The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, held June 3–7, 2006, in San Diego, CA, brought together technologists, physicians, and scientists from around the world for five days of information exchange, professional recognition, and camaraderie. During the meeting, the Technologist Section inducted new officers for the coming year, and a number of technologists were recognized for their contributions to nuclear medicine and the Technologist Section.

SNMTS OFFICERS FOR 2006–7

D. Scott Holbrook, BS, CNMT, RT(N), assumed the office of president during the business meeting of the SNMTS. “SNMTS recognizes the importance of developing the imaging specialists of the future,” said Holbrook, vice president of Clinical Pharmacy Services, an independent nuclear pharmacy in Gray, TN. “As president, I will focus on providing the necessary education and developing the highest standards in providing quality patient care.”

His tasks as SNMTS president will include stewardship of two initiatives supported by the Technologist Section: a baccalaureate degree entry-level requirement for technologists and the development of a master’s degree–level nuclear medicine practitioner career path. “As SNMTS carries these two initiatives forward, we will continue to fight for the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence and RadCARE bills, which support federal minimum standards for nuclear medicine and radiologic technologists and radiation therapists,” he said. In addition, the SNMTS will continue to lobby on insurance coverage and reimbursement issues and for increased funding for key medical radioisotope production and basic science research at the Department of Energy.

Holbrook previously served as market development manager and territory manager for PETNET Pharmaceuticals (Knoxville, TN). A member of SNM’s Mideastern Chapter, he is a founder of the SNMTS PET Learning Center and one of the original authors of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board’s PET exam, the Society’s PET/CT consensus paper, and the SNM PET/CT guideline. He is the current vice chair of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology—Technologist Section. He is the author of more than 50 articles and has made more than 100 presentations.

Holbrook received a bachelor of science degree in nuclear medicine technology from Wheeling Jesuit University (WV) and was named an SNMTS Fellow during the SNM 2005 Annual Meeting.

David Gilmore, MS, CNMT, an assistant professor and clinical coordinator for the nuclear medicine technology program at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Boston, MA), was named as SNMTS president-elect at the San Diego meeting. “As an SNM Technologist Section leader, I will continue to work for licensure, ensure that high-quality educational offerings are available to all technologists in every part of the country, and push forward promoting high standards of professionalism,” he said. “This is especially important since we are working in a rapidly changing environment with numerous challenges, including the use of PET with CT; state licensure conflicts; new regulations, radiopharmaceuticals, and continuing education requirements; the dawn of the PET/MR imaging age; and a shortage/oversupply seesaw.”

Gilmore previously served as associate director of clinical operations for Bracco Diagnostics (Princeton, NJ).

Gilmore holds a master of science degree in education from Virginia Tech (Blacksburg) and a bachelor’s degree in health sciences from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA). The American Society of Radiologic Technologists member received his nuclear medicine technology certificate from Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Virginia and has also earned a certificate in project management from Boston University. He serves on the board of directors for the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. He joined SNMTS in 1994 and has also served on the Finance, Emerging Technologies, Education, Advocacy, and Nominating committees.

In the 2006 elections, the SNMTS membership selected Mary Beth Farrell, CNMT (Pittsburgh, PA), as SNMTS secretary and elected Mark Wallenmeyer, CNMT (Springfield, MO), to the Finance Committee.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

Daniel T. Guarasci of Lancaster, NY, a clinical assistant professor of nuclear medicine with the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the State University of New York at Buffalo for nearly 10 years, was...
named the 2006 SNM Technologist Section Outstanding Educator.

“Daniel Guarasci has a special talent that sets him apart from other educators,” said Valerie R. Cronin, CNMT, SNMTS outgoing president. “He translates complex information into the understandable, whether he’s teaching nuclear medicine technology students or residents or pharmacy students,” she added.

“It is quite gratifying to be recognized by the SNMTS, and I appreciate the support and acknowledgement,” said Guarasci, a certified nuclear medicine technologist and a licensed pharmacist who also serves as a clinical instructor for the Department of Medical Technology with the School of Health Related Professions at SUNY at Buffalo.

A licensed medical/health physicist, Guarasci earned a doctorate of pharmacy, a master of science degree in radiation biology and bachelor of science degrees in pharmacy and in nuclear medicine, all from SUNY at Buffalo. He is certified by the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine, the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, and the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. An SNMTS member since 1987, he is vice president of the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

As outgoing SNMTS president, Cronin selected William Hubble, MA, CNMT, RT(R)(N)(C), and Martha Pickett, CNMT, FSNMTS, as the 2006 recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Service Awards. Pickett is chair of Nuclear Medicine Technology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (Little Rock), and has been a leader in the Technologist Section’s efforts to design the nuclear medicine practitioner program. Hubble is assistant professor, chair and program director of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program, at St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO.

“Martha and Bill are hard working, goal-oriented individuals with a breadth of experience in their specific areas,” Cronin commented. “Their accomplishments throughout the year made them an easy choice for my award. They kept the momentum and progress moving forward.”

JNMT AWARDS

Beth A. Harkness, CNMT, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology (JNMT), presented awards to the authors of 3 articles chosen as outstanding contributions to JNMT in 2005. The lead authors or their representatives received plaques and honoraria in a ceremony held during the annual business meeting of the SNMTS on June 6. The Education and Research Foundation for SNM funded prizes of $500 and $100 for the first and second place awards.

First Place


Second Place


Third-place

Scientific Awards

The outstanding scientific research presented at the meeting by technologists was recognized with a series of awards for oral presentations, posters, and student presentations. The abstracts below may be accessed through the JNMT Web site at http://tech.snmjournals.org.

Scientific Abstracts

First Place

Second Place
Severine Orio, Juliette Feuardent, Marc Froissart, and Marc Faraggi for “Estimation of the Radiation Exposure of Technologists Working With a PET/CT,” abstract 2028.

Third Place

Cardiovascular Council Awards

First Place

Second Place

Third Place

Student Abstracts

First Place
Meghan Blase, Dana Oliver, and Medhat M. Osman for “Patterns of Uptake in the Subareolar Plexus as Detected by 18F-FDG PET/CT: Does Gender or Bra Use Matter?” abstract 2140.

Second Place

Third Place

Student Travel Awards

SNMTS offered $500 awards to cover travel expenses for 10 technologist students who presented abstracts at the 53rd SNM Annual Meeting. Funds for these awards were provided by the SNMTS Professional Development and Education Fund (PDEF) with support from these PDEF Corporate Friends: Biogen Idec, Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Capintec Inc., GE Healthcare, Mallinckrodt Inc., and MDS Nordion.

The 10 travel award recipients were Kristen Knerzer, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Marshfield, WS; Jared Thatcher, Kathryn Leonard, and Isaac Tran, all Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO; Chanh Vu, Harbor–UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, CA; Alice Hall, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN; and Jerlin Jacob, Jamie Mathews, Urvi Patel, and Jennifer Tordai, all Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL.