■ SNM's Toronto Meeting Scores High

Attendance for the Society's 45th Annual Meeting in Toronto was the highest ever. More than 4,100 nuclear medicine professionals registered to visit the exhibits and attend the courses from June 7 through June 11. This was up more than 500 attendees from last year's meeting in San Antonio. Technologist attendance increased also and was recorded at more than 1,400.

More than 100 companies offered 63,000 net square feet of exhibits displaying nuclear medicine equipment, products and services. This year the Society featured its own Marketplace booth in the exhibit hall where SNM publications and products were displayed and sold.

Roy Becomes SNM-TS President

Lynne Roy, CNMT, became the Technologist Section's new president at the section's business meeting in Toronto. Roy worked closely with the immediate past-president Kathy Thomas, CNMT, over the previous year. She has been active in the SNM-TS as chair of the Membership Committee and of the Task Force on Allocations.

Technologists Receive President's Awards

Outgoing president Kathy Thomas, CNMT, selected Joni Herbst, CNMT, and Cardiff Mickey Williams, CNMT, to receive awards for their outstanding contributions to the Technologist Section. Thomas said, "To both Joni and Mickey, and to the members of the Technologist Section, thank you for your support, your guidance and most important for being there when I needed you."

Joni Herbst has been a strong proponent for mentoring and brought that concept to the national level with the Emerging Leaders Conference. At the awards ceremony in Toronto Thomas said, "Joni lit a fire in me that I never thought was possible. She is special in so many ways and her special talents supported me throughout my year as president." Herbst's attention to excellence and ability to make individuals feel special have been valuable skills in her mentoring and nurturing of new technologists. It was a phone call from her in 1976 that persuaded Thomas to become active in the SNM-TS.

Attendees at SNM's 45th Annual Meeting enjoyed the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Toronto while attending meetings, courses and exhibits.

Kathy Thomas (left) passes the title of Technologist Section president to Lynne Roy at the annual business meeting.

Joni Herbst (right) receives a President's Award from Kathy Thomas for her outstanding work on behalf of the Technologist Section. Cardiff Mickey Williams also received a President's Award for his achievements.

Mickey Williams has been active in the national organization as well as the Southern California Chapter. He served as SNM-TS president from 1991 to 1992. Williams has always encouraged his fellow technologists to be the best and led by his example. "Mickey was always at the end of the phone when I needed to talk to try out an idea or get some direction on a particular project," said Thomas.

The SNM-TS president gives the President's Award to a member who has worked particularly hard during that president's term or has had a special relationship to the president during his or her career.

Authors Receive *JNMT* Outstanding Paper Awards

The associate editors of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* selected first and second place papers and a special contribution award for papers published in 1997. The awards are given to the authors in recognition of the high quality of the work they submitted to *JNMT*.

The first place *JNMT* award for 1997 went to Hideo Ohnishi, Toyotsugu Ota, Masahiko Takada, Tetsuo Kida, Kazuo Noma, Satoru Matsuo, Kazutaka Masuda, Itsuo Yamamoto and Rikushi Morita for "Two Optimal Prefilter Cutoff Frequencies Needed for SPECT Images of

Myocardial Perfusion in a One-Day Protocol" (*JNMT* 1997;25:256-260). As first place winners, the authors received $500 and a plaque at the annual meeting in Toronto.

Lisa K. Dunnwald, Shelley D. Hartnett and David A. Mankoff received the second place award for their paper, "Utility and Reproducibility of Semiquantitative Analysis of Sestamibi Breast Images" (*JNMT* 1997;25:106-109).

A special contribution award was given to Steven B. Dowd, Ann M. Steves and Debra Durick for their four-part continuing education series on gerontology, "Caring for the Older Patient" (*JNMT* 1997;25:24-32, 86-97, 171-178, 246-253). The series was well received by *JNMT* readers and several organizations ordered reprints.

New SNM-TS Fellows Inducted

Three technologists were inducted as fellows of the Technologist Section during a ceremony at the annual business meeting in June. These members earned fellow status by their participation in professional and civic activities, education, and professional experience and contributions:

Joni Herbst, CNMT
Frances Neagley, CNMT
Kristen Waterstram-Rich, CNMT

Students Awarded Paul Cole Scholarships

Twelve nuclear medicine technologist students received Paul Cole scholarships from the Education and Research Foundation at the annual meeting in Toronto. The fund was established by the Technologist Section, family and friends of Paul Cole, CNMT, to help students continue on their chosen career path in nuclear medicine technology. Scholarships were awarded to:

Hideo Ohnishi (left), lead author, receives the first place *JNMT* Outstanding Paper award for 1997 from Sheila Rosenfeld.

As lead author, Lisa Dunnwald (left) receives the second place *JNMT* Outstanding Paper award for 1997 from Sheila Rosenfeld.

