

# TECHNOLOGIST NEWS

## ■ Chapter Officer Update

Many Technologist Section chapters had elections recently. This listing provides the current president and National Council delegate for each of the 13 chapters. These are the people who represent you in the Technologist Section and are your key contacts. Call them to discuss your concerns and ideas.

### NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

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### GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

#### President and National Council Delegate

To be announced

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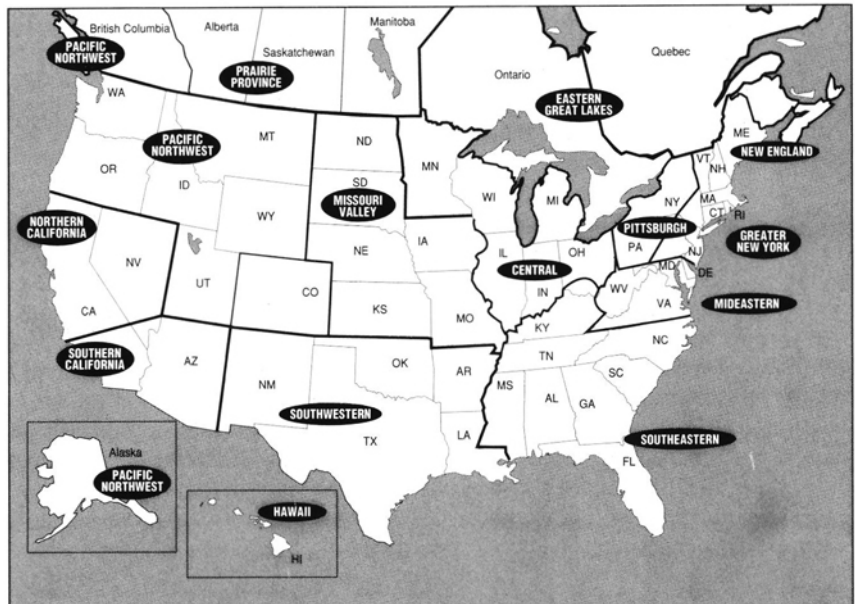
### SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

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### SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER

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To be announced

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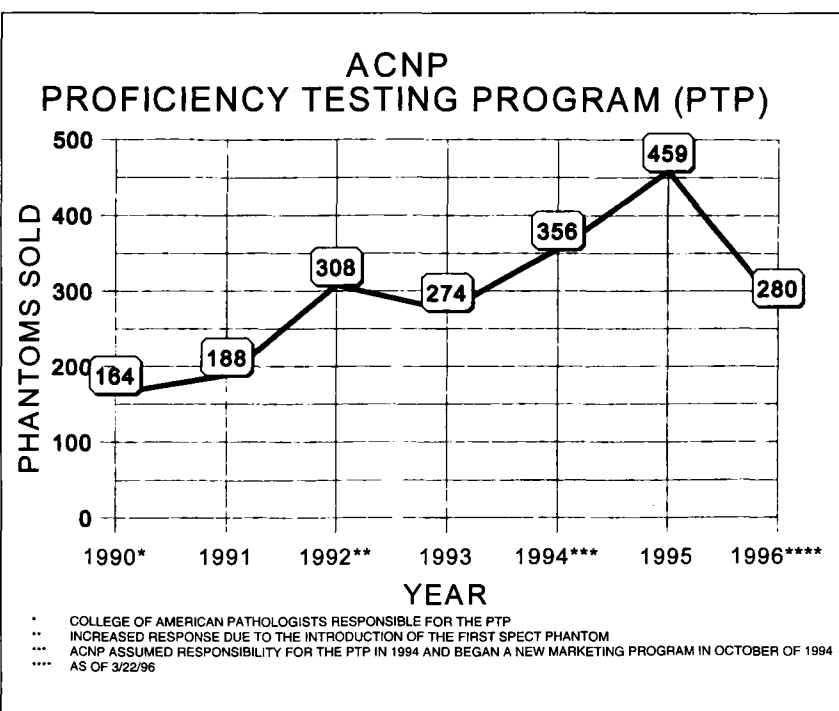
## ■ ACNP News

Contributed by Sharon Surrel, CNMT  
ACNP Program Director

### A Series of Firsts as PTP Goes International

The 1996 Proficiency Testing Program (PTP) is well under way with more than 280 subscribers so far, as shown in the chart. This compares favorably with the number of phantom sales at the same time last year. DuPont Pharma is providing extensive support for the campaign by assisting in developing the marketing brochure and disseminating the information to their domestic and international clients worldwide. This year marks a series of firsts for the program as it continues to evolve and mature.

