

SNMMI and SNMMI-TS Presidents' Reflections

"The battle, led by the Technologist Section, for Nuclear Medicine Technology recognition as a professional entity experienced a major victory with the founding of the NMTCB in 1977 for which I had the honor and privilege of serving as the first Chairman."



Mark Muilenberg, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1976-1977

"During my tenure V.O.I.C.E. credits were able to be obtained through Continuing Education Articles in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology (JNMT)."



John J. Reilley, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1981-1982

"My year as president of the SNM-TS (1980-1981) was a year of challenge and great memories. The Technologists Section was in the formative years. We were coming of age to establish our identity and break with the Radiology Tech organization (ARRT) that wanted our members. We outnumbered the SNM physicians as members in the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), but had little decision power in matters. As history proves, we were successful in developing the SNM-Tech Section as a separate entity with its own charter."

On the lighter side, Virginia Pappas, then the exec of the Tech Section, called me on a Friday afternoon to inform me that a mail bag of outgoing voting ballots was lost, a potential disaster for all of us! Needless to say we were both at a level 10 on the angst scale. Somehow, some way the NY office came through; in a few days they found the stolen bag."

It was a year of new friends, lots of work and loads of fun. I am grateful and honored to have been associated with this group of professional and dedicated people."



Michael L. Cianci, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1980-1981

"The Society of Nuclear Medicine accepted the proposed financial arrangements with the Technologist Section to permit the Section to function independently with its own budget."



Dorothy D. Price, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1982-1983

"During my tenure in 1984, the Essentials and Guidelines for an accredited NMT Educational Program were approved by the National Council. A task force on Continued Competency was completed and published (JNMT). It was a rewarding time for me, and I remain grateful to the TS and Society for the support they provided."



Shelley D. Hartnett, BA, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1983-1984

"To the best of my memory, the two things about my year (1985) as president were the final effort put forth by the membership to have a national nuclear week established by the United States Congress and the passing of criteria to establish the honor of becoming a fellow of the technologist section."



James J. Wirrell, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1985-1986

"During my term of office it was a relatively quiet time. Dr. Dworkin and I would call each other on Mondays and discuss our weekends. Near the end of my term there was concern regarding technologist finances with the Society. That was resolved over a few beverages. It was a pleasure working with everyone, with special thanks to Virginia Pappas, Jim Wirrell, Marcia Boyd."



Wayne J. Wcislo, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1986-1987

"The greatest pleasure of being President was establishing lasting friendships with awesome people. My greatest accomplishment was finally getting approval for the Tech Section to have an independent budget structure."



Marcia R. Boyd, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1987-1988

"My relationship with the Tech Section was very pleasant and cordial. My co-president was to be Paul Cole, but his unfortunate death meant that his vice-president, Art Hall, was my colleague. Art is a man with a big smile. We enjoyed working together."



Barbara Y. Croft, PhD
SNMMI President, 1988-1989
Southeastern Chapter

"My term as President began early with the untimely death of the newly installed President Paul Cole. Paul David Cole was a dedicated technologist and upon his death I assumed the presidency and with the support of the executive members decided to continue with the course of action that Paul had laid out for his year as President. Upon my assuming my elected year as President the following memorable events occurred. Since the shortage of Nuclear Medicine Technologists was serious I sought out funding for a Recruitment Video. Once funding was received from ACNP, technologists from around the nation began the process of completing the task to develop the recruitment video and literature. Brad Pounds and Mickey Williams were instrumental in making this happen. Additionally, recruitment material from many of the vendors was developed in an effort to curtail the technologist shortage. A Paul Cole Scholarship was started and administered by the Education and Research Foundation. Marcia Boyd and I worked extensively with legislative individuals on the Hill to ensure adequate funding for educational programs for the Nuclear Medicine profession. In addition, I worked with other Radiology Groups, Summit on Manpower, ASRT and others, to share in solutions to address the technologist shortage and educational challenges facing the medical imaging community. As a result of Paul's untimely death, Paul Hansen worked exclusively to revise the bylaws to ensure a smooth transition of leadership should a similar event occur in the future. My years as President were challenging but extremely rewarding thanks to all of the support from our organization, vendors, and working technologists from around the world. As a final note: Virginia Pappas, your support was extraordinary."



Author (Art) J. Hall, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1988-1990

"My presidency year, 1990–91, coincided with Brad Pounds' Technologist section presidency and I enjoyed working with Brad on a variety of issues. Virginia Pappas was the Administrator for the Technologist section at that time and both she and Brad worked vigorously to advance the Technologist section in the Society."



