

Technologist News

Preparations Under Way for Society's Silver Anniversary Meeting in Anaheim

Buoyed by the success of the Technologist Section's Annual Meeting in Orlando, Michael Cianci, 1978 Scientific Program Chairman, is now assembling a similar scientific program for an even bigger event: the Society of Nuclear Medicine's 25th Annual Meeting, to take place in Anaheim, CA, June 27-30.

This means that the base upon which the scientific program rested—largely designed to meet the needs of senior-level and staff technologists—will again be featured.

Students and technologists in management and administrative positions will also find much in the Anaheim Meeting program to interest them but it is Mr. Cianci's belief that the bulk of the program should be geared to the majority of technologists—those in staff and senior-level positions.

Quality Scientific Offerings

A five-track program will again be presented. Taking a cue from the overwhelmingly successful cardiac nuclear medicine sessions in Orlando, where extra seating was needed to meet the demand, Mr. Cianci says that a cardiac track will certainly be featured for the 25th Annual Meeting. The other tracks will be In Vitro, including instructional radioimmunoassay workshops; Continuing Education, which Mr. Cianci is preparing with Robert M. Donati, MD, who is chairing the Continuing Education sessions for the Society; Management; and Submitted Papers.

Regarding the submitted papers, Mr. Cianci says that abstracts have been received in impressive numbers. Meeting attendees, he adds, can look forward to submitted paper sessions of superb quality. The abstracts for the papers that will be presented dur-

ing the Anaheim Meeting will be published in the June *JNMT*.

Something new for the Anaheim Meeting will concern scientific exhibits. Mr. Cianci urges technologists to consider presenting exhibits—the deadline for submission of abstracts is Apr. 15—because this year the scientific exhibits area will be open for more than eight hours a day. The increased accessibility of the scientific exhibits area makes it an added incentive for technologists to participate.

And, of Course, the Social Program

The Anaheim Annual Meeting Program, which will be available in mid-May for preregistration, will contain detailed information regarding which sessions are eligible for credits through the VOICE program.

By now, no annual meeting is complete without an exciting round of social events and Joan L. Herbst, who is heading the Section's Local Arrangements Committee for Anaheim, promises that the Technologist Party will once again be a social highlight. This year, an old-fashioned summer picnic at Knott's Berry Farm is being planned, complete with fried chicken, corn on the cob, and Knott's berry cobbler. A bar, a barbershop quartet, and a rock band will also be on hand. Shuttle buses will be provided to transport party-goers to the Technologist Party. The chapter that has produced the greatest increase in technologist members will be recognized for this achievement during the party.

The Southern California Chapter will also host a technologist hospitality suite in the Anaheim Convention Center and Ms. Herbst is already extending an invitation to all meeting-goers to drop by, meet old

Onward and Upward

The Technologist Section, already the fastest growing branch of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, may be growing at an even faster pace during the next three months.

A membership drive aimed at adding 1,000 new members to the Section's rolls by the time of the Society's 25th Annual Meeting in Anaheim this June is under way. The drive was announced by President-Elect and Membership Committee Chairperson Sue Weiss during the Section's semiannual Business Meeting Feb. 3 in Orlando, FL.

Addition of 1,000 new members would expand the Section's ranks by about one-third, a formidable undertaking, but by no means impossible, according to Mrs. Weiss. "There are 10,000 nuclear medicine technologists out there," she points out, "and only about 3,000 of them belong to the Society now."

As a special incentive to get current members involved in the drive, a prize will be awarded to the individual acting as principal sponsor for the largest number of new members approved by the Membership Committee at the Anaheim Meeting. The prizewinner, Mrs. Weiss says, will have his or her dues remitted for the coming year.

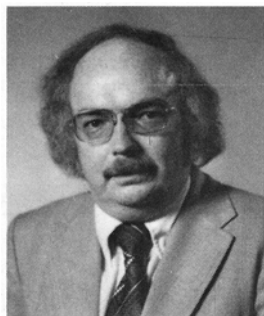
The chapter registering the largest percentage increase in membership between the Orlando and Anaheim Meetings will also be spotlighted.

The winning chapter and individual will be announced during the traditional Technologist Party at the June meeting.

friends, and make new ones. She's also asking all chapters to provide representative members to be in the hospitality suite throughout the meeting, so that all visiting technologists will feel at home. Maps and restaurant guides are now being prepared as well by her committee for visitors.

Message from the President

The Board of Trustees of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and the National Council of the Technologist Section have recently endorsed a statement of support for and recognition of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. This is further evidence of recognition of the NMTCB as *the* certifying body supported by the Society. Technologists certified by the Board will thus be recognized as competent nuclear medicine technologists by the Society and the Section. I again urge your participation in this Board.



The restructuring of our VOICE program was approved by the National Council at the Orlando meeting. The major change will allow all educational programs greater than one hour in length to

apply for VUE credits. If programs meet the objectives and evaluation requirements of a VUE, 10 points per hour will be awarded. The point structure for a certificate of achievement has also been changed, reducing the number of CEUs to 50 points. These changes will permit much greater flexibility in our scientific programs, which in turn will better meet the educational needs of our membership.

