Technologist News

Injection Blues

Are technologists allowed to inject in Missouri? May they inject in Washington? No one seems to be too sure one way or the other.

In the March 1976 issue of *JNMT* (Vol. 4/ No. 1) we published a story regarding the status on injection regulations for nuclear medicine technologists throughout the country. At that time seven states were believed to have laws which prohibit these procedures. After checking with official sources in most of the states—those sources confirming the illegality of such procedures—the story went to print.

Hailstorms and earthquakes ensued. Technologists in Missouri, New Hampshire, Washington, and West Virginia, who up to now performed injections routinely and peacefully, were astounded. Some Ohio technologists even refused to inject, for fear that they might be arrested. Rather expediently, technologists and their physicians started in-depth checking of their own state's laws. In most cases they found nothing forbidding the injection of radiopharmaceuticals by a nuclear medicine technologist under the immediate supervision of a physician.

What happened? Different interpretation of unspecified legal terminology by state officials is part of the reason. Most of the states clearly specify what is to be considered the practice of medicine. In most states intravenous injections are in the domain of medicine. Even if a clause exists for the delegation of such duties to registered nurses, nuclear medicine technologists cannot be considered nurses. Medical practice laws have generally not kept pace with medical practice, especially with respect to relatively new specialty areas such as nuclear medicine. And so when a survey of injection regulations was made by Dielman Associates, Inc., states were faced for the first time with trying to find a specific answer in laws which did not provide one.

Should he or shouldn't he?

An interpretation of existing law had to be made.

One such case is Ohio, where the original reply to the Dielman survey from the office of William J Lee, Administrator of the State Medical Board, was that the iv injection of radioactive materials by technologists was not allowed. In April 1976 the *JNMT* office received the Board's Position Paper relating to physician's assistants and a copy of the Medical Practice Act. An accompanying letter stated that such injections must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a duly licensed physician. Dielman Associates soon received the same response. Subsequently, nuclear medicine physicians in the state asked the Ohio State Medical Association for an interpretation of the law by the Association's attorneys. The law firm's research found no Ohio law discussing the subject at hand. After reaching an opinion with respect to the scope of practice of nurses in drawing blood, the attorneys decided that "the non-physician employee in the specialties involved can lawfully perform the tasks in question, but the physician should certainly be present. Of course, we assume that the employee would be highly trained, consistent with the skills and risks inherent in the procedure." An official decision on the delegation of duty by the physician is currently awaited from the Attorney General for the State of Ohio.

Similar developments occurred in New Hampshire and West Virginia. Although the initial response from both states was that technologists could not perform injections, neither in fact has any laws which either prohibit or allow such practices. A recent opinion from New Hampshire's Radiation Control Agency is that such practices are legal as full responsibility rests with the licensed physician.

In Missouri, again, no medical law mentions nuclear medicine

technologists or the extent of their activities. According to the law, then, as interpreted by Ms. Ann Forry, who was the Legal Counsel for the Depatment of Social Services at the time of the Dielman survey, this would place nuclear medicine technologists in the same bracket as private citizens. And the law does specify that private citizens are not allowed to perform medical services. (The Department of Social Services is located in the Broadway Street Office Building, Jefferson City, MO 65101; Ms. Forry is now working for the State Election Commission.)

A similar problem exists in California, where a law does specify who—other than physicians— may be allowed to perform injections. Since nuclear medicine technologists are not mentioned, it has been assumed that they would not be allowed to perform an injection. That, however, is not the case and the California Medical Board simply does not have a policy on the matter.

...in most cases nothing forbids injections of radiopharmaceuticals by nuclear medicine technologists...

The Washington State Medical Association has stated that injections by technologists are not legal in that state. Although there is no law which directly deals with this question, the Association's decision may be based on rules regarding the practice of registered nurses. A section of the rules lists the duties that a nurse may perform if so directed by a physician. The administration of medication and drugs, even if done by puncture of the skin, is one of the duties. The same section specifies that these duties may not be performed by anyone other than a registered nurse.

Thus, according to our research at this time, New York appears to be the only state to have a law which clearly prevents technologists from injecting radiopharmaceuticals. And even there the solution seems near as there is every hope that technologists there will be eligible for the status of Registered Specialist's Assistants (RSA) in Nuclear Medicine (for a full explanation please see the March 1976 story previously referenced).

Technologist Section Explores Establishing Nuclear Medicine Technology Board Examination

At the Annual Meeting of the Society in Dallas National Council delegates resolved to investigate the formation of an independent nuclear medicine technology board examination and to establish a task force to explore its formation. The Council's actions differed from previous Council positions regarding the establishment of another registry.

The wording of the motion passed by the National Council Delegates is, "Resolved that we are in support of the concept of an independent nuclear medicine technology examination board under the auspices of the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section. Moved that the new Section Executive Committee to be convened on June 10, 1976, in Dallas, Texas, explore fully the implementation of an independent nuclear medicine technology examination board. A committee shall be required to report back to the National Council meeting to be held in Las Vegas in January 1977. We recommend that the committee shall be comprised of at least five National Council Delegates plus whomever else the president wishes to appoint."

President Mark Muilenburg has set up an NMT Certification Task Force and three subcommittees to deal with this issue. The members of the Task Force are the six members of the Executive Committee (Mark Muilenburg, Jim Langan, Barbara Horton, Sue Weiss, Jim Kellner, and Tony Mazzola) and five National Council delegates (Vi Custer, George Alexander, Joan Herbst, Glenn Moran, and Susan Hemingway).

The three subcommittees handle special assignments and have the

Newsbreak...

Technologist representatives joined with other from more than 60 allied health associations in supporting establishment of a national voluntary commission on health certification at the National Certification Conference in Kansas City, MO, August 2-5.

The meeting produced resolutions supporting joint cross-field efforts in making certification policy as opposed to independent action by individual organizations. The Section contingent in Kansas City was headed by President Mark I. Muilenburg and President-Elect Jim Langan.

Primary purpose of the certification commission would be to set up a body which would approve standards for private and government certifying agencies and monitoring adherence to those standards.

responsibility of monitoring progress in their particular areas. The Subcommittee on Government Liaison includes Mark Muilenburg, President-Elect Jim Langan, and Secretary-Historian Barbara Horton. Examination Services is chaired by Vi Custer and includes Glenn Moran, Tony Mazzola, and Joan Herbst. Finally, Task Analysis—Item Writing has Sue Weiss (Chairperson), George Alexander, Sue Hemingway, and Jim Kellner.