Naomi Alazraki, MD
SNMMI President, 1990–1991
Southeastern Chapter

"My fondest memories during my term as President, SNMMI-TS, included creating many lasting friendships within the NM community and addressing challenges facing our industry. A significant amount of effort was invested to deal with the technologist manpower shortage, which resulted in more NMT training programs and subsequently more qualified applicants nationwide."



Bradley K. Pounds, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1990–1991

"My fondest memory the year I was president was having the opportunity to work with some of the best and brightest technologists from all over the country. We were all focused on a common goal of enhancing nuclear medicine technology as a profession as we helped develop and guide the technologist leaders of the future."



Paul C. Hanson, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1992–1993

"In her September 1993 presidential Message, Technologist President Teri Boyce noted that I had appointed more technologists to SNM committees than had been appointed in previous years. Actually, for the first time, a technologist was appointed, without exception, to every SNM committee, not just to demonstrate support for the Tech Section and to promote good communication, but with the hope that this would start a tradition that would be perpetuated. Achieving this goal has given me the most satisfaction of my tenure. Also, I reinitiated a formal liaison with international leaders of non-US societies of nuclear medicine. This has evolved to annual events resulting in ongoing worldwide collaboration in promoting the goals of the SNMMI and the SNMMI-TS."



Richard C. Reba, MD
SNMMI President, 1993–1994
Mid-Eastern Chapter

"During my term, SNM-TS committees were busy drafting plans and health care reform position statements, modifying practice standards and licensure positions, and drafting creative reform opportunities for technologists. A Strategic Planning committee met and proposed such changes and developed three committees: Technology Assessment and Outcomes Research, Practice Guidelines and Communications, and Healthcare Reform."

In addition, the EANM Technologist group invited our leadership to meet regarding establishing more empowerment among EANM members during their Annual Meeting in October 1993. After this meeting, the EANM technologists formed a Technologist Committee. Many challenges still existed, including the wide variance in technologist education levels and the language barrier between various European countries. Yet empowerment was given to the Committee to further achieve their goals."



Theresa M. Boyce, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1993–1994

"It was my great honor to work and socialize with so many of the earlier past-presidents of the SNMMI-TS and the first NMTCB group. Their cooperation and coordination with the leadership of Nuclear Medicine was exemplary. They memorably included Sue Weiss, Jim Langdon, Vini Cherico, Marcia Boyd, John Reilley, Becky Cacciatore, Frances Keech, Mickey Clark, Mark Muilenberg, Art Hall and Mike Cianci. The Society of Nuclear Medicine was the only medical society that truly recognized the contributions of technologists. The technologists' enthusiasm and knowledge very significantly enhanced the development and growth of the field of Nuclear Medicine."



James J. Conway, MD
SNMMI President, 1994–1995
Central Chapter

"My fondest memories will always be being the 25th President of the GREAT Society of Nuclear Medicine in 1995, Lynn Fulk and I starting the newsletter UPTAKE, inviting representatives from all technologies to a meeting which led to the joining of all technologies into a separate group representing over a million strong led by Virginia Pappas and the SNM as host, and having a ROUND table at the national council meeting instead of a square one. What fun it was!!!!!"



Becky M. Cacciatore, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1994–1995

"My fondest memory was awarding all presidents past, present and future the Technologist Fellowship Award. I thought this award acknowledges the hard work Presidents have done during their time in the Society."



Lynnette A. Fulk, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1995–1996

"One of the most interesting projects I had the opportunity to work on as President was actually started in Becky Cacciatore's presidency, and that was the creation of the Health Professions Network (HPN). The HPN was a loosely organized group of multiple health professional organizations that met twice a year to discuss common issues. The meeting format included a number of casual social events such as a city tour or sporting event and then sitting down to meals together. It was amazing how informal socializing broke down so many barriers and opened up lines of communication. What we learned is that we are all so much more alike than we are different."