Kristen Waterstram-Rich (second from left), Frances Neagley and Joni Herbst receive their SNM-TS fellowships from outgoing president Kathy Thomas (far left) and incoming president Lynne Roy (far right).

Baccalaureate Degree Students

Susan LaBash
Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI

Carol Manning
Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI

Amy Salatino
University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Jennifer Stevens
University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Associate Degree Students

Darlette Frankman
Southeast Technical Institute, Sioux Falls, SD

Frances Heinrich
Triton College, River Grove, IL

Tonya Plumley
University of Findlay, Findlay, OH

Jenny Snodgrass
Lancaster Institute, Lancaster, PA

Certificate Students

Tammy Brewer
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

Cynthia Tavella
Gateway Community College, New Haven, CT

Lou Ann Waggoner
William Beaumont School of NMT, Royal Oak, MI

Marina Yegudkina
Charles R. Drew University, Los Angeles, CA

1997 PR Stars Winners Announced

by Valerie R. Cronin, CNMT
Nuclear Medicine Week Chair 1997-1998

This year twelve technologists entered the PR Stars Contest to share their ideas on how they promoted Nuclear Medicine Week, not only in their hospitals but in their communities as well. By reading the entries one can clearly see the work and effort put forth by these technologists and what they have accomplished. Each one should be congratulated

for their efforts. They have made Nuclear Medicine Week into a yearlong endeavor to promote our profession.

First place was awarded to Gail Redick of St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, NY. Redick developed the use of breast imaging by educating physicians and the community about its availability, planned Nuclear Medicine Awareness Week, did an open house, created displays and promotions, and developed a quarterly nuclear medicine newsletter. She also introduced a physician satisfaction survey and educational packets and a patient satisfaction survey, started a nursing shadowing program, and distributed house staff educational packets.

Sharon Komarek of St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee, MN received the second place award. Komarek is from a small, rural hospital and wanted to show that her department was just as advanced and state of the art as large city departments. She capitalized on the new camera her department bought and made it the centerpiece of her open house. Not only did she educate the hospital staff and community but she took the time to introduce high school students to nuclear medicine. Keeping in mind financial constraints, Komarek used her hospital's public relations department, suppliers, vendors and her own nuclear medicine staff to the utmost. Her hard work resulted in positive feedback showing that the staff and community members had gained a new awareness of the benefits of nuclear medicine.

The third place award was earned by S. Jean Cody of Millard Filmore Hospital in Buffalo, NY. Cody's goals were to celebrate the nuclear medicine modality and the nuclear medicine technologist, to provide an educational program, to bring together the nuclear medicine community for professional and social interaction, to create an interest in the formation of a grassroots section, and to promote nuclear medicine to the public. She used vendors to support her efforts.

All three winners gave brief presentations at the winner's circle in Toronto at the annual meeting. Winners were awarded their prize money for themselves and for their institutions. They also received money toward their travel to the annual meeting.

TECHNOLOGIST SECTION AWARDS

Scientific Paper

First Place

Dual-Isotope Protocol for Indium-111 ProstaScint® (Capromab Pendetide Monoclonal Antibody) Imaging
NL Kelty, SH Khan and LE Holder
University of Maryland Medical System, Baltimore, MD

Second Place

Arm Positioning Does Not Affect the Number, Size or Severity of Myocardial Perfusion Defects with Technetium-99m-Sestamibi SPECT Imaging
DM Cross, MP White, A Russell, CC McGill, DA Clapp, JM Phillips, MJ Ferraro-Borgida and GV Heller
Hartford Hospital, Hartford and University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT

Third Place

Evaluation of the Accuracy of System Dead-Time Measurements on Modern Digital Gamma Camera Systems
C Jordan, MK O'Connor, LK Leong and GA Wiseman
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Scientific Poster

First Place

A Method for Developing New Imaging Procedures for Nuclear Medicine Technologists
J Fry, A Dado, V Phillips, G Hinkle, R Pozderac and J Olsen
The Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, OH

Second Place

A Technique for Performing Xenon-133 Lung Ventilation after Perfusion Imaging with Technetium-99m
CL Puckett, JS Parekh and CD Teates
University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Charlottesville, VA

Third Place

Prone Scintimammography SPECT: A New Method for Imaging Breast Cancer
DS Thakrar, JR Buscombe, D McCool and AJW Hilson
Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine, London, UK