Crucial to the study and implementation of the registry was a conference on the proposed National Certification Council held in Kansas City on Aug. 2-5, 1976. Please see "Newsbreak" on this page for a brief summary of what came out of that meeting.

Section Responds to Senate Action

The Technologist Section has notified Senate and House legislators that nuclear medicine technologists should be identified specifically as not being included in any licensure provisions set up under the heading "radiologic technologist."

Notification is in the form of a letter to members of the Senate-House Conference Committee on the bill from President Mark I. Muilenburg. The letter was occasioned by establishment of a federal system for accreditng radiologic technology teaching programs and licensing radiologic technologists in the recently passed Senate version of the Health Professions Education Assistance ("Manpower") Act.

While the Senate bill contains radiologic technology licensing provisions, the House version does not. The aim of the Muilenburg letter is to see that the Conference Committee set up to iron out differences between the two forms of the bill identify nuclear medicine personnel as such in excluding them if the radiologic provision is retained in the final version sent back to both houses for consideration.

The letter states: "Nuclear medicine technology must be identified as a separate professional entity, containing educational programs accreditation and technologist certification mechanisms independent of radiologic technology. This identification is of the utmost importance."

The missive will also contain copies of the Section's "Position Paper on Licensure" (see p. 113 of this issue.).

VOICE Reverberates with Success

A total of 485 paid members have already jointed VOICE, the Technologist Section's new continuing education accountability program.

The initial membership drive, which began earlier in the year at the Section's Mid-Winter Meeting in St. Louis, has exceeded all expectations, according to Lou Izzo, chairman of the Continuing Education Committee which oversees the program. The committee had anticipated a membership total of approximately 300 by annual meeting time but surpassed this goal by about a third.

Two courses given at the Dallas meeting were the first to be approved for VOICE credit: 0.5 CEU (Continuing Education Units) for Administration and 1.2 CEU for Education.

The Section's January Mid-Winter Meeting in Las Vegas will offer an educational program with courses meeting criteria for CEUs in radioimmunoassay, administration, education, and imaging. Details on these courses will be given in the December 1976 issue of *JNMT*.

VOICE—Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education—was designed as a system for recording continuing education activities of nuclear medicine technologists. The program maintains a permanent computer-stored log of credits for members participating in activities approved by the Section's Continuing Education Review Board (CERB).

Nuclear Medicine Essentials Approved at AMA Convention

After two years of revision and review, the final version of "Essentials of an Accredited Program for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist" has been approved by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association. Formal acceptance came June 28 at the annual meeting of the AMA in the Fairmont Hotel, Dallas.

The long-awaited approval means an up-to-date set of definitions and standards will be applied by the AMA's Council on Medical Education in examining credentials of new training programs in nuclear medicine technology. The 1976 Essentials, which replaces a version in use since July 1969, will also be used in resurveying already accredited training programs.

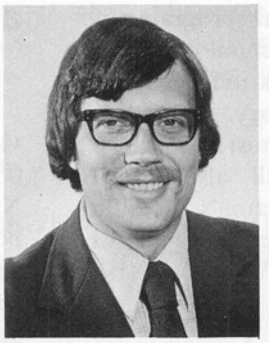
The approved document is the seventh in a series of drafts put together over the past several years. It was prepared under a Joint Review Committee acting as agent for five sponsoring organizations: the American College of Radiology, the American Society for Medical Technology, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Principal author of the final draft was Dr. C. Douglas Maynard, of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University, Vice President of the Society.

The new Essentials defines the occupation of nuclear medicine technologist in terms of patient care, technical skills required, and administrative functions. It lists requirements for institutional accreditation in nuclear medicine training under instructional and clinical facilities and establishes curriculum content as well as educational objectives.

As opposed to the earlier version, the newly approved Essentials deals only with "the nuclear medicine technologist." A separate class of "nuclear medicine technicians" set up

Message from the President



In looking forward to the year ahead of us as an organization, there are many decisions we must make affecting the future of nuclear medicine technology. It is a year which will have great IMPACT on the profession, technologists, and ultimately the patients. IMPACT, as an acronym, stands for *I*nvolving *M*edicine and *P*atients in *A*pplying *C*ontemporary *T*echnology. IMPACT is the theme I would like to use for this year.

There are four main areas where we will have IMPACT this year.

Certification will be an area having IMPACT for everyone. In Dallas, two resolutions were passed regarding certification. The resolutions supported the concept of an independent Nuclear Medicine Technology Board Examination and instructed me to form a committee to explore the implementation of the examination and to report on it at the Las Vegas meeting in January 1977. This committee has been appointed, with subcommittees assigned specific areas to investigate. The committee is entitled the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Task Force. Four members of the Task Force attended a workshop in Kansas City, Aug. 2-5, to discuss the formation of a National Certification Commission. This concept may be very significant in the area of certification in the future. In the December issue I hope to give a detailed progress report on the accomplishments of the Task Force.

Licensure is a topic of great IMPACT since it has direct effect on how we may perform our jobs in the future. The Section now has a position paper on licensure which can be utilized at both the state and federal level. Copies may be obtained from the National Office.

Continuing Education is an area of IMPACT since it enables the practicing technologist to be better informed and facilitates increased competency. With the implementation of VOICE we have an effective mechanism for evaluating continuing education programs and giving credit for participating in these programs. If you are interested in providing a continuing education program in your area, contact the National Office and they will provide assistance.

Finally, IMPACT on patients. Too often we get caught up in activities such as certification, licensure, and continuing education as they relate to us from a personal point of view. We must remember that these areas of IMPACT are only in support of our primary goal: applying nuclear medicine technology in helping provide high-quality health care to PEOPLE. This is where we as nuclear medicine technologists must have our true IMPACT.

MARK I. MUILENBURG
Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital
Omaha, Nebraska

in the 1969 system has been removed. The 1976 Essentials also differs in its emphasis on qualitative rather than quantitative aspects of curricula and in its recognition of "innovative programs" in achieving student performance standards.