Martha W. Pickett, MHSA,
CNMT, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1996–1997

"There is no doubt that Ms. Thomas played a pivotal role in the politically charged and politically important issues we were dealing with in 1997-8. Below is a very abbreviated summary of some of the most important issues:

Kathy Thomas was President of the tech section. Kathy is a dedicated, knowledgeable technologist, offering wise council on the issues indicated below:

Some of the major activities of '97-8:

- 1. Formation of ICANL. There was financial support (a loan for ICANL to start), and appointment of SNM and members to the ICANL board.*
- 2. PET Task force. Supplying HCFA with information that resulted in reimbursement for PET scans for detecting and staging lung cancer.*
- 3. Interface and collaboration of multiple Nuclear Medicine organizations (ACNP, ASRT, HPN).*
- 4. Definitive negative response from ASNC about possibly becoming a subsection of SNM."*



H. William Strauss, MD
SNMMI President, 1997-1998
Greater New York Chapter

"My fondest experience? Although it may sound like a 'canned response', it was the opportunity to work with such an incredible group of talented and dedicated technologists to develop new educational tools and offerings to support professional growth. My fondest memory? My president's reception (what a party!) and that crazy group of technologists including Cynthia Wharton, Lynn Fulk, Nanci Burchell, Lyn Mehlberg, Kathy Krisak, Mary Jo Struttman and Patti Corrigan that sang (with a little 'can-can' thrown in!) that crazy song that the group wrote to summarize my year as president."



Kathy S. Thomas, MHA,
CNMT, PET, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1997-1998

"Most proud:

After many negotiations with ARRT, they agreed to let the NMTs sit for the MRI certification exam without being an RT. It had always been considered a post primary exam, so this was a big concession by the ARRT.

Fondest memories:

My visits to the chapter meetings. I gained so much insight as to the differences and similarities there were among NMTs across the country. I was particularly impressed with the NE tech section leadership. They were organized and their membership were incredibly engaged.

What I learned THE MOST:

How much the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education play in the career development and education of all U.S. workers. I was clueless about this prior to being tech section president.

The Most Fun:

Going to Banff for a meeting and making snow angels in the snow with Virginia. (I am from the south and now live in LA so yes, this was a big deal). We were supposed to go skiing together but then Virginia chickened out because the "Rockies were so big"!!!! I ended up going with Tom Verden."



Lynne T. Roy, MBA, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1998-1999

"Worked closely with the technologist president to keep lines of communication open for both groups."



Robert F. Carretta, MD
SNMMI President, 1999-2000
Southeastern Chapter

"My Fondest Memories of being president are that we established a Think Tank called the Gateway Program. The concept of Cardiology Techs establishing an exam specific to that modality was introduced. I really enjoyed meeting and learning from Nuclear Medicine techs from all over the world."



Cynthia S. Wharton, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
1999–2000

"I reflect on the comradery of fellow SNM technologists and the earnest genuine collaborative interactions with the other professional organizations (e.g., NMTCB, ARRT, ASRT) as we navigated through matters such as proposed licensure, credentialing, and the increased prevalence of hybrid technology as well as getting to know international colleagues and learn in greater detail about the field of nuclear medicine from a global perspective."



Kristen M. Waterstram-Rich,
CNMT, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2000–2001

"When I was first elected, I met with the TS leadership the next month, and vowed to include them in decision-making and treat them with respect. They hadn't been consistently treated that way (in spite of being the largest fraction of SNM membership), and reflexively acted as though I would mistreat them, until one of them asked the others, 'Didn't you hear what Jon just said?' I hope they think I lived up to my promise to them!"



Jonathan M. Links, PhD
SNMMI President, 2000–2001
Mid-Eastern Chapter

"The year of my Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) Presidency (2001) had three major issues which called for support by the Technologist Section (TS). First was the resignation of Bill Bertera and need to form a search committee for his replacement; my announcement of the goal to move forward with a name change for the SNM; all under the cloud of the September 11 attacks. It was only with the dedication and full team support of the TS under their president Kristen Waterstram-Rich and her appointments to the search committee, Mickey Clarke and Francis Keech, that we successfully completed our search and kept on track to move forward to become the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI)."



Alan H. Maurer, MD
SNMMI President, 2001–2002
Greater New York Chapter

"In teaching the next generation of nuclear medicine technologists about being a professional, my first criterion is always the need for a well-organized society run by leaders in the profession. The SNMMI-TS is just that and more, defining what we do, how we are educated, what qualifications we need, the procedures and standards we practice and the ethics that we work by."



Frances K. Keech, MBA, RT(N),
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2002-2003

"When I look back on my year as TS president my favorite memory is of the people who surrounded me. This included committee chairs, TS board members, headquarter staff and industry representatives. They were all brilliant individuals, driven by their passion for advancing the profession. I'm so glad these people are now my nuclear family and lifelong friends."



Nanci A. Burchell, MBA,
CNMT, FSNMMI
SNMMI-TS President,
2004-2005

"All these years later, I fondly recall my time advocating on behalf of the Technologist Section, namely with the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, members and staff of the US Congress, and various regulators, such as the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. This important work opened my eyes to the quality, safety, accreditation, and regulatory fields within healthcare and ultimately shaped my future, for which I am eternally grateful."