Technologist Section Student Award

Indium-111-Octreotide as a Primary Diagnostic Modality for Meningioma and Carcinoid Tumor: A Cost-Benefit Analysis
RJ Juaneza
St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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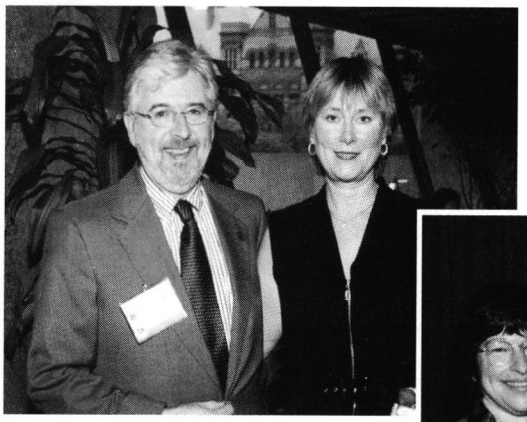
1998 Annual Meeting Snapshots



Incoming SNM president James Fletcher, MD, and incoming Technologist Section president Lynne Roy, CNMT, meet during the SNM-TS President's Reception in Toronto.

The Technologist Section business meeting was an international affair as Keisuke Kanao (second from left) of the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine Technology, Sibylle Fischer of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (center) and Joyce Davidson (second from right) of the British Society of Nuclear Medicine joined Kathy Thomas (far left) and Lynne Roy (far right).

Some members of the new SNM-TS executive board gather for a photo at the SNM-TS President's Reception. From the left: Cynthia Wharton, Chris Carlson, Kathy Thomas, Lynne Roy, Nanci Burchell and Curt Gray.

The Technologist Section's past, present and future come together as outgoing president Kathy Thomas (left), president-elect Cynthia Wharton (center) and current president Lynne Roy gather for the annual business meeting.

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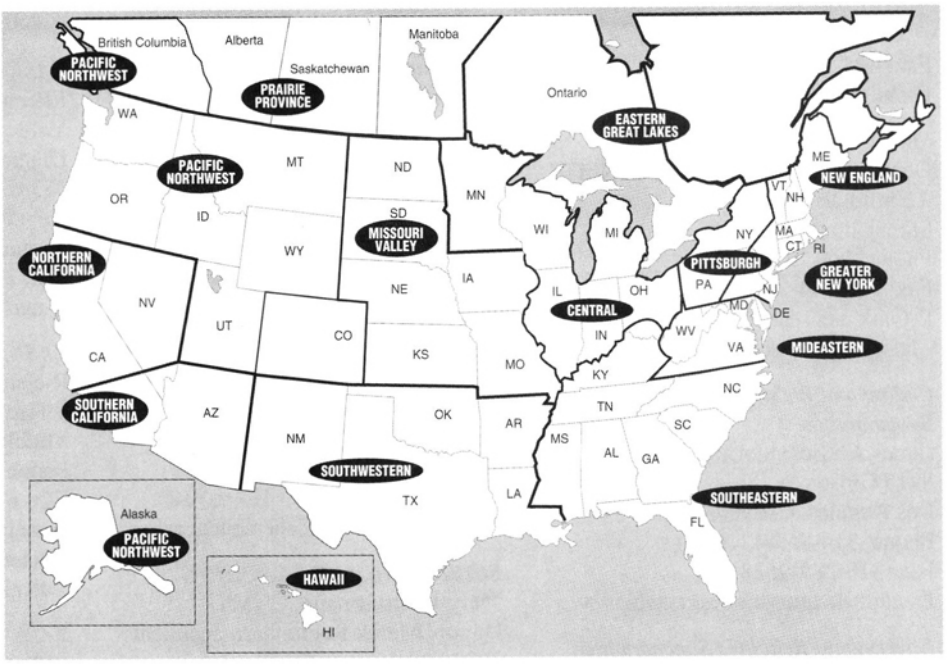
■ Chapter Officer Update

This listing provides the current president and National Council delegate for each of the 14 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.



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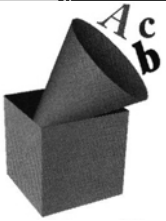

by Joni Herbst, CNMT, FSNMTS Continuing Education Committee Outgoing Chair

Each June, following the SNM Annual Meeting, our new officers and committee chairs take over their Technologist Section leadership positions. I would like to introduce Kristen Waterstram-Rich, CNMT, as the new Continuing Education Committee chair.

It has been a privilege for me to chair this committee for the past two years and I thank all the members who gave so much of their time. Together we have developed a lot of new projects that will benefit you, the members, by making it easier for you to obtain continuing education at your local level.

We will be expanding the number of continuing education articles posted on the SNM web site and a new company has been contracted to provide videotapes of the presentations in Toronto that you can purchase at the reasonable price of $25. Contact the Landes Slezak Group, CME, Unlimited at **800-776-5454** for a listing and information on how to order.

In addition to these modalities, we are developing slide sets of presentations that you can rent and present at your local meetings. Many of your colleagues have been kind enough to make their presentations available to the Technologist Section. Look for more news about the ACE (Accessible Continuing Education) program in the fall.