Copies of the Essentials are available from the National Office.

Third Proficiency Exam

The third annual proficiency examination for those hoping to qualify as clinical laboratory technologists under Medicare/Medicaid regulations for independent clinical laboratories will be given throughout the country on Oct. 8, 1976.

The examination will be administered by the Bureau of Quality Assurance, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The test offers clinical laboratory workers a chance to qualify as technologists even though they may not meet formal educational requirements prescribed in Medicare regulations for independent laboratories. The testing program is designed primarily for persons whose skills and knowledge are the result of work experience rather than formal studies. Among subjects covered are clinical chemistry, microbiology, hematology, and blood banking.

In order to quality to take the examination, candidates must have a high school diploma or the equivalent and four years of full-time clinical laboratory work experience (within the six years preceding application). In some cases, college credit or other laboratory experience may be substituted for part of the four-year work requirement.

It should be noted that in states having licensure for clinical laboratory technologists, state requirements must also be met in order for those passing the federal proficiency examination to qualify as technologists in a Medicare-approved laboratory.

Though the deadline for applications for this year's examination is past, those interested should direct inquiries to the Medicare certification agency of their state health departments. The test is free and is given each Fall in a variety of locations.

Technologists Speak Out

Position Paper on Licensure

A 1500-word statement defining the official position of the Technologist Section on government licensure of nuclear medicine technologists has been approved by governing bodies of both the Section and the Society.

The statement favors an approach based on state acceptance of national certification standards as opposed to either a strictly federal or state-generated system.

"Position Paper on Licensure" was adopted as of June 1976. It has been published in the form of an eight-page pamphlet bearing the imprimatur of the Executive Committee and National Council Delegates of the Technologist Section and the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the Society.

Largely the work of Technologist President Mark I. Muilenburg, the statement will aid members in communicating with legislators and taking part in future federal or local hearings on proposed licensure measures. Copies will be disseminated both from the SNM National Office and from the office of Terry L. Schmidt, the Society's Washington representative.

Licensure Alternatives

The position paper lists licensure alternatives as falling into one of three categories and designates the third as the most practical "if licensure is deemed necessary":

"(1) Individual state licensure in which each state establishes its own criteria and minimum standards for training program accreditation, technologist certification, and licensure.

"(2) Federal legislation which would require the federal governement to provide states with criteria and minimum standards for training program accreditation, technologist certification, and licensure. States would be required to adopt these federal standards or more stringent state requirements could be implemented.

"(3) State licensure through state acceptance and adoption of national certification. The federal government would assist in establishing a national (nonfederal) certification system. National standards for accreditation and certification would be established through a collaborative effort of the federal government, professional associations, state governments, recognized certifying organizations, and other interested parties."

In support of the third approach, the technologist statement cites a combination of consistency and adaptability as arguing in its favor:

"Since this alternative incorporates use of national standards but still allows for state control and adaptation to fulfill local needs, the national standards would be adopted by the states, thus maintaining uniformity and consistency and facilitating reciprocity and mobility between states."

States could be persuaded to follow the federal lead on national standards, the position paper points out "because of requirements for reimbursement under federal health insurance programs that services must be provided by health professionals who have been licensed or certified according to national standards."

Such a system, the paper concludes, would serve the interests of both the public and the medical community in assuring technologist competency and quality health care while retaining adaptability to local needs.

Basic Ingredients

For the actual drafting of licensure regulations—or national standards—the technologist statement lists six ingredients as basic. These are, in summary, as follows:

1. National standards should provide uniformity and consistency among states and should encourage reciprocity in enforcement.
2. Practicing nuclear medicine technologists should be allowed to perform those procedures they have been trained to do.
3. Certification and/or proficiency examinations should be central to any system of licensure.
4. Essentials of education and training and accreditation of training programs are critical to developing professional competency and should be incorporated into any licensure plan.
5. Ways of evaluating on-the-job training should be built into any licensure regulations.
6. Demonstration of continued competency should be included.

Anyone wishing a printed copy of the pamphlet "Position Paper on Licensure" should contact James E. Swan, Managing Editor, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

Washington Update

RIA Kits May Be Affected by Federal Control. Radioimmunoassay kits and reagents may be classified as medical devices under the Medical Devices Amendments of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938, signed into law by President Ford on May 28 (Public Law 94-295). The Amendments give the federal government power to oversee the safety and effectiveness of all medical devices. These kits have escaped FDA control up to now as they are not classified as drugs. Their possible classification as devices may impose very strict regulations on their manufacture or distribution or both, a factor which will help to elimminate substandard kits presently on the market.

ERDA Budget Provides $1.5 Million for Nuclear Medicine. The Energy and Research Development Administration's (ERDA) recently approved budget for fiscal year 1977 includes $1.5 million earmarked for specialized projects in nuclear medicine. The appropriations, now Public Law 94-355, were signed by President Ford on July 12, following House approval on June 15, Senate approval on June 23, and House-Senate conferencing on June 29. Although the original request did not provide funding for research projects, as a result of budgetary restrictions imposed by the Office of Management and Budget, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy advised the $1.5 million addition "to permit the undertaking of promising research efforts."

Manpower Bill in House-Senate Conference. The Health Professions Educational Assistance Act is now under consideration by a House-Senate Conference Committee. Health manpower training bills were passed by the House more than a year ago and by the Senate July 1. The legislation proposes increased federal support for programs which steer students into physician shortage areas and into general family-service-type practice. Differences between the two versions must be ironed out before the Congress adjourns in early October if the bill is to become law this year.

Dr. Reba Testifies on Clinical Labs Bill. In testimony delivered before a committee of the Office of Program Implementation (OPI), HEW, Richard C. Reba, acting as spokesman for SNM, asked that certification by ABNM be considered as "evidence of competence in all aspects of nuclear medicine." The testimony before OPI—the body to be charged with structuring regulations under the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Act—and earlier testimony before the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment are part of an effort by the nuclear medicine community to ensure that legislation dealing with clinical standards or credentialing does not ignore the needs of this special field. The bill has been cleared by the Subcommittee for consideration by the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee (please see related story on p. 115 of this issue).

