

NMTCB REPORT

Nancy Sawyer, CNMT, Chair

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine in Denver offered many professional and social opportunities for technologists. The Society of Nuclear Medicine–Technologist Section committees met on Thursday and the SNM–TS National Council met on Friday. Most of the work necessary for the SNM–TS to function is performed by committee. Decisions concerning presentations to be taped, materials to be published, topics to be offered in next year's meeting, and continuing education issues are made by committee. Those technologists who chair or serve on the committees deserve a huge thank you. Also, thank you to the SNM office staff from Reston, VA for all the work they perform, both at the meeting site and throughout the year. I found my first National Council meeting very interesting. I previously had not realized how many individuals participated in this session. It was an all-day session, with many diverse opinions aired. Again, thank you to all the people who make the SNM–TS function so well.

The Student Program was well received by this year's participants. Kathy Thompson, CNMT and Paul Thaxton, CNMT presented an all-day session on "Registry Review for the NMTCB" on Saturday. At lunch, Patricia Wells, an NMTCB board member, presented an overview of the new computer adaptive test (CAT) to participants attending the review. Sunday morning offered students the opportunity to take a mock paper and pencil certification exam and, in the afternoon, student papers were presented.

At the NMTCB booth, a computerized mock certification exam was available for demonstration to interested individuals. The program allows a user to select from three, four or five responses to the questions, keeps track of incorrect and correct answers, and analyzes the responses to give the user an indication of areas requiring more study. Informa-

tion on purchasing a copy of the computerized mock certification exam is available from the NMTCB office.

The Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) workshop was also held on Sunday. Using the results and comments from prior surveys and workshops, the JRCNMT prepared a working draft for the revision of the *Essentials and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist*. The issues that confront our profession always have an impact on education. Just as we, as working technologists, are called upon to do more with less, so are our educators. While our professional practice changes, so must our testing and educational standards change to meet the public's requirements. As each group—the working technologists, the NMTCB and the educators—focuses on the issues, the standards for current practice emerge.

Tuesday was another big day for educational issues. In the morning, Kathleen McEnerney, CNMT presented a program on "Communication Skills for Educators" which was well received. One of the benefits of attending a meeting, whether it be regional, chapter or national, is the opportunity to meet and exchange information with people who share your interests.

At noon, the NMTCB provided box lunches and Patricia Wells again presented an overview of the new computer adaptive test. At the NMTCB booth, a computerized version of Pat's computer adaptive test presentation was available for people who couldn't attend the lunch session. This computer disk is also available from the NMTCB office.

That afternoon, Daniel Leahey, CNMT, Pat Wells and myself presented the "Item Writer's Workshop." With the

start of computer adaptive testing this year, the emphasis of the workshop was on writing items for images. The fundamentals of item writing were reviewed, then several images were displayed. The group worked together to create a question written for an image. Since the last section of item writing is to review, revise and critique items, we divided the participants into two groups. Each group wrote another item inspired by an image. Then the groups critiqued and revised each other's items. It was a worthwhile afternoon, and many of the attendees agreed to write items for the NMTCB exam.

As I attended meetings and visited the exhibits and poster sessions, I was impressed by the growth of our profession. I met and talked with three groups all of whom were using web pages on the Internet to offer continuing education for technologists. One group offered a World Wide Web site on the "Nuclear Medicine Review Manual on the Internet: A Hypertext Educational Resource" which is a quick reference source for current information about selected topics in nuclear medicine. This group believes that electronic texts will set the standard for medical resources in the future because, while a textbook becomes outdated, the web page remains current through regular updates. The SNM–TS also demonstrated their web page during the National Council session. Continuing education articles and the associated quizzes, previously published in the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, will be available. Contact the SNM–TS for more information.

On the social side, it is always fun to renew acquaintances with old friends. The technologist party on Thursday was a great success. The food was good and the band was great. The 43rd annual meeting was a success, offering many diverse sessions to meet the professional needs of physicians, scientists, nuclear pharmacists and technologists.