I'd like to thank those unsung heroes who volunteer to put together continuing education programs and fill out all the paperwork to obtain VOICE approval. All of you who attend any kind of CE program at the local, state or regional level owe your CE credits to these dedicated individuals.

In order for our VOICE program to maintain high standards and meet all the criteria of a continuing education provider we must be able to describe the content of the program and state the learning objectives. Simply put, what do we expect an attendee to learn upon completion of the material presented?

Kristen Waterstram-Rich, CNMT, assumes the chair of the SNM-TS Continuing Education Committee.

Many VOICE applications are received with great titles using all the buzz words of cutting-edge technology, but when it comes to stating the learning objectives we most often see the universal line: to learn more about "x" or better understand "x." To receive approval for VOICE and CE credits for your program, your learning objectives should describe the performance you want the attendee to be able to exhibit. It is important to state the intended result of the instruction rather than the process of instruction itself. These objectives should help the lecturer deliver and the audience receive the same body of information. As a program director or a speaker, please take a few minutes to identify exactly what it is that the attendee should be able to do after the presentation. Just like in school, you cannot get credit for study hall.

Think about the desired goal in terms of action verbs. The attendee should learn to perform specific functions such as to describe, list, complete, perform and critique. For example: Upon completion of this presentation the attendee should be able to: (1) *list* three radiopharmaceuticals that can be used for myocardial imaging; (2) *describe* the three patient positions used in scintimammography; and (3) *categorize* the best meth-

ods of administration of radionuclides.

When writing learning objectives for an entire program with more than one presentation you also can include the condition and criterion. For example: At the conclusion of this program the nuclear medicine technologist should be able to *perform* a linearity check (performance) *using* a dose calibrator and a technetium source (condition) *according to* NRC guidelines (criteria).

Here are some sample learning objectives from SNM annual meetings:

Title: Orthopedic Bone Imaging: A Multimodality Approach
Summary: This course is intended for nuclear medicine physicians and technologists, with an interest in state-of-the-art orthopedic imaging, who already are proficient in basic musculoskeletal nuclear medicine. A multimodality approach to orthopedic bone imaging with particular emphasis on planar and SPECT bone scintigraphy, but also in-depth coverage of conventional radiography, MRI and CT will be presented.
Educational Objectives: Upon completion of this session, attendees should be able to: (1) identify, using bone scintigraphy, acute fractures that are not evident on radiographs; (2) list common causes for low-back pain for which bone SPECT is an appropriate imaging study; and (3) recognize the typical appearances of a torn meniscus on a bone SPECT study of the knees.

Title: SPECT: Quality Assurance
Educational Objectives: After attending this course, participants should be able to: (1) list the steps necessary for performing an optimal acceptance testing program; (2) design a SPECT quality control program; (3) identify an example of an artifact that results from: (a) poor camera performance; (b) quality control errors; and (c) data acquisition and processing errors; and (4) list five corrective actions that can be taken to avoid image artifacts.

To many of you all this talk about learning objectives may seem boring but I can assure you that, as our programs become more and more subject to audits, this is critical to maintaining our status as an educational provider. Each attendee should take a few minutes and review the learning objectives listed for each presentation. When you fill out your evaluations after the presentation, use these objectives as your criteria to determine whether the speaker was successful in meeting the stated objectives and provided you with the information that was described in the outline.

VOICE has detailed guidelines it is required to follow when approving activities for continuing education credit. The *VOICE Guidelines* are published annually in the September issue of *JNMT*. They can be found here immediately following the CE contacts.

If you have any questions or need a VOICE Credit Approval Application contact Marcia Ferg at the Reston office.

CE Contacts:

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Verification Of Involvement In Continuing Education (VOICE) Guidelines

I. Objectives

Per the bylaws of the Technologist Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the objectives of this organization shall be:

> to encourage nuclear medicine technologists to join together in an association within the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. for the purpose of maintaining the identity and quality of nuclear medicine technologists and providing the continuing development, improvement, and expansion of nuclear medicine technology for the betterment of health care services.

Further, the Society of Nuclear Medicine–Technologist Section (SNM–TS) is a national professional association which, through its status as a Recognized Continuing Education Evaluation Mechanism (RCEEM), recognizes and approves continuing education activities relating to nuclear medicine technology.

II. Verification Of Involvement In Continuing Education (VOICE)

The VOICE program is a comprehensive SNM-TS program that provides technologists with continuing educational (CE) activities as well as a method of tracking them. Through VOICE, the SNM-TS provides members with a computerized transcript documenting participation in any of the nuclear medicine CE programs offered annually. SNM-TS members are automatically enrolled in the VOICE program and pay no additional fee to enjoy its benefits. Nonmembers may participate for an annual fee of $70.00.