The biggest first is the expansion of the program's reach. Our hope is to provide a unique service to areas of the world that have had little or no exposure to quality assurance programs and standards. The PTP would be the first



of its kind in nuclear medicine to provide such a worldwide service. This program is quite a challenge since a nu-

clear medicine quality assurance program has never before been rolled out internationally. The program is being

marketed now to the Far East, Europe, South America and Canada through wide distribution of the brochure. We expect a significant response from the introduction of the PTP program in these regions. However, it may take several years to become a truly active and viable program outside the U.S.

Over the past year, the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) has received inquiries from the United Kingdom, France and Germany. Regulatory agencies in Europe are getting involved in developing and setting standards, especially in the United Kingdom and Germany. It would appear that as stricter guidelines are enforced, the need to become more disciplined in quality control and quality assurance will be necessary. As an indication of this change, last year DuPont Pharma sponsored a quality control seminar in the United Kingdom which was received with great interest and enthusiasm by both physicians and technologists. The topic of quality is of growing interest to the entire European community.

In Puerto Rico many hospitals have high standards of nuclear medicine practice. Many of the technical staff were trained in the U.S. and this training is paying dividends. Quality assurance programs should be well-received here.

The Far East, including such countries as Taiwan, Japan and Korea, is just beginning to contact the ACNP to inquire about quality assurance practices. Historically, there has not been much need for a similar quality assurance program in the Far East because much of nuclear medicine practice was not regulated. Compared to rigorous regulation in the U.S., quality assurance standards are limited in the Far East. We hope that, with the exchange of ideas and technology underway with the Society of Nuclear Medicine—Technologist Section and through support from DuPont Pharma and the ACNP, attention to quality assurance practices will soon have a higher priority.

The next first for the PTP was mentioned in the December 1995 issue of

*JNMT*. The PTP is now offering VOICE credit for technologists performing each phantom exercise. For the 1996 IM-A Spring Exercise, the rest/stress myocardial perfusion study, four hours of credit were awarded to each technologist who performed the acquisition and answered the VOICE continuing education questions. Four hours of VOICE credit is almost equivalent to sitting through a full day of lectures. The phantom exercise is conducted in your facility. No time is wasted traveling to a lecture. It's cheaper. It's easier. And you receive four hours of credit for doing a hands-on, practical application.

Another first will be offering ACCME Category I credit for physicians. The ACNP national office is assembling the necessary documentation to grant continuing medical education credit (CME) for nuclear medicine physicians. We expect to have 6 hr of continuing education credit available for physicians in clinical practice for the 1996 IM-A Spring Exercise. Watch the ACNP *Scanner* newsletter for current and complete details.

The PTP is not only the first in its class, but the best in its class. Be the first in your area to participate in a quality assurance program of international scope. Details about the program and an order form can be sent to you immediately upon request. Call Sharon Surrel, CNMT, ACNP Program Director, at the ACNP national office at 202-857-1135.

### ■ News Briefs

#### ***SNM Network News Available***

The Commission on Health Care Policy is now offering a free subscription of *SNM Network News* to all SNM members. This monthly health policy publication contains information on federal and state health care reform, managed care, outcomes research and Commission activities. If you would like to receive a complimentary subscription, please contact Joanna Wilson of the Society of Nuclear Medicine at 703-708-9000, ext. 250.

#### **VA Awards Contract to Picker**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Acquisition Center awarded Picker International, headquartered in Cleveland, a contract to provide reconditioned/remanufactured medical diagnostic imaging equipment to federal hospitals and government agencies. Through the agreement, Picker may now sell remanufactured diagnostic imaging equipment to the VA's more than 170 hospitals, 300 associated outpatient clinics and medical facilities administered by government agencies.

"Government hospitals are under the constant challenge to address taxpayer concerns with regard to balancing health care costs and the need for the highest quality equipment," said Doug Larm, vice president, federal business group, Picker International. "This recent action enables Picker to help federal health care providers address those concerns by providing the high-quality, lower-cost remanufactured technology that nongovernment hospitals are already capitalizing on." The contract is in addition to Picker's long-standing federal contract to supply new equipment, including nuclear medicine, computed tomography, magnetic resonance and radiography equipment.

#### **USDE Recognizes JRCERT for Radiologic Technology Accreditation**

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has renewed its recognition of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) for the accreditation of education programs for radiographers and radiation therapists in the U.S. The USDE recognition came after a recommendation for approval made by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, which reviewed the JRCERT application for recognition. The JRCERT, headquartered in Chicago, first applied for and received USDE accreditation in 1969 and has continuously maintained its accreditation since then.