Model legislation that has been approved by the National Council can now serve as a template for those states wishing to undertake licensure legislation. Copies of this legislation are available from the National Office. As I stated in my December message, I believe that state licensure is now necessary and I hope you will give serious consideration to its implementation.

JAMES K. LANGAN
The Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, Maryland

Highlights: National Council Meeting, Feb. 1 and 2, Orlando, FL

- The National Council unanimously endorsed the following statement: "The Executive Committee of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Technologist Section, endorsed the concept and supported the formation of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board.

"The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board was incorporated in June 1977 and will administer its first exam in September 1978. We stand in full support of the NMTCB and will so recognize those certified."

- A total of 546 new members were accepted into the Technologist Section by the National Council. A membership campaign is under way and the chapter with the greatest increase in members will be recognized for this achievement at the Technologist Party in Anaheim. Also, the individual bringing in the most new members will have his or her annual dues to the Section waived. The Sec-

tion will also waive registration fees for students at its annual meetings.

- The Council unanimously moved that Rosalyn S. Yalow, PhD, be admitted to the Section's membership as a Distinguished Honoree in honor of her contributions to the field of nuclear medicine.

- Donald Hamilton, Bureau of Radiologic Health, reported on the National Conference on Education Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology to take place May 10-12, 1978, in Rockville, MD, under the Bureau's auspices. The Continuing Education Committee recommended and the National Council agreed that the Technologist Section participate in the Conference. Inquiries concerning the Conference should be sent to Don Hamilton, c/o Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Avenue S., New York, NY 10016.

- The National Council endorsed

the concept of a governmental affairs network. They will provide the Governmental Affairs Committee with names of individuals at the appropriate levels who are willing to serve as liaison representatives.

- Model legislation was endorsed and copies may be obtained from the National Office.

- Gary D. Gallamore was appointed to serve on the Finance Committee to fill the vacant seat on that committee.

- The site of the Section's 1980 Annual Meeting was chosen: Louisville, KY.

- The Site Selection Committee will consider the possibility of having a permanent location for every other annual meeting of the Section. That is, the locations would shift from east coast to middle to west coast, with a city in the midwest being chosen as a permanent site for the meeting every other year.

The VOICE Box

Hundreds of VOICE members—including long-term and 50 newly signed-up participants—took part in the Fifth Winter Meeting of the Technologist Section in Orlando, Feb. 2-4. The Orlando "credit card," a VOICE innovation of personal record cards, made a successful debut. In fact, the credit card proved so popular that it is expected to replace PAR and CEU sign-up sheets permanently in the near future.

Evidence of ever-increasing attention accorded continuing education was seen in the time devoted to this topic in committee meetings, National Council presentations, and VOICE information meetings; additionally, the VOICE information booth was very busy throughout the meeting.

VUE Credit Is Redefined

The Continuing Education Committee has received approval to institute certain changes in the VOICE program. The first is that educational programs at least one hour long are now eligible to receive VUE (Verified Units of Education) credit. This is in response to the many programs of CEU quality being developed across the country today that have less than the five-hour length required for CEU credit. Rather than alter the well-established standards of the VOICE CEU credit and its national credibility, the committee recommended that VUEs now be awarded to similar quality programs of shorter length with defined objectives and evaluation methods.

Thus the requirements for CEU credit remain intact while the applicability and the quality of VUE credit are expanded and improved. VUE credits will continue to be awarded to eligible programs that have already been recognized by another organization as having CEU status; in addition, they will now be awarded to programs that are at least one hour long, and have a clearly defined objective and method of evaluation. VUEs will be awarded on a point system equal to CEUs: 0.1 CEU hours equal 10 CEU points. PAR program approval requirements remain unchanged, though in fact many PAR programs are now eligible for VUE credit if objectives and evaluations are indicated.

Certificate of Achievement requirements have been modified to accommodate the credit change. Now, within two years after joining VOICE, members may qualify for the certificate by earning a minimum of 50 CEU points (this equals attendance at one 0.5 CEU-credit course). Remaining the same is the requirement that the total number of points

necessary to earn the certificate is 150, as is the requirement that no more than 50 PARs may be used towards the certificate, with no more than 20 of those earned through service as an officer or committee member.

Course Directors should note that a CEU or a VUE credit hour is 50 minutes. Therefore, a half-day program running, for example, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. easily meets CEU requirements, assuming that only one short coffee break is taken. Course Directors should also be sure to inform program attendees if they have earned CEUs or PARs after the required CEU course test or project is completed. Attendees who want immediate notification should leave self-addressed, stamped envelopes with the Course Director at the end of a course.

Every other month, a VOICE update will be sent to all the chapters for inclusion in chapter newsletters. Information in the update will include any policy changes and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of Continuing Education Committee members and VOICE administrators, and relevant news in continuing education in general.

Appeal Board to Hear Challenges

The CE Committee recommended and received approval for the Executive Committee to establish an Appeal Board, independent of CERB and the CE Committee, to hear questions or challenges of CERB decisions concerning a program's eligibility for CEU credit. The Board will be made up of three former VOICE Course Directors.