Only those sponsors who apply to the SNM-TS for VOICE credit for their CE activity and have that application approved will be awarded CE credits through the VOICE system. VOICE participants who attend programs approved for continuing education by other RCEEMS as identified by the ARRT (ACR, AHRA, ASRT and SDMS), can submit documentation and have those credits added to their VOICE transcript. Participants at continuing education programs leading to BCLS, ACLS or Instructor or Instructor Training certification from the American Heart Association or American Red Cross can submit proof of attendance and a copy of the resultant certification for CEH credit to be applied to their transcript not more than once every 2 years.

The continuing education credits assigned and tracked by the SNM-TS VOICE system are considered by the ARRT to be Category A continuing education credits. Category B credit, as defined by the ARRT, can be assigned to legitimate continuing education activities not approved by a RCEEM. The SNM-TS VOICE program will *not* designate or track Category B continuing education activities.

Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) are defined by the length of the activity. An activity that is 30 minutes in length would receive 0.5 CEH. Every 15 minutes over that is worth 0.25 CEH. Activities are identified in quarterly increments only. In other words: 1.0, 1.25, 1.5, 1.75, etc. If their length falls between the quarter hour, we will round up or down to the nearest quarter.

Every 120 minutes of laboratory time (hands-on, demonstrations) will receive 1 CEH of credit. Additional time will be measured in hourly increments only. Examples:

Lecture: 10:15B11:00 = 0.75 CEH
Lecture: 10:00B11:05 = 1.0 CEH
AV tape: 30 minutes = 0.5 CEH
Lab: 3 hours = 1.5 CEH

III. Continuing Education Activities Eligible for CEH Credit

A. Lecture (Live) Programs

A planned program of continuing education in nuclear medicine technology involves the organized presentation of the body of knowledge so that the subject matter is comprehensively covered in sufficient detail to meet the educational objectives of the course. A continuing education activity sufficient for approval must be a planned program including, but not limited to: defined objectives, outline of course material, scope of activity clearly defined, faculty credentials and must be a subject related to nuclear medicine technology.

Subject matter of any continuing education activity must provide sufficient details to meet the objectives of the activity. An individual with credentials relevant to the material being presented must present activities. Commonly used formats include: lecture, seminar, workshops, structured case reviews, etc. Laboratory format would be appropriate for instruction in clinical laboratory procedures and instrumentation where participants receive hands-on experience.

A program must be at least 30 minutes in length, under responsible sponsorship, capable direction and qualified instruction. Attendance during at least 80% of the instructional time is required. Proof of participation/attendance is required. All programs are to be evaluated by the participants.

Activities under this category include the following:

- Chapters and local society's meetings
- Academic or hospital-based programs (in-service conferences, grand rounds, etc.)
- Commercially sponsored programs.

These programs can be:

- Permanent site: A program given at one location several times within a year
- Traveling seminars: A program that moves from location to location without the program content changing (i.e., Society Roadshows, traveling lecturers, etc.).

B. Audiovisual Programs

Audiotape and videotape programs must provide a high-quality educational content using current information and techniques. The tapes must be a minimum of 30 minutes in length. The amount of credit assigned is based on the length of the tape. A post-test and evaluation form must be completed for credit to be given. The participant must achieve a passing grade of at least 80% to receive credit. Tapes must be reviewed every 3 years to maintain currency and accuracy.

Audiotape and videotape programs produced by outside organizations may be submitted for VOICE credit approval. The programs must include a post-test, support materials (if applicable) and an evaluation form to be awarded credit.

The SNM and SNM-TS produce videotapes eligible for continuing education credit. They are available from CME Unlimited. They are for sale or rent. With each purchase or rental, 10 individuals can obtain CE credit and there is a small charge for each additional 10 individuals wishing to obtain credit.

C. Journal Articles

The official journal of the SNM-TS features continuing education articles that qualify for one hour of continuing education credit (1.0 CEH). Individuals completing the *JNMT* article quizzes must follow the directions that accompany the article. An 80% correct response rate is required to receive credit for participation.

Articles relating to the field of nuclear medicine technology which will be published in a peer-reviewed journal with accompanying post-tests may be submitted by outside organizations or chapters for approval for VOICE credit. An application must be completed. As a guideline, reading the article and taking the post-test should take not less than one hour. The submitting organization or chapter will handle administrative details (grading the tests, failure notifications and letters of participation for non-SNM members, etc.).

D. Authors, Speakers

Authors and co-authors of an article relating to nuclear medicine in a peer-reviewed journal may each submit an application, including a copy of the published journal, to receive 5 CEHs each.

A speaker at a meeting that has been approved for VOICE credit may submit an application to receive 3 CEHs preparation time for every continuing education hour presented and 1 approved lecture credit not to exceed 6 CEHs per program annually. Application to include a copy of the final program in which the speaker appears.