GAO Reports on NRC Licensing. The General Accounting Office has issued a report claiming that NRC has an inefficient licensing policy for radioactive materials users. This conclusion was based on a study showing that more than half of the inspections held in 1974 revealed violations, many major enough to have resulted in radiation hazards. The report also included recommendations for a detailed review of applications prior to the issuance of a license and for improved communications between NRC's licensing and inspection staffs. The data for the GAO study were gathered in 1974, and in the two-and-a-half years since, according to NRC's Acting Chairman Marcus A. Rowden, NRC has implemented most of the report's recommendations and is working on the others.

Dr. Stever Becomes White House Science Office Director. H. Guyford Stever, director of the National Science Foundation, has been confirmed by the Senate to head the Office of Science and Technology Policy. In that position he will also serve as science adviser to the President, reestablishing a position eliminated by the Nixon administration three years ago. Dr. Stever hopes to concentrate on environmental and energy problems—such as energy development, exploiting the oceans, and safe disposal of radioactive wastes—and believes more attention should be paid to life sciences. This marks a clear shift from previous science advisers, most of whom were more concerned with military and aerospace technology.

Talmadge Bill in Committee. After five days of hearings in early August before the Health Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, the Talmadge bill (S.3205) has been sent back to the full Committee for consideration. The bill is designed to curb rising costs for Medicaid-Medicare programs without reducing benefits to patients. It is not expected that any further action will be taken on the legislation until the 95th Congress convenes in January 1977.

RIA Group to Join SNM in Annual Meeting Plans

Spokesmen for SNM and the Clinical Radioassay Society (CRS) have begun exploring the possibility of joint participation in annual meeting planning for Chicago next summer.

Martin Marcus, president of CRS, traveled to Royal Oak, MI, July 26 to meet with Dr. Howard J. Dworkin of the SNM Scientific Program Committee to lay the groundwork for joint meeting plans. The Society hopes to draw upon the expertise of the radioassay group to upgrade RIA presentations at its 24th Annual Meeting in return for sharing facilities with the smaller CRS.

Impetus for CRS participation came from proposals made by Dr. Dworkin at a meeting of the Program Committee in Dallas June 10. The hope is that CRS will help select papers and abstracts, as well as provide lecture and workshops setups under Dr. Dworkin's direction.

Official approval for the joint venture must still come from governing bodies of both organizations, but initial discussions produced no major obstacles, according to the conferees.

The Clinical Radioassay Society is now 2 years old as a national organization and is made up of ten regional chapters. Present membership numbers approximately 1200. About 200 members attended the group's second annual meeting in New York City on May 8 and 9.

Keynote speaker for that meeting was Dr. Rosalyn Yalow, of the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital, her topic being, "RIA: State of the Art and the Future."

Other featured lecturers were Dr. William Shaw, of the Center for Disease Control, Dr. Grafton Chase, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Dr. Daniel Albertson, of the Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, and Dr. Leo Cawley, of the Wesley Medical Research Foundation in Wichita.

The meeting also had exhibits and 22 companies were represented.

House Subcommittee Clears Labs Bill

A House version of the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Act has been cleared for consideration by the House Commerce Committee by that body's Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. The bill (H.R. 11341), sponsored in the House by Health Subcommittee Chairman Paul G. Rogers (D-FL), was approved in its Senate incarnation (S. 1737) by a vote of 64-11 last April.

Both Senate and House drafts would increase federal control over licensing and regulation of clinical laboratories and personnel. Under both versions, DHEW would be empowered to establish national safety and training standards. States would subsequently adopt these standards unless their own codes were determined to be at least as stringent (see *JNMT,* Dec. 1975, Vol. 3/No. 4, p. 181).

An exemption for individual physicians who perform their own laboratory work and for research laboratories is now provided in the House legislation, as approved by the Health Subcommittee, but not in the Senate version. However, no exemption exists even in the House bill for clinical laboratories that also perform some research.

Of particular interest to *JNMT* readers is the addition to the House bill of a new category "technologist" under sections defining laboratory personnel. The "technologist" is here described as a laboratory worker who is called upon to exercise independent judgment.

JRC Committee on Ultrasound Planned

Society and Technologist Section representatives have joined in the early planning stages of a move to set up a Joint Review Committee on Ultrasound. Once established, the committee would be charged with producing an "Essentials" for medical ultrasound training.

At an organizational session June 28 in Dallas, the Section's President Mark I. Muilenburg, SNM Executive Director Judy Glos, and Dr. Edward V. Staab, of Chapel Hill, NC, met with invitees from other medical groups whose disciplines make use of ultrasound techniques. The meeting took place at the Fairmont Hotel during the annual meeting of the American Medical Association.

Though final composition of the Joint Review Committee itself remains for future discussions, the Dallas meeting established the structure of the subcommittee that will draft the Essentials. The Society will have representation on this subcommittee, most likely a member of the Technologist Section.

Among the professional groups present at the meeting, in addition to SNM, were the American Society of Ultrasound Technical Specialists, the American College of Radiology, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the American Society of Eco-cardiographers.

Interest in ultrasound diagnosis as a medical technique cuts across many fields, from cardiology and obstetrics/gynecology to neurology and ophthalmology. It was recognized as a new discipline within the allied medical professions at the 1975 meeting of the AMA in Atlantic City.

Scintillation Camera Workshops for NMTs

An agreement to coordinate activities of the Scintillation Camera Quality Assurance Workshop has been made between the Technologist Section and Bureau of Radiological Health.

The workshop, originally developed at the University of Colorado Medical Center, has been presented by the Bureau of Radiological

Health at numerous locations in the country over the past year and a half. The excellent response of technologists to the program encouraged members of the Continuing Education Committee to obtain permission to coordinate the workshop as a service for nuclear medicine technologists.

The Scintillation Camera Quality Assurance Workshop is designed for nuclear medicine technologists who desire an introduction or review of basic quality assurance procedures for scintillation cameras. The program is 8 to 10 hours long and is usually held on a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning or all day Saturday. Half of the workshop consists of lectures on topics such as signal processing of the camera, basic quality assurance procedures, materials needed for a quality assurance program, and basic troubleshooting techniques. The other half of the program is a "hands-on" laboratory session during which participants perform the test procedures on scintillation cameras similar to those used in their laboratories.