Lyn M. Mehlberg, BS, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2003-2004

"When I was approached to run for president of the technologist section I was very hesitant. In fact, they may have asked me for a few years before I finally agreed to run but I am so glad I did!"



Valerie R. Cronin, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2005-2006

"As I, with my colleagues, was forming the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence at the SNMMI, Nanci Burchell, MBA, then the President of the SNMMI Technologists Section, was a tremendous advocate of the center and answered the critique of many of the fellow SNMMI members. The professional bond of friendship and mutual respect we created then is still strong a decade and a half later."



Mathew L. Thakur, PhD
SNMMI President, 2004-2005
Greater New York Chapter

"When President of the SNM, PET/CT was rapidly evolving from a research to clinical modality. It was very important for both nuclear medicine physicians and technologists to become competent in all aspects of CT so that we could stay part of this very important evolving technology. I am very pleased to say the efforts made by many allowed this to become possible. This is no longer an issue for both technologists and physicians since CT has now become integrated into our standard training pathways."



Martin P. Sandler, MD,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2006-2007
Southeastern Chapter

"The organization faced numerous challenges, which provided the opportunity for accomplishments such as the PET Learning Center, the Leadership Academy, the SNMMI PET guidelines, the PET certification exam, multimodality training, and the Drug Quality and Security Act (DQSA)."



D. Scott Holbrook, BS, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2006–2007/2013–2014

"There were a lot of memories and experiences that I experienced when I was president. I must say that I loved the travel and interacting with the different chapters as I went to give updates from the national level, and meeting everyone from across the country and world. National meetings were hard work, but were a lot of fun. I would have to say that my fondest memory of being president was when I turned the reins over to the next president, Cybil Nielsen. Not because I was giving up the presidency, but because it was a time when my closest friends, colleagues, fellow SNM members, my wife and my daughter were there to share in reflecting on all the great work that the SNM-TS (at that time) was doing and the great work that would continue. The work still continues today and I'm still proud of the work that the SNMMI is doing."



Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA,
CNMT, RT(N), FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2008–2009

"Working with David Gilmore to enhance relations between the two leaderships and establishing the joint presidents reception. Seeing the approval of the advanced associate during our year. The sense of purpose and commitment of the memberships and the two boards."



Alexander J.B. McEwan, MD,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2007–2008
Pacific Northwest Chapter

"Cybil Nielsen was president of the Technologist Section at the time when I was president of SNM. She presented one of the most eye-opening talks I have ever heard on 'The Radioactive Boy Scout.'"



Michael M. Graham, PhD, MD,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2009–2010
Missouri Valley Chapter

"I had the great fortune to work with Dr. Sandy McEwan who was the SNM President. Together we changed how the then SNM & SNM-TS worked together. During my year, I created some enduring friendships that remain today and built several sustainable international partnerships. That was the year we also launched the NMAA profession! I continue to say my presidency was one of the greatest professional experiences I have ever had!"



C. David Gilmore, MS, CNMT,
RT(N), FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2007–2008

"The most poignant moment during my presidency was when I realized how influential the technologist section was on the field of nuclear medicine technology."



Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2009–2010

“One of the greatest experiences during my presidency was having the opportunity to collaborate with other imaging professionals on Scope of Practice issues.

Many friends were made while building relationships with the leaders of these organizations, ensuring that our technologists continue to have the tools they need in a changing healthcare environment.”



Jo Kathryn E. Hunt, MS,
CNMT, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2010–2011

“In my time in SNM/SNMMI leadership, I worked hand in hand with the Technologist Section. Most notably, Carolyn Anderson and I worked very closely with Kathy Hunt who was Technologist Section immediate past-president at the time on changing the name of the organization to The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. It was a true honor to work so closely with the Technologist Section on such an important endeavor.”



Frederic H. Fahey, DSc,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2012–2013
New England Chapter

“The EANM Congress was held in Birmingham, England, in 2011. Brenda Johnson, who was President-Elect of the Technologist Section that year, introduced herself to a local resident as also being from Birmingham (Alabama), which provoked a surprised reaction, and lots of smiles from the SNM leadership group in attendance.”



George M. Segall, MD,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2011–2012
Northern California Chapter

“The Organization’s transition from SNM-TS to SNMMI-TS during my Presidency brought a deep feeling of pride. My most endearing memories were being a part of the Roadshows which fostered Outreach to fellow professionals.”