Authors and co-authors of a book chapter, textbook or reference book related to nuclear medicine must submit an application for continuing education credit. Each application will be reviewed and credit assigned on a case by case basis by the VOICE Subcommittee.

IV. Activities Not Eligible for Continuing Education Credit

- Attendance at routine department or staff meetings.
- Poster sessions and viewing exhibits.
- Elected office or committee appointments.
- Basic course that would be taken during initial nuclear medicine technology training.
- Student presentations or attendance at bowl competitions.
- Question and answer sessions.
- Informal case discussions/presentations.
- Scientific papers and/or authorship of scientific papers.
- Breaks, meals or social functions. (A scientific presentation given *during* a meal function may be awarded CE credit).

V. Transcripts

A computerized transcript is issued to VOICE participants once a year *one month before their birth month* and on demand. The transcript identifies all CEH activities completed during the three most recent years prior to its issue. Information found on the VOICE transcript is as follows: participant's name and address, program information including date, reference number, description, category (when identified by applicant), number of CEHs. Transcripts will include VOICE-approved programs as well as programs approved by the identified RCEEMs for which proper documentation has been submitted. Proper documentation includes: participant's name and VOICE num-

ber, title and content description of the activity, date(s) of attendance, number of contact hours available and the number of hours the participant achieved, name of sponsor, an authorized signature (representative of the sponsor), and the reference number assigned by the RCEEM.

VI. Fee Structure

A. Enrollment Fees

SNM-TS members are enrolled in the VOICE system free as a benefit of membership. Non-SNM-TS members can enroll in the Nonmember VOICE Tracking Program (NMVTP) for an annual fee of $70.00. This is a tracking service only; participants must submit the proper documentation and they will receive a transcript (see Transcripts section).

B. Application Processing Fees for Approval of CE Programs

Fees must be enclosed with the application. Fees are nonrefundable.

$25.00	SNM chapter/regional sponsored program (≤ 1 day)
$75.00	SNM chapter/regional sponsored program (> 1 day)
$25.00	Academic/hospital/local group sponsored program (≤ 1 day)
$75.00	Academic/hospital/local group sponsored program (> 1 day)
$75.00	Multiple program discount (discount fee for sponsors applying for up to 6 programs within a 6-month period)
$100.00	Commercial company sponsored program
$50.00	Audiovisual program
$25.00	Journal article
$5.00	Authors/speakers

VII. Delineation of Responsibilities

A. Responsibilities of Sponsoring Organization or Applicant

1. Submit completed application, and one copy, with: name of sponsoring organization, name of contact person, complete mailing address of contact person along with day and evening telephone numbers, list of defined objectives, outline of course material, beginning and ending times for each activity/lecture, faculty information including their credentials, all supporting material including copies of handouts or study guide if applicable.

2. Submit application approximately 4 weeks in advance of the activity. Incomplete applications will delay processing. The SNM-TS Educational Office is not responsible if incomplete applications cause processing to be late for this activity. Applications for programs will be accepted up to the day of the meeting. Those that are received within a week of the program being held, if approved, may not receive the approval information (Credit Reporting Forms, etc.) until after the meeting is over. The program director (contact person) is responsible for making sure all attendees receive the information. Applications will not be accepted after the activity has taken place.

3. Obtain verification of the attendees' participation in the activity (sign-in sheets, registration list, etc.). Copy and distribute VOICE credit reporting forms received from SNM-TS office to all participants.

4. Instruct participants on proper method for completing the credit reporting forms and collect the top portion of the forms for SNM-TS members at the conclusion of the activity.

5. Submit the credit reporting forms for SNM-TS members and verification of participation report (report/list must contain names of all verified participants) to the SNM-TS educational coordinator within 2 weeks of the activity. Keep a copy of these forms for your files. Records must be kept for 3 years.

B. Responsibilities of VOICE Participant

1. Print name, address, phone number and VOICE number on the appropriate credit reporting form (i.e., audiovisual evaluation form, post tests, etc.). Indicate NMVTP on the form if you are a participant in the SNM-TS Nonmember VOICE Tracking Program. Missing or illegible information on these forms can result in credit not being recorded.

2. When attending a lecture (live) program, SNM-TS members will return the completed forms to the program director. Nonmembers are to keep the entire form for their records. For all other approved activities, follow the specific instructions included with the activity (*JNMT* quizzes, audiovisual programs, etc.).

C. Responsibilities of the SNM-TS Educational Office

1. Review all applications in a timely fashion and provide the Course Approval Subcommittee completed applications for approval.