Materials are available for presentation of the Scintillation Camera Quality Assurance Workshop. Those include slides for lectures, lecture notes, camera protocols, and workshop manuals and certificates of completion for all participants. The program is eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEU) from VOICE. Anyone interested in presenting a workshop should contact Marleen Moore, University of Colorado Medical Center, Box C278, 4200 East Ninth Ave., Denver, CO 80220.

Mallinckrodt Offers Nuclear Medicine Research Grant

Establishment of a yearly grant to be awarded to a graduate student for research in basic medical science related to the physical or biochemical aspects of nuclear medicine has been announced by Mallinckrodt, Inc., St. Louis, MO.

The $1,000 grant will be offered annually through the Education and Research Foundation, Society of Nuclear Medicine, which will choose the recipient.

Graduate students in physics, biochemistry, or similar sciences related to nuclear medicine are invited to apply to the Foundation at 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. The student and institution may apply jointly, or the institution may apply on the student's behalf. The application should outline the student's qualifications, describe the proposed research, estimate required time, and specify how the work will enhance nuclear medical science.

Deadline for applications will be January 1 each year, and the recipient's name will be announced at the ensuing annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Getting Ready for Las Vegas

Plans are moving ahead for the Annual Midwinter meeting of the Technologist Section in Las Vegas Jan. 28-30, 1977.

The conclave will take place in the Hilton Hotel, where excellent meeting facilities are available as well as evening entertainment and dining.

Workshops are being set up in the areas of education, administration, radioimmunoassay, and imaging, according to Paul E. Christian, Scientific Program Chairman. Two "hands on" type workshops are already being arranged—one providing instruction in the use of several of the new portable scintillation cameras and another offering step-by-step performance of RIA procedures. There will also be a session on making your own slide-tape presentations.

There will be a program on how to get local meetings approved for credit under the VOICE program. Other topics of current interest are also being developed.

Continuing Education...

Should the Technologist Section require "continuing education" as a condition for membership?

Should the Section encourage mandatory continuing education clauses in state licensure laws?

Is the number of points needed for the Certificate of Continuing Education in VOICE adequate?

These and other pungent questions asked about the role of nuclear medicine technology-related studies have been set forth as issues to be dealt with by the Section's Continuing Education Committee.

The asker is easily identifiable as Lou Izzo, chairman of the Committee and recent attendee of a Conference on "Mandatory Continuing Education for the Professions in Texas" held at Southern Methodist University June 21-22.

At the meeting, in addition to medical personnel, were architects, lawyers, and other professionals, making it easy for Lou to compare and conclude that "the health professions are involved in continuing education to a greater extent than any other profession." But he also adds this disturbing meeting note: "The biggest concern expressed by the speakers and the audience was that, at the present time, there was no proof that involvement in continuing education resulted in improved competency."

Proof lacking, the Conference nevertheless raised enough questions to make attendence worthwhile for continuing education supporters, according to Lou. After taking part in afternoon workshops on "Who Should Administer CE?" and "How Do You Assess the CE Needs of the Community?" he found himself asking a few more questions. Among them...

Are there enough adequate opportunities for VOICE members to obtain points?

Should the Technologist Section begin to list those "critical" job requirements in which competency must be demonstrated in order to

obtain a Certificate of Continuing Education?

Should VOICE someday certify institutions and organizations to offer programs awarding CEUs, rather than have CERB review every single course being offered? And

Should VOICE notify the employers of persons who receive the Certificate?

Readers having the answers to these questions or other questions needing answers on the subject of continuing education in nuclear medicine technology are encouraged to write to the National Office or the *JNMT*.

Speaker's Directory Available

If you are organizing a continuing education program for your chapter, hospital, or college, you will be interested in a project recently completed by the Continuing Education Committee of the Technologist Section. The National Office now has available a systematic listing of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons who have agreed to participate as instructors in educational programs. Persons are listed according to subject and resident chapter.

For information and/or a list of potential speakers from your chapter, contact Karen Chang at the SNM National Office.

World Federation Meeting Announced

The World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology will hold its Second World Congress in Washington on Sept. 12-15, 1978. Over 2,000 attendees are expected to participate in scientific presentations and an elaborate social program. For additional information write to Second World Congress, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016.

AMA Approves Nine New Nuclear Medicine Technology Educational Programs

Nine new educational programs in nuclear medicine technology were approved by the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education during the annual meeting of the AMA in Dallas, June 26 - July 1.

The list includes six institutions in New Jersey and one each in Florida, Michigan, and Pennsylvania (see below).

It should be noted that approval for these programs was based on a set of criteria now superseded by an updated "Essentials" approved at the same meeting. Applicants for accreditation in nuclear medicine education will henceforth be appraised under the new Essentials.

Accreditation is recommended to the Council by a Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine. The Committee's recommendations are based on site surveys as well as a review of formal credentials.

A full current list of all institutions now accredited in nuclear medicine technology education is available on request from the National Office.

Florida

Mt. Sinai Medical Center
Miami Beach

Michigan

Henry Ford Hospital
Detroit

New Jersey

Cooper Hospital
Camden

Hospital Center at Orange
Orange

John F. Kennedy Medical Center
Edison

Mercer Medical Center
Trenton

Veterans Administration Hospital
West Orange

Washington Memorial Hospital
Turnersville

Pennsylvania

Temple University
Philadelphia

Awards Given for Technologist Papers and Exhibits

The following are winners of awards for best scientific papers presented and exhibits displayed during the Technologist Program at the Annual Meeting.

Scientific Papers

First Prize—$200.00: "A Comparative Evaluation of Imaging Devices for Myocardial Studies Using ^{201}Tl," by H.F. Manspeaker, W. Montgomery, W. Schafer, J.K. Langan, H.W. Strauss, and B. Pitt, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD.

Second Prize—$150.00: "Radioassay: Normal Range Determination," by D.J. Battaglia, C. Burkhead, J. Welton, and M.L. Cianci, Oscar B. Hunter Memorial Laboratory, Washington, DC.

Third Prize—$100.00: "Quality Assurance Breakdowns (QUABS) in Nuclear Medicine Patient Care," by L.D. Wells and B.A. Rhodes, Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, KS.

