Neagley and her Manpower Task Force completed a similar survey to produce updated data. In many ways, these new results are similar to those of 1984. Today's typical technologist is still white and more often female. The average age is 25 to 30 years old. The 1994 survey also shows: 69% of technologists have a bachelors or associates degree; 93% work 31 hours or more per week; and 21% work in other modalities. Now, more than ever, education is the cornerstone of professional practice in nuclear medicine technology.

Today, as in the past, a very important goal of the Technologist Section is to provide educational opportunities for technologists. One of the primary goals of the strategic plan is to provide education at the grassroots level. In 1995, *JNMT* provided continuing education in a number of important topics. The videotape lending library lets you earn VOICE credits by watching these tapes and answering the accompanying questions. In order to provide accessible continuing education for more technologists across the country, the section is planning a Community Emission Tomography Workshop. The kickoff for the workshop will be at the Society of Nu-

clear Medicine's 1996 annual meeting in Denver.

Also affecting NMT education, the National Commission on Allied Health has published its 16 recommendations. These recommendations can determine the direction, affect the educational goals and decide the allocation of resources of allied health. Denise Merlino is heading a task force to evaluate how these recommendations will affect nuclear medicine. She will make recommendations at the next National Council meeting.

It is, therefore, important for you to maintain your membership in the

Society of Nuclear Medicine's Technologist Section. Your membership ensures that you receive benefits that are important for your professional growth. Your membership guarantees that you receive *JNMT*, which is an excellent source of continuing education and keeps you up to date on professional activities. In addition, your renewal statement lets you make voluntary contributions to the Paul Cole Fund and the Education and Research Foundation. The Paul Cole Fund makes scholarships available to qualified nuclear medicine technology students. The Education and Research Foundation awards a monetary prize of \$1,000 for an original paper submitted by a technologist.

Now, as plans are under way for the annual meeting, you need to start planning your involvement. The deadline is January 9, 1996 for submission of abstracts for the Society's 43rd annual meeting. Chris Carlson and the Scientific and Teaching Committee are developing an outstanding educational program for Denver. Your participation and input are needed to make this a successful and professionally rewarding event.

Remember, the Technologist Section is here to serve you—to help you improve your professional skills and to provide you with educational opportunities. But you need to be involved to share in these benefits. Let me hear from you. I am interested in your ideas and any concerns that you feel the Technologist Section should address.