2. After approval, enter the activity into the computer assigning at least one VOICE number (will vary depending on number of lectures in a live program). Identify those lectures that fit the categories defined by the NMTCB (radiopharmacy, radiation safety and nuclear medicine instrumentation) and specific licensure states (California, Texas, Illinois, etc.).

3. Send the letter of approval and instruction, with an original VOICE Credit Reporting Form and a sample VOICE Course Critique Form to the Program Director/Contact Person.

4. After receiving the completed credit reporting forms and verification of participation report from the program director/contact person, enter on VOICE participants records, the amount of credit to be received for the activity.

5. Provide VOICE participants with an annual report (VOICE transcript) of the continuing education activities they've reported to the SNM-TS Educational Office.

6. To keep on file, all applications, with supportive documentation and participation verification information for a period of 3 years following the date of the activity.

Glossary

Continuing Education Hour: A continuing education hour is equal to 60 minutes and is awarded 1 CEH credit.

Continuing Education Activity: A learning activity that is planned and administered to enhance the knowledge and skills underlying the professional performance that the technologist uses to provide services to patients, the public and the profession.

RCEEM: Recognized Continuing Education Evaluation Mechanism. A group or organization that evaluates the content and quality of continuing education activities. A RCEEM must be national in scope, nonprofit and based in the radiologic sciences. The SNM-TS, ASRT and SDMS are RCEEMs identified by the ARRT.

Sponsor: An organization that plans, organizes, supports, endorses, subsidizes and/or administers educational activities. Sponsors have their activities approved by a RCEEM to offer

credit. Sponsors can include professional societies, academic institutions, health care facilities and government agencies.

■ Government Relations Update

by David Nichols, Director ACNP/SNM Government Relations Office

NRC Update

The NRC held a briefing with the Advisory Committee for the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) on June 17, 1998 to discuss the pending proposed rule for 10 CFR 35. The commission heard recommendations from the ACMUI on the medical policy statement, significant precursors and patient notification. The committee also asked for the commission to extend the time period for commenting on the proposed rule from 75 to 120 days.

The NRC is expected to publish a proposed rule near the middle of August 1998 for public comment and to include three public workshops to hear additional discussions on the changes proposed by the NRC. These changes will include: (a) a reduction in the radiation safety training and experience required for physicians practicing nuclear medicine; (b) a revamping of the radiation safety committee requirements to focus on a program for radiation safety rather than a prescriptive committee structure; and (c) restructuring of the quality management program to require only written directives and a program that assures that the dose prescribed is the dose given. Other areas of the current 10 CFR 35 also will be changed.

The ACNP/SNM Government Relations Office will be disseminating the proposed rule and associated documents when they are published as well as making them available on the Internet for people to monitor activity and send in comments.

Isotope Production: Research Isotopes

One of the four goals passed by the ACNP/SNM Government Relations Committee in January 1998 was to increase funding for research isotope production through the DOE. Our requests to the House and the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committees originally asked for a $20-million-dollar increase, which was reduced to a site-specific request of $10 million dollars. This $10-million-dollar request, although supported by Senators Larry Craig (R-ID), Connie Mack (R-FL), Slade Gorton (R-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA), was not included in either the House or the Senate bills as of July 31, 1998. In addition, the house bill removed an additional $6 million slated for the construction of a beam spur of the LANSCE accelerator at Los Alamos which would have ensured that the national lab could continue to produce research isotopes. The ACNP/SNM Government Relations Office continues to press for the House to include money for the beam spur during the Energy and Water Appropriations Committee Conference.

The ACNP and SNM also have nominated Drs. Richard Reba, Michael Devous, Daniel Sullivan and Linda Knight to serve on a Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee that would have jurisdiction over providing advice to the director of the Office of Nuclear Energy (currently Bill Magwood is acting director) on those isotopes that the DOE should expend resources to produce. The SNM also is looking into establishing a peer review committee to provide commentary to the DOE on which isotopes it feels the department should commit to producing. This type of input from a federal advisory committee and a peer review group within the SNM would assist the DOE on focusing on producing 5 to 10 isotopes and making them available at a reasonable cost to researchers year round.

SNM-TS Moves Forward with National Licensure Effort

Following the momentum of the annual meeting in Toronto, the SNM-TS continues to work with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) to push forward a national licensure initiative that would require states to develop licensure requirements if they are not currently in place. To focus the need for licensure, the SNM-TS developed the following position paper on this issue.

The SNM-TS supports the establishment of minimum standards by the federal government for persons who administer nuclear medicine procedures. The need for licensure is driven by the following:

1. Establishment of minimum standards would increase the quality of patient care by increasing the diagnostic value of nuclear medicine procedures. This will result in a decrease in the incidence of repeat exams and inappropriate exams. Thus, the establishment of minimum standards will decrease the cost of medical care.
2. Establishment of minimum standards will meet the need to demonstrate competency consistent with current and impending regulatory requirements for providers of health care, and assure the public of appropriate care.
3. Establishment of minimum standards along with a vehicle for continued competency assessment provides a mechanism for implementation of advances in technology.
4. Establishment of minimum standards along with a vehicle for continued competency assessment is consistent with the professional nature of nuclear medicine technologists and other allied health providers.