Scientific Exhibits

First Prize—$200.00: "Today's Research for Tomorrow's Future in Nuclear Medicine," by S.J. Swann, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Second Prize—$150.00: "Large Area View Comparison Study," by E.L. Lands, Jr., The University of Chicago Hospital, Chicago, IL.

Third Prize—$100.00: "Meckel's Diverticula—Serial Multiple View Imaging," by E. Kilburn and P. Bond, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ont.

News From the Chapters

Central Chapter

The Central Chapter has approved one additional session of the 1976 Continuing Education for Nuclear Medicine Technologists series to be presented July 16-17 in Columbus, OH. The additional session was requested by the technologists in the Columbus area.

New officers of the Central Chapter Technologist Section took office at the close of the annual meeting. The new president and National Council delegate is Sue Weiss. Officers will hold office for one year. The first priority of the group is another membership drive. Members with dues in arrears will be notified that they will be dropped from membership unless their dues are paid within three months.

The two Illinois local groups held a joint meeting in Peoria, IL, on May 15 to investigate the mechanism and need for a state-wide organization. After careful consideration and debate, the members of both groups agreed that in order to deal with upcoming legislative problems a state organization was necessary. The constitutional meeting of the Illinois Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists will be held July 17 at the Burnham City Hospital in Champaign, IL.

The Fall Central Chapter meeting will be in Madison, WI, in the Wisconsin Center at the University of Wisconsin on Oct. 9-10. The meeting will be devoted to the use of computers in nuclear medicine. The Technologist Section will present a day-and-a-half program, which will conclude with a discussion entitled "Is There a Place for a Computer in the Small Hospital or Clinic." For information concerning the meeting contact Greg Zeuske, Nuclear Medicine Dept., Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Waukesha, WI 63186.

—Sue Weiss

Greater New York Chapter

The Greater New York Chapter held its Fifth Annual Spring Symposium in Atlantic City, NJ, on Mar. 26 and 27, with great success. A total of 411 registrants enjoyed a variety of lectures and workshops covering such topics as ultrasound, radioimmunoassay, and many new aspects of organ imaging. The registry review workshops were also well attended. Thirty-one commercial exhibitors were well pleased with the chance to greet old friends and make new ones. The net gain to the Chapter was $6199. In reviewing the Symposium registration, the membership committee took note of the fact that nearly 40% of the registrants were not members of the SNM and the Section. This has prompted an all-out recruiting drive.

In an effort to give our members something different, the Chapter is planning to introduce the "Traveling Roadshow" type of workshop in the Fall. This one-day event will be held at different times in the four states which comprise our Chapter, thereby obviating the need for extensive travel by our members to attend. This should encourage more active participation.

Local grass-roots organizations within the Chapter continue to grow in membership and scope of activities. They are the Delaware Valley Society, the New Jersey State Society, the New York State Society, and the Long Island Society. These groups, while functioning autonomously, have provided much valuable input to the Section while in turn receiving our support. This has resulted in harmonious interaction among all the groups and the Section.

New York State continues its thrust toward licensure (certification) of nuclear medicine technologists under the existing Physicians' Associate Act. The proposal, generated by a committee chaired by Dr. Stanley Goldsmith, was submitted to the New York State authorities. In turn, the State has sent copies of this to the representatives of several health-care professional organizations and is awaiting their reactions.

The new president of the Chapter is Gary Gallamore, Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune, NJ; tel. (201) 775-5500, ext. 207. The National Council Delegate is Violet Custer, Administrative Assistant to the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016; tel. (212) 889-0717.

—Vi Custer

Mideastern Chapter

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Mideastern Chapter was held in Baltimore on Apr. 23-26. A very interesting and informative program was presented. The technologists' business meeting included the installation of new officers: Peg Goodyear is this year's president.

The first Executive Committee meeting of new officers was held on May 26. New committees were formed and plans were made for the annual Technologist Section fall meeting. The dates and site of this meeting will be announced later. Sue Litrenta reported that nothing substantial has been accomplished on reorganization of the Washington, DC, Technologist Section.

The Chesapeake Nuclear Medicine Technical Society had a dinner meeting May 27. The topic for discussion was licensure in the state of Maryland. A bill for presentation is now being drafted. It was proposed at this meeting that the name Chesapeake Nuclear Medicine Technical Society be changed to Maryland Association of Nuclear Medicine Technology.

—Charles R. Harrell

Missouri Valley Chapter

The greater Kansas City section has continued its series of monthly meetings at various installations around Kansas City. In March there was an election of officers followed by a discussion concerning associate degree programs in nuclear medicine technology and continuing education credits for local meetings. The April meeting was highlighted with a slide-and-tape lecture on thyroid physiology and radioassay testing. In May Dr. Robert Meyer made a presentation on collimators and quality control for scintillation cameras. In June, Richard Keesee presented a short slide lecture on practical quality control of radiopharmaceuticals. This was followed by a sharing of information by those attending the Society of Nuclear Medicine meeting in Dallas.

The Kansas City section has asked its members how some can justify to their respective employers attendance at expensive faraway meetings if they may not be supporting and attending local meetings? The Southcentral Kansas section had its third meeting of the fiscal year in March. An enthusiastic presentation by Dr. David Lillian on the clinical applications of scintillation cameras inspired all in attendance. To some degree the section was successful in getting good attendance by not only technologists but also physicians. New officers were elected in May.

—Lewis D. Schmidt

New England Chapter

Two hundred registrants and 21 exhibitors attended the annual symposium held in April. The morning session consisted of a variety of lectures, and a registry review covering physics, clincial nuclear medicine, and basic principles of radioimmunoassay was concurrently held. The afternoon was divided up among three excellent speakers: Dr. Charles Mandell on "Pitfalls in Scan Interpretation," Dr. Milton Hamolsky on "Evolution of Thyroid Testing," and Dr. Paul Brown on "CAT Scanning." At the business meeting a bylaw change was approved stating that the National Council delegate could not be commercially affiliated. This bylaw coincides with that of the Technologist Section. The results of our first mail ballot election were announced and the new president is Herta Houle, Union-Truesdale Hospital, Fall River, MA; the National Council delegate will be Louis Izzo, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. A wine and cheese party was held at day's end, which gave everyone the opportunity to socialize, meet new people, and, inevitably, talk shop.