As a special service to VOICE members and prospective Course Directors, the Continuing Education Committee will sponsor a "how to" course on VUE and CEU program planning at the 25th Annual Meeting in Anaheim this June. Emphasis will be placed on the development of educational objectives and evaluation techniques to meet VOICE and national CEU standards.

"Numerous VOICE members have requested information on how to plan a verified continuing education program," says Marleen Moore, chairperson of the Continuing Education Committee. "The CE workshop faculty in Anaheim will offer instruction in course development to meet these specific needs. We hope that this session will dispel the myth that CE courses are hard to plan."

If you have any questions, please contact your local VOICE representative, the VOICE Committee members, or Karen Chang, SNM Education Coordinator, at the National Office.

NMTCB Gives Pre-Test For Fall Examination

With strong statements of support recently given it by both the Society's Board of Trustees and the National Council of the Section, the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board is moving smoothly towards Sept. 15 and its first examination.

Towards that end, NMTCB Chairman Mark I. Muilenburg reports that pre-testing for the examination occurred Feb. 11. The pre-test was given in four cities—Birmingham, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia—to a selected group of representative technologists. The pre-test was divided into four parts; each technologist completed one-fourth of it. All pre-test participants had taken and passed another certifying exam within the last two years.

"The pre-test's purpose," Mr. Muilenburg says, "is to provide us with preliminary data on exam questions and the performance of a group of technologists who are similar to those candidates who will take the first exam. All participants in the pre-test were asked to comment on it to provide broad-based input from the profession."

Mr. Muilenburg is also currently representing the NMTCB in the now-forming National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies. He was elected to the Commission's 12-member Executive Council during its December constitutional convention.

To date, some 65 allied health and medical societies, including the SNM and the NMTCB, have joined the National Commission, which was formed to set nationwide standards for testing and certifying competence for the more than three million allied health care personnel in the country today. Mr. Muilenburg says that the Executive Council is now concerned mostly with "setting up shop. We're considering possible locations for national headquarters and we're discussing personnel and other administrative matters."

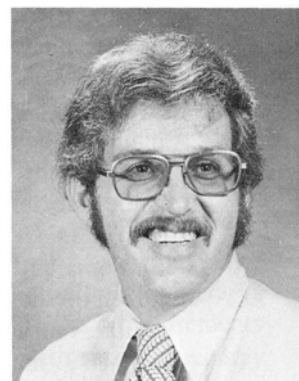
[Note: An NMTCB application request form is found on page 19.]

New JNMT Associate Editors Introduced

Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology Editor Patricia Weigand begins her three-year term with this issue. She has named three new associate editors—John G. Allen, John P. Capuzzi, and Jane H. Christie—to join Floyd L. Potes and Sybil J. Swann, who continue to serve in this capacity. The responsibilities of the associate editors include reviewing manuscripts, selecting the best article published each year in the *Journal*, and, in general, helping to maintain the publication's quality. Each associate editor is chosen with an eye toward keeping an editorial board with combined expertise in diverse areas of interest in nuclear medicine. Enthusiasm for the *JNMT*, which they convey to the nuclear medicine population, is an equally important factor in naming members of the editorial board. The three new associate editors, in brief:

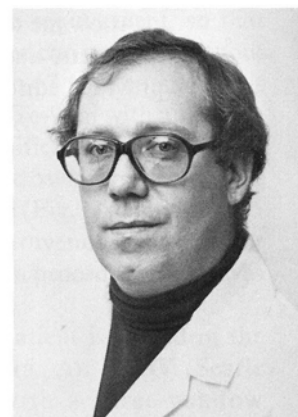
John Gary Allen

Married and the father of three sons, Mr. Allen is Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, IN. He is presently attending an MBA program at Indiana University, where he also received a Bachelor of Science degree. Active in the Society on both the state and national levels, Mr. Allen is currently president of the Central Chapter of the Technologist Section and will serve on the Section's Finance Committee until 1980. With 16 years of experience in nuclear medicine, Mr. Allen says the editor's position offers another opportunity to "improve the quality of nuclear medicine."



John P. Capuzzi

Mr. Capuzzi is Chief Technologist, Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Chester, PA, and president of the Delaware Valley Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists. His thoughts on being a JNMT Associate Editor: "I think my primary responsibility is to assist Patricia Weigand in maintaining the excellence the Journal has achieved. My greatest challenge will be to stimulate more readers to contribute articles and information that will benefit all nuclear medicine technologists. The many good ideas and techniques in use in nuclear medicine departments today can be adapted and applied to other laboratories, and the best way to disseminate these ideas is through the JNMT."



Jane Harrison Christie

A research technologist in nuclear medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Ms. Christie is a graduate of the University of Arizona and of the University of Iowa's training program in nuclear medicine technology. A member of the Society, the Technologist Section, and the Missouri Valley SNM Chapter, she is currently serving on the Section's Scientific Program Committee. On her new editorial assignment, Ms. Christie says, "A career-associated involvement can enhance and broaden the natural limitations of any daily schedule. Since joining the JNMT staff, this has proven particularly true for me. I'm most grateful for this opportunity to contribute to our fine publication."