Brenda King, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2012–2013

“My presidency offered me the exciting experience of speaking to technologists from around the country and globe and seeing the diversity and similarities within our careers. My fondest memory was being invited to speak to the technologists of the Society of Nuclear Medicine of Puerto Rico and experiencing the hospitality of the students, officers and members.”



Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT,
NCT, RT(N), FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2011–2012

“The SNMMI and the SNMMI Tech Section continued to work together and I was asked to participate in an International committee to determine competencies for NM technologists.”



Gary L. Dillehay, MD, FACNM,
FACR, FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2013–2014
Central Chapter

"When I was President, the following often happened: Someone suggested how we might do something new or improve on what we were doing. Then during the discussion, someone would point out that the Technologist Section had already figured it out. Nuclear Medicine Technologists are the strength of our profession, not only in our daily work in the clinic, but in SNMMI."



Peter Herscovitch, MD, FACP,
FRCPC, FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2014–2015
Mid-Eastern Chapter

"When I was president of the SNMMI-TS, my fondest memory was working diligently with Dr. Hossein Jadvar to help collect data from physicians and technologists that proved the need for additional training to be qualified to read/dictate nuclear medicine and advanced molecular imaging studies."



Aaron Scott, CNMT, NMAA,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2015–2016

"When I was President of the SNMMI-TS my fondest memory was being able to create a Quality Initiative to increase awareness and education amongst the technologist community. Today, this topic has become mainstream throughout many of our initiatives and educational programs."



April Mann, MBA, CNMT, NT,
RT(N), FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2014–2015

"During my term as President of the Society, I have an excellent memory of attending the SNMMI Technologists Board Meeting, and presenting the updates from the Society. The technologists were so receptive to information presented to them. They made me feel at home, and were engaged in what I had to say, asking great questions, and making comments. Throughout the years I have worked with the technologists; they were involved in regional SNMMI meetings and presented lectures at the SNMMI annual technologist sessions. I have always felt that the technologists are the backbone of the SNMMI."

Congratulations on 50 years for the SNMMI Technologists, and here is to 50 more!"



Sally Schwarz, MS, RPh,
BCNP, FAPhA, FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2016–2017
Missouri Valley Chapter

"I was SNMMI President during 2015–2016. I was fortunate that my presidency coincided with the SNMMI-TS presidency of Aaron Scott. I learned much from him about the Technologist Section and its vital role and major impact on our Society as a whole. Technologists are our front-line partner professionals in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. My heartfelt congratulations to the SNMMI-TS on its Gold anniversary."



Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD,
MPH, MBA, FACNM,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2015–2016
Pacific Southwest Chapter

"My fondest memory was the earthquake in San Diego right at the start of my presidency. Talk about shaking things up!"



Sara G. Johnson, MBA,
CNMT, NCT, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2016–2017

“During my tenure as President of SNMMI, I was continually impressed by the expertise and professionalism of the technologists in leadership of the SNMMI-TS. This included attending the EANM annual meeting in Vienna in 2017, and working with the NMTCB as a member of their Board of Directors during my Presidency.”



Bennett S. Greenspan,
MD, MS, FACNM, FACR,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2017–2018
Southeastern Chapter

“My fondest memories overall was the ability to travel and represent the SNMMI-TS at many chapter and international meetings throughout the year. One of my fondest memories from the annual meeting was being able to honor and surprise Kathy Thomas with an SNMMI-TS Lifetime Achievement Award and Cybil Nielsen and Kathy Krisak with the SNMMI-TS Distinguished Service Award.”



Norman E. Bolus, MSPH, MPH,
CNMT, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2018–2019

“When I was president the thing that I remember the most is working with the membership to improve the communication with all our members. I will always be grateful for the wonderful memories and friendships I made that year.”



Kathleen M. Krisak, BS,
CNMT, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2017–2018

“Unfortunately we are all focused on COVID and how it influences our daily life. Ever changing, wondering when things will return to normal. Refocusing my thoughts, I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to meet so many health-care professionals from around the world who do what we do, Nuclear Medicine. We have a rich and diverse culture. So many individuals who are dedicated to the science and patients we love. Together we will continue to evolve our science, diagnostically and therapeutically, advancing the quality of care and improving the human condition”



Mark H. Crosthwaite, CNMT,
FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS President,
2019–2020

“So wonderful to see a strong sense of community, excellence, and collaboration among Nuclear Medicine technologists and leaders.”



Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD,
FSNMMI
SNMMI President, 2018–2019
Pacific Northwest Chapter