A workshop, "Quality Assurance of Scintillation Cameras," has been scheduled for Oct. 2, 1976. The program, cosponsored by the BRH and SNM, will be held at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. Guest speakers will by Michael Cianci and James Langan. VOICE credits have been applied for and it is hoped the participants will be able to obtain credit for attending this workshop. For further information contact Michael Coutcher, Nuclear Medicine Dept., Newport, RI.

The New England Chapter will hold its fall meeting Oct. 23-24 at Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA. The Chapter's Technologist Section will hold a one-day symposium at this time. New officers will be installed and there will be additional bylaw changes to be voted on.

A radiation control bill was recently passed by the Rhode Island State Legislature. The ultimate effect of this bill on nuclear medicine technologists is not yet known. A Radiation Advisory Commission has been outlined in the bill and our Chapter president has requested a seat on this Commission, although there has been no response to date.

The Connecticut licensure bill that was pending has currently been dropped.

We have had a membership increase of 75 so far this year.

Results of a recent economic survey reviewing size of institutions, studies performed, percent of "on call" departments, salary ranges, benefits, etc., have been mailed out to participants. There was a 36% response to the questionnaire.

—Cecile Gaigals

Northern California Chapter

Northern California Technologists enjoyed a comprehensive nuclear cardiology seminar at Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, on Aug. 28. The scientific program included sessions on cardiac imaging with the newer radionuclides as well as the use of computers in this emerging subspecialty.

Plans for the First Annual Western Regional Meeting at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, on Oct. 1-3, include a full program for technologists. Friday's session will consist of administrative, legislative, and career sessions, while the Saturday and Sunday sessions will be devoted to a thorough registry review. For further information contact Elaine D. Pritchard, Dept. of Nuclear Medicine, Permanente Medical Center, San Francisco, CA; tel. (415) 929-4058.

The Executive Committee of the Chapter's Technologist Section has appointed Laura Herradora as Coordinator of the Job Placement service for the Northern California area. If you have a position available or if you are seeking a position in nuclear medicine in Northern California, please contact Laura at Providence Hospital, 3012 Summit St., Oakland, CA 94609; tel. (415) 835-4500, ext 364. Please include pertinent information with respect to type of position, requirements, dates, and salary. Do not send your curriculum vitae or resume directly to the Coordinator.

—Bruce G. Borgman

Pacific Northwest Chapter

The Pacific Northwest Chapter Technologist Section is finalizing plans for chapter organization. Temporary officers have been appointed to hold office and organize nomination of the first slate of officers for the 1977 Annual Spring Meeting in Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, Canada, in 1977. Formation of continuing education and legislation committees will be of foremost importance.

Our first VOICE program, "Quality Assurance of Scintillation Cameras," was held in Seattle in August.

We are looking forward to participating in the first Western Regional meeting in San Francisco in October.

—Susan L. Hemingway

Pittsburgh Chapter

The Pittsburgh Chapter held a meeting Apr. 23 at Caesar's Cove Restaurant in Bradford, PA. The speaker for the dinner meeting was James Shallow, a technical associate of E. R. Squibb and Sons, who lectured on preparing for an NRC inspection. Mr. Shallow accented his lecture topic with slides showing an outline to follow for inspections. Election of officers was also held. Christine Woodrum of Bradford was elected chapter president. Robert Weaver is the new National Council Delegate.

In reviewing our meeting attendance for the past year, it was noted that attendance has doubled itself since the first meeting in September of 1975. The next meeting is being planned for Sept. 1976 in Indiana, PA, and any comments or ideas pertaining to this meeting would be appreciated.

—Christine Woodrum

Southeastern Chapter

Sixty-five participants and exhibitors met in Anniston, AL, Apr. 16-17, for the Third Annual Meeting of the Alabama Society of Nuclear Medicine (ASNM). Eight hours of credit in Category 1 were awarded to the attending physicians. Technologists of the ASNM are looking forward to next year's program when they will receive continuing education credits through VOICE. New officers of the ASNM for 1976-1977 were elected and the president is Thomas J. Flynn.

On May 15 technologists from Kentucky met in Louisville and organized the Kentucky Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists (KSNMT). Officers were elected and will retain positions until June 30, 1977; the president is Ellis Blanton. The KSNMT is planning a scientific and business meeting, Aug. 1976, in Lexington, KY.

An organizational meeting for the South Carolina Nuclear Medicine Technologists (SCNMT) was held on Mar. 20, in Columbia, SC. The newly elected president is Arthur Ferguson.

During April the nuclear medicine technologists in the Ashville, NC, area had three quality control meetings which were presented by David Hunter from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

On Apr. 14-15 80 nuclear medicine enthusiasts participated in a continuing education program in nuclear medicine technology offered by the VA Hospital School of Nuclear Medicine Technology and focusing on the essentials of this paramedical profession. The program ended with a simulated examination of 180 multiple-choice questions offered to all participants.

—Frances N. Kontzen

Southwestern Chapter

The Marriott Hotel in New Orleans was a most gracious host to the guests at the Southwestern Chapter Meeting in March. Registrants numbered 327, 73 of whom were technologists. The Technologist Scientific Program, chaired by Helen Busby, was exceptionally good this year, with eight papers, one workshop, and one panel discussion being presented. One of the highlights of the scientific sessions was Dr. Dan Hightower of Texas A&M speaking on veterinary nuclear medicine. Needless to say, social activities following the SWC cocktail party were unlimited! In the business meeting, new officers were elected. President and National Council Delegate is Mary Reager of Houston. Two major bylaws revisions were made: (1) the Scientific Program Chairman shall be elected rather than appointed; and (2) voting shall be carried out by mail ballot next year. 23 new members have been accepted into the Chapter's Technologist Section.

The Southwestern Chapter Tech Section is finalizing plans to establish an information hotline in our area, to be distributed and updated as needed, through the Chapter Newsletter. Section Council Representatives have been asked to mail a listing of all instrumentation, techniques, and other aspects of nuclear medicine which are unique in some respect, plus the name of one person to serve as hotline representative. This person will serve to direct calls of inquiry to the proper person within each Section. Through the hotline, we hope to open a line of communication throughout the entire Chapter, and to relieve that oft-felt hopeless feeling when a problem or question arises.

