

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kathy Thomas, CNMT



The month of June represents many things to the Technologist Section. It is a time to celebrate the many accomplishments of the year. It is a time for nuclear medicine professionals to come together to share information and the technology that is the essence of our professional lives. It is a time to reminisce and it is a time for change.

As I look back over the past year, I feel a great deal of pride when I review the many successes achieved during the year. It should not be any surprise to realize that behind every successful president is an energetic leadership team who is willing to dedicate many hours of personal time to the organization to provide tangible and intangible benefits for its membership.

What do I mean by tangible benefits? Tangible benefits are those projects and programs that provide you, the members, with an immediate benefit. Some examples include the following.

Menu-Driven Membership Plan. The perceived benefits of membership have been hotly debated within the organization for many years. This year the Technologist Section is taking a proactive step to design a menu-driven membership plan that will allow each member to select only those benefits that are perceived as valuable.

Performance and Responsibility Guidelines. The clinical skills and responsibilities of the nuclear medicine technologist have undergone a number of changes over the past several years. The *Performance and Responsibility Guidelines for Nuclear Medicine Technologists* have been updated to address those changes and serve as a useful tool in defining the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully perform nuclear medicine procedures.

Enhanced Educational Opportunities. The annual meeting offers attendees an opportunity to experience the best of the best in categorical seminars, scientific exhibits, abstracts and continuing education (CE) programs. However, not every nuclear medicine technologist is able to attend the annual meeting. To meet the ever-increasing demand for additional educational opportunities, the Technologist Section is expanding its educational offerings to include an increased number of CE articles on the Internet, ACE (Accessible Continuing Education) roadshows and, new for next year, regional meetings and CE home study programs.

Professional Tools and Enhancements. Successfully meeting JCAHO requirements continues to challenge the nuclear medicine technologist. Products available to meet those challenges include a software program to design institution-specific patient education materials (PREP, Patient Related Educational Pamphlets); a booklet to define competency and assessment criteria for the nuclear medicine technologist (Developing Employee Assessments and Competencies); and a publication to assist in writing procedure guidelines for your

policy and procedure manual (*Procedure Guidelines Manual*).

Emerging Leadership Conference. To ensure the continued viability of the organization, the SNM-TS has placed a high priority on the continued mentoring of its new leaders. The Emerging Leadership Conference provides technologists who have expressed a desire to actively participate in the leadership of the organization with the tools to successfully achieve that goal. This program will be presented at the SNM Annual Meeting and is available for presentation at chapter, state and local meetings. An additional opportunity to develop future leaders is being presented by the Health Professions Network (HPN). This program will be presented over two week-long conferences and participants

will learn to define the qualities of leadership, learn problem-solving and decision-making skills, and discuss the attributes necessary to lead in a time of transition.

These are just a few of what I call tangible benefits. Other benefits that are not tangible and you may not perceive as valuable, yet enhance your professional organization (SNM), professional career or your professional viability, include the following.

Government Relations Issues. This past year the SNM and SNM-TS have actively participated in the review and rewrite of several legislative issues including: HCFA's physician supervision guidelines; P.L. 105-115 (Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997) which includes language on the compounding of PET drugs; requirements for radiopharmaceuticals; and the practice of pharmacy compounding. Regulatory issues include 10 CFR 35 (NRC's Medical Use Program); Patient Release Rulemaking (10 CFR Part 35); Unauthorized Usage Rule-Nuclear Regulatory Commission (10 CFR Part 20); Exempt Distribution of Radioactive Drugs Containing One Microcurie of ¹⁴C- Urea-NRC (10 CFR Parts 30 & 32). The legal issues addressed include the ACNP and SNM's appeal of the FDA regulations on PET. Sounds like alphabet soup, doesn't it? Although you might not understand all the issues, each one affects your professional life in some way and is important to the continued viability of the profession.

Advanced Competency. The opportunity to advance, add skills or up-skill in the allied health arena is currently limited by federal or state regulations, and/or professional licenses, certifications or registries. Multiple committees and task forces are attempting to find ways to successfully break down existing barriers to allow nuclear medicine technologists to practice existing skills or add new competencies as necessary or desired.

Fiscal Viability. The number one objective identified in the SNM-TS's strategic plan is: "In collaboration with SNM, the SNM-TS will pursue and attain fiscal viability." Every com-

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mittee in the Technologist Section has addressed this charge in some way. The goal to attain fiscal viability simply means that we will exist within a financial environment that will assure our continued growth. That goal is no different from the goal that we apply in our personal lives if we are to be financially secure today and in the future. The Budget Allocation Task Force and the SNM and SNM-TS Finance Committees spent many long hours this past year setting a financial course that is intended to preserve the Technologist Section's viability from this year forward.

It is a time to reminisce. In the limited space provided, I cannot possibly describe the many accomplishments of each committee during the year. The success of the Technologist Section is the direct result of the dedication of each committee chair and committee member. They are the stars of our organization. To each of you, thank you for your energy and dedication throughout the year.

It is important to recognize that the success of the Technologist Section depends on continuous communication with the

membership. I would like to thank each of you who took the time to call, e-mail, or write your suggestions, concerns or comments throughout the year. Your input helped to make it such a successful year.

I also think it is important to identify a group of individuals who are the heart and soul of the organization and yet remain invisible to the majority of the membership. This invisible group is the dedicated staff of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. They work tirelessly to turn concepts into reality. They tolerate our driven, detail-oriented nature. They are the backbone of the organization that supports us through thick and thin. To the directors and staff of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, thank for your support and dedication throughout the year. And to Virginia Pappas, associate executive director, my mentor and friend, a special thanks for being there—I couldn't have done it without you.

It is a time for change. I leave you in the competent hands of your new president, Lynne Roy, CNMT, and look forward to working with you all in the future.

1997-98 SNM-TS Leadership Stars Committee

Jessica Bede, CNMT

Marcia Boyd, CNMT

Chris Carlson, CNMT

Mickey Clarke, CNMT

Patti Corrigan, CNMT

Valerie Cronin, CNMT

Lynne Fulk, CNMT

Michele Ganske, CNMT

Susan Gilbert, CNMT

Joni Herbst, CNMT

Elaine Markon, CNMT

Brenda McSherry, CNMT

Denise Merlino, CNMT

Frances Neagley, CNMT

Marcie Osborn, CNMT

Lois Padellford, CNMT

Martha Pickett, CNMT

Lynne Roy, CNMT

Eileen Smith, CNMT

Mary Jo Struttman, CNMT

LisaAnn Trembath, CNMT

Kristen Waterstram-Rich, CNMT

Cynthia Wharton, CNMT

Jim Wirrell, CNMT

Commercial Affairs Subcommittee

Health Professions Network Task Force

Accessible Continuing Education Subcommittee

Editor, *Uptake*; Special Interest Group Task Force

Scientific and Teaching Committee

Nuclear Medicine Week Subcommittee

Strategic Planning Task Force

Audiovisual Committee

Editor, *JNMT*

Continuing Education Committee

Career Pathways Task Force

Nuclear Cardiology Committee

Socioeconomic Affairs Committee; Task Force on Utilization Data

Finance Committee; Workforce Analysis Committee

New Continuing Education Projects Subcommittee

Awards Committee

Nominating Committee; Leadership Mentoring Committee; Past President's Council

Membership Committee; Task Force on Allocations

Membership Task Force

Public Education and Professional Enhancement Committee

Government Relations Subcommittee

Academic Affairs Committee; Task Force on Multicredentialing

Bylaws Committee

Publications Committee