The use of radiopharmaceuticals in medicine is inherently safe as demonstrated by the very low incidence of adverse events, especially in comparison to the remaining body of medicine. Inappropriate use of radiopharmaceuticals and repeat examinations, however, contribute to the increased cost of care and poor patient outcomes.

The promulgation of minimum standards for nuclear medicine technologists will anticipate the regulatory requirements aimed at demonstrating professional competency. In addition, the quality and diagnostic value of nuclear medicine procedures will be ensured. The outcome of this action will reduce the costs of medical care.

This document will now be combined with the position of ASRT to create a uniform position that both ASRT and the SNM-TS support. It is the hope of both groups to create a coalition of radiologic specialties to support this position paper, as well as model state legislation and recommended standards for the implementation of any licensure legislation by the Department of Health and Human Services.

SNM PAC Up and Running

Following approval by the SNM board of directors in Las Vegas in January 1998, the SNM Political Action Committee sent out its first request for donations from members in June 1998. This committee will support those congressional candidates for re-election that have been helpful to nuclear medicine. For more information on the PAC please contact Amanda Sullivan at 703-708-9776 or by e-mail at asulliva@snm.org.

■ ACNP News

by Ed Horwitz
ACNP Quality Assurance Program Director

ACNP Introduces 1998 Fall Phantom

The American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) is pleased to announce the release of its fall phantom for the 1998 Proficiency Testing Program. This fall subscribers will receive a transmission phantom with a simulated mammoscintigraphy study and an oncologic lesion detection exercise with a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) of warm lesions.

This mammoscintigraphy exercise will evaluate lesion size, contrast and a location simulation of a two-view planar study of the breast. In addition a matrix of lesions of varying contrast will be included, which will test the observer's ability to detect lesions as seen on nuclear oncology studies. An ROC curve will be produced for each observer. Pixel-size evaluation will be included as a quality control exercise. The effect of camera distance on image quality also will be examined.

The Proficiency Testing Program is designed to evaluate and improve quality in nuclear medicine and to complement a nuclear medicine department's quality assurance program. Subscribers receive a critique of their imaging capabilities compared to those of the other participating facilities. CME credits are available for all participants. The program uses imaging phantoms to assess image acquisition, processing, display and interpretation of each image. The phantoms are typically of various organ systems and are designed to let the user assess certain types of imaging studies. Past phantoms include a myocardial perfusion simulator, a lumbar spine, a medium-energy phantom and a renal phantom. These are still available for purchase.

The phantoms are designed by a dedicated committee comprised of members and consultants from the ACNP, the CAP, the SNM and the SNM-Technologist Section. The nuclear medicine imaging experience of these organizations affords the Proficiency Testing Program the foremost expertise in nuclear medicine.

For more information about the ACNP Proficiency Testing Program, contact Ed Horwitz at the national office of the American College of Nuclear Physicians, 4400 Jenifer St. NW, Suite 230, Washington, DC 20015; phone 202-244-7904; fax 202-244-7355; e-mail ed@acnp.com.

■ News Briefs

American Chemical Society Launches New Publication

The American Chemical Society (ACS) announced plans for a new publication: *Modern Drug Discovery*, a controlled circulation magazine. *Modern Drug Discovery* is aimed at scientists working in drug discovery and the life sciences. This magazine will feature comprehensive reports and news analysis of scientific and technical advances, industry and business developments, and the results of clinical trials and government regulation. Articles and features will be written so that any member of an interdisciplinary drug discovery team with a BS degree can understand them. The new magazine will be published as a supplement to *Chemical & Engineering News* and *Today's Chemist at Work*, two established ACS publications. The first issue is expected this fall. Subscriber information is available on the ACS publications web site at www.pubs.acs.org or from Mary Warner at 202-872-6163.

International Isotopes Receives Approval for Manufacturing

International Isotopes Inc. (I^3), of Denton, TX, announced in July that it received approval of a radioactive material license from the Texas Department of Public Health, Bureau of Radiation Control for manufacturing and distributing radioisotopes, radiochemicals, radiopharmaceuticals and radioisotope therapeutic devices. The license authorizes the company to use its 80,000-square-foot radioisotope and radiopharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Denton, TX. The license allows I^3 to manufacture ^{201}Tl, ^{89}Sr, ^{90}Y, ^{131}I and ^{125}I. The company also is licensed for the radioisotope calibration sources of all elements from lithium to actinium, which include most of the radioisotopes.