Elections have recently been held throughout the SWC. Section Presidents are Dale Harris—Northeastern Oklahoma, Laurie Proctor—Central Oklahoma, Art Hall—North Texas, John Delord—New Orleans, Clement Stankiewicz—San Antonio, Deborah Moore—Arkansas-Louisiana, and Judy Williams—Houston.

The next Northeastern Oklahoma quarterly workshop will be held in November, with plans to be announced. Please contact Rick

Helinski at St. Francis Hospital, Tulsa, for details. The North Texas Tech Section will hold a registry review prior to the November ASCP exam. In the interest of community awareness, John Giga of San Antonio made a 5-minute television presentation in July on nuclear medicine. We hope to see more such dynamic activities that will orient the public to our highly specialized services. Houston will hold a Thyroid Symposium Sept. 25-26 at the Ramada Inn. Chairman Judy Williams has scheduled both physicians and technologists to speak on such topics as endocrinology, metastases, geriatrics, pediatrics, ^{99m}Tc versus ^{131}I, physiology, counting statistics, and veterinary nuclear medicine. For more information, please contact Judy Williams, 6516 Bertner, Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX 77030.

—Ann Logan

News From Overseas

Mexico

The Mexican Society of Nuclear Medicine held its 10th Annual Meeting in May at Guaymas, Sonora. New officers were chosen in a business session and Dr. Alfredo Cuarón Santisteban will serve as president for the 1976-1978 term.

The Autumn meeting of the Society took place in August at the Hospital Colonia in Mexico City.

—Margarita Jauregui

Puerto Rico

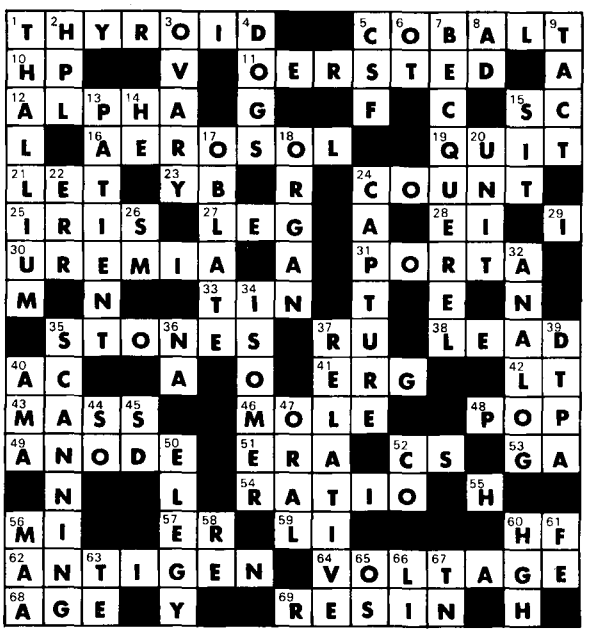
The Puerto Rico Nuclear Medical Society had its annual meeting May 20-22 at the Americana Hotel in San Juan. Guest speaker was Dr. William H. Beierwaltes, Director of the Nuclear Medicine Section, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI. The subjects of his lectures were "Treatment of Hyperthyroidism with ^{131}I after 34 Years of Usage," "Lessons from 600 Patients Treated for Well Differentiated Thyroid Cancer with ^{131}I after Surgery," "Adrenal Scanning in Hypertensive and Nonhypertensive Status," and "Irradiation Thyroid Carcinogenesis." During the annual dinner meeting, Dr. Beierwaltes was made an honorary member of the Society and presented with a plaque.

New officers of the Society were elected and Dr. Mario Rosa was installed as president for this year.

—Rafael Bernabe-Prida

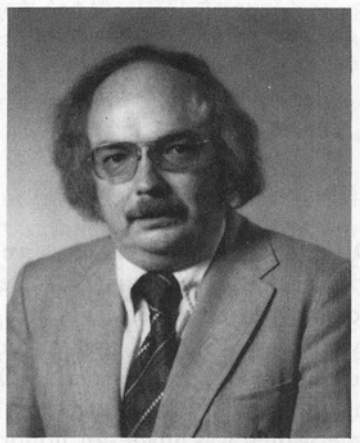
Crossword Puzzle Solution

Answers to a crossword puzzle which appeared in the June issue of the JNMT *(Vol. 4, No. 2).*



Newly Elected Technologist Section Officers 1976 - 1977

President-Elect
James K. Langan



Jim is Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and Director of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program at the Essex Community College in Essex, MD. He has held several distinguished positions with the Technologist Section, including Treasurer in 1973, Secretary-Historian in 1974, and Scientific Program Chairman in 1972 and 1975. Jim was also last year's Publications Committee Chairman. He is the author of nine published scientific and educational papers and has received First Prize awards for technologist scientific exhibits at two SNM annual meetings.

Secretary-Historian
Barbara K. Horton

Barbara is Chief Technologist of the Department of Nuclear Medicine of DeKalb General Hospital in Decatur, GA. She graduated from the School of Nuclear Medicine Technology at the VA Hospital, University of Alabama Medical Center. She has been very active in both the Southeastern Chapter Technologist Section and the Georgia Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists, of which she was the last president. Barbara was also a member of the Licensure and Registration Committee and the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Technologist Section. She has authored five scientific and educational presentations.

Treasurer
Susan C. Weiss

Sue comes to this position with the experience of some 15 offices held at national and local levels. She is President and National Council Delegate of the Central Chapter Technologist Section, has been a member of the Membership Committee and is now with the Continung Education Committee of the Technologist Section, and is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Pediatric Nuclear Medicine Club, SNM. She is also the Central Chapter's news representative to the *JNMT*. Sue is Chief Technologist at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Roosevelt University.

Other Elected Officers

Nominating Committee

Richard J. Beschi
Danielle G. Kavanaugh
Lance H. Rose
Anne K. Usseglio

Membership Committee

Connie Brennan
Ann C. Logan

Finance Committee

Sherry A. Lee

Executive Committee

Note: As of June 1976, the Executive Committee of the Technologist Section, SNM, has six members.

President
Mark I. Muilenburg

President-Elect
James K. Langan

Secretary-Historian
Barbara K. Horton

Treasurer
Susan C. Weiss

Finance Committee Chairman
Anthony L. Mazzola

Publications Committee Chairman
James J. Kellner