

When I first started my SNMTS presidency, time and projects stretched out like an endless horizon. Now as my year draws to a close, I feel that there is never enough time to complete the daily tasks and many challenges yet to be met. It's hard to believe the time has already come to hand over the reins, but my grandson is calling my name and other adventures are waiting.

It has been my distinct privilege and pleasure to work with so many people dedicated to advancing the profession of nuclear medicine technologist (NMT). I would like to highlight some of this past year's significant achievements, accomplished with the support of many in the SNMTS community.

The groundwork has been laid to bring up the next generation of leaders. I am delighted and encouraged by Lauren Rush, our student representative to the National Council of Representatives (NCOR). With such student leaders, we have no need to fear for the future of our profession. Past leaders, who possess the intellectual collective memory of our organization, have been recruited to become mentors to our current and future leaders. I want every member to know that SNMTS wants to promote your personal and professional leadership growth. Our organizational arms are open wide to include all those who wish to actively participate.

Our advanced practice NMT is close to becoming a reality. A survey of over 1,500 physicians was conducted and evaluated to gauge need and possible support for this new advanced practice professional. Our position statement, or



white paper, on the proposed advanced practice NMT was introduced. In the coming year we should see progress regarding curriculum development for this new professional. I hope, shortly after that, we will be able to introduce a new level of professional opportunity to SNMTS members.

*Entry level* for better or worse, has been defined. We will continue to have open discussions and come up with a mutually agreeable solution to this vexing dilemma of the minimal educational level for entry into the profession. No matter what is decided, all of the radiologic technologist professions are evolving; we can go along for the ride or be left in the dust. The choice is ours.

The members of the Executive Board and NCOR have worked diligently to meet the expectations of the SNMTS governance reorganization. I am proud to say that NCOR members have been instrumental in bringing forth important grassroots practice and

professional issues to be discussed and debated. Executive Board members have pondered issues and made difficult decisions regarding the future of our profession.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority of those who participate." I commend all of you who have actively participated this year. I encourage everyone to get involved—and stay involved. There is still much work to be done, and we absolutely need everyone's help in order to continue growing our profession.

I would like to thank my colleagues who served on the Executive Board and the National Council of Representatives as well as the chairs and members of SNMTS committees and task forces. They have worked tirelessly throughout the year. My job has been infinitely easier due to their dedication and support. I also want to express my appreciation to all SNM staff members—especially Virginia Pappas, SNM executive director, and Gregg Robinson, associate executive director—for their invaluable insight and direction (without stifling my childlike enthusiasm).

Thank you for entrusting me with the job of SNMTS president. I have done my best to represent each of you well and to further advance our profession. It has truly been an honor, a privilege, and a ride I will never forget.

It's time for me to step aside and let another take the lead. Best wishes, Val. You will still see me around, but I'll just go back to being Nuclear Nanci, cheering from the sidelines.