

# NMTCB REPORT

## NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

At the NMTCB meeting in November 1995, new officers and three new members were elected. This means that three members of the board have completed their terms. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to outgoing board members Karen Blondeau, Shirley Ledbetter and Martha Pickett for all their hard work and for sharing their knowledge and experience. Karen Blondeau began serving on the board in 1988 and chaired the board in 1990. Shirley Ledbetter joined the board in 1992 and has served as secretary for the past two years. Martha Pickett joined the board in 1990 and became the chair in 1994. Pickett has resigned her second term two years early due to the increased demands on her time since becoming president-elect of the Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologist Section. John Findley has agreed to complete the term vacated by Martha Pickett. Once again, thanks for a job well done.

The new officers elected at the fall meeting are Miriam Miller, CNMT, Chairperson-Elect, and Frances Neagley, CNMT, Board Secretary. John Findley, CNMT, was re-elected treasurer. As the year progresses and the NMTCB moves to a computer-based exam, it is good to know that we have a solid team working towards a common goal.

The response to the Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologist Section's request for nominations to serve on the board was excellent this year. While it is not possible for all the nominees to be elected, the board thanks all those individuals who submitted their names. I encourage all members of the SNM-Technologist Section to serve on the board. Serving on the board is a commitment in time and energy, but is rewarded by the knowledge and fellowship gained.

## Nancy Sawyer, CNMT Chair

The board welcomes our new members, Anthony W. Knight, Pat McClaughry and Ellen A. Thomas. Tony Knight received his NMTCB certification in 1979 and is currently the director of the nuclear medicine technology program at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, IA. He has been active in both local and national organizations and expects to receive his masters degree in educational psychology next year. Pat McClaughry received his NMTCB certification in 1988 and is currently a senior staff nuclear medicine technologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, TN. He has been active in both local and national organizations and is planning to pursue a postgraduate degree in the health care field in the next few years. Ellen A. Thomas received her NMTCB certification in 1990 and is currently the director of the Delgado Community College nuclear medicine technology program in New Orleans, LA. She has been an NMTCB item writer since 1993.

## CAT EXAM

Work is progressing on the transition to a computer adaptive testing (CAT) exam. The first CAT exam is scheduled for June 1996. American College Testing (ACT) is finishing the calibration of our items, a critical step in the transition. While some technical decisions still need to be made, other matters were finalized at the last board meeting.

After June 1996, the NMTCB exam will be offered year round. Applicants will schedule the CAT exam at their convenience within the time constraints of their local testing center. The new exam has fewer questions. The time

required to take the test is shorter. And the application process will be slightly different. After examinees have completed their applications and have been approved to sit for the exam, the examinees will contact their local testing centers to schedule a date and time to take the exam.

The CAT exam makes available the entire bank of questions and each examinee will probably see an entirely different set of questions. The probability that two examinees will see exactly the same test is very small. The results are made available on site when the examinee finishes the test. Official notification of results, conferral of CNMT certification and annual membership card will be mailed by the NMTCB office within ten working days.

Board members visited exam sites within their home territories before the November meeting. The members were checked in and were shown the tutorial on how to use the computer, answer questions and mark questions for later review just as NMTCB examinees will be. The members agreed that the biggest plus was the friendliness and helpfulness of the personnel at the test sites.

Examinees can use the mouse, the keyboard or touch the monitor screen to indicate their answers. The major difference between the paper and pencil exam and the CAT exam is that an examinee cannot skip a question, but can back up and change answers. Help is available on-line and through the personnel at the test site.

The board is planning to release a computer disk and/or pamphlet that will answer the most commonly asked questions and provide further information about the new CAT exam. The NMTCB is moving forward with the support and help of past, current and new board members. This is an exciting time to chair the NMTCB, a time full of challenges and changes.