

Technologist News

NMTCB Exam a Success: More Than 2,200 NMTs Respond to Date

With the first Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) examination on the verge of being given, the support of well over 2,000 nuclear medicine technologists already indicates success.

This figure — which represents approximately 750 candidates for the exam and at least 1,500 persons who have applied for recognition of previous certification — is a total much higher than initially projected.

It is, says Mark I. Muilenburg, NMTCB Chairman, “a gratifying result of everyone’s efforts. All nuclear medicine technologists should feel they are a part of the NMTCB. It is the opportunity to have direct input and participation in your own certification process.”

Exam to Be Held in 23 Cities

Another good sign according to Mr. Muilenburg is that the majority of candidates for the Sept. 15 exam are graduates of Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA)-accredited education programs in nuclear medicine technology. This is indicative of the support provided by NMT educators, an important factor in the Board’s success.

The SNM 25th Annual Meeting, held in June in Anaheim, CA, was also the setting for several meetings of NMTCB members. Questions that arose only as the first examination date neared were discussed and decided upon.

The first exam will be given in 22 cities across the United States; it will also be given in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Results will be available within four to six weeks after Sept. 15. Following mailing of the exam results, NMTCB certificates will then be mailed out to successful candidates; they, in turn, will then be able to use the “CNMT” certification designation.

Previous Certification Cutoff Date

The recognition of previous certification mechanism will remain viable until September 1980. Successful completion of the NMTCB exam will be the only route for recognition by the NMTCB after that time. All previously certified nuclear medicine technologists seeking this recognition must have passed the ARRT or ASCP certification examination prior to the Sept. 15, 1978 NMTCB examination. The application fee for recognition of previous certification is \$25. (Contact the NMTCB, Inc., 475 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016.)

Current activities for the NMTCB include refining for publication the task analysis upon which the first exam was based. Mr. Muilenburg expects this to be published and to be available upon request by the end of this year.

And with the first NMTCB examination soon to become reality, the Board is already hard at work mapping out next year’s exam cycle.

Council Highlights...

Some of the actions taken by the National Council Delegates, who met in Anaheim on June 26, include the following:

817 new members joined the Technologist Section this year to date, bringing the Section’s total membership to over 3,200.

If the Society decides to approve a dues increase, members of the Technologist Section who choose not to receive the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* will not be subject to any dues increase.

James J. Conway, MD, of the Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL, was nominated to receive the Section’s “Distinguished Honoree” award. Dr. Conway will receive the award at the Section’s Sixth Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, February 1979.

The concept of forming an Educator’s Council was approved. The Academic Affairs Committee was delegated the responsibility of developing a mechanism of implementation for the Council by the time of the Sixth Annual Meeting.

The Technologist Section will join the Advisory Board of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). The person who will represent the Section will be appointed by the President with the consent of the National Council.

A Task Force was created to study the financial relationship between the Section and the Society. James Langan, Susan Weiss, and Lorri Vingers will represent the Section on the Task Force.

Why Join?

Membership in the Section: Getting Your Money's Worth

As President-Elect and chairperson of the Membership Committee of the Technologist Section, George W. Alexander, Jr., has made the continuation of the membership drive initiated by Sue Weiss one of his major concerns. To launch his membership drive, Mr. Alexander wrote the following for all JNMT subscribers and potential members of the Section to read.

Many technologists have asked me why should they belong to the Technologist Section — what does one really get out of belonging? Not only do you receive the many benefits of membership, but you belong to *the* professional organization concerned with your career. By joining, members have the right to vote and hold office and to carefully shape the future of our chosen profession. Having been a member of this organization for many years, I have watched the Section and the Society grow from a very small organization to one that now has the fifth largest annual national convention in medicine. We now have a voice in the medical community that articulates our professionalism and by joining the Section you have an active role in this venture.

JNMT: This journal gives you as a technologist the means to publish your views, clinical findings, and, in general, any article that helps better the field. The mere fact that so many commercial companies advertise in this journal reflects the importance accorded to it by the nuclear medicine industry. Reading these advertisements gives you current, first-hand information (for some technologists, the *Journal* is their sole access to such information). It brings you up to date on current happenings, such as pertinent news from Washington, various state legislation, chapter information, and the availability of new publications. In other words, it keeps you in a "state-of-the-art" condition by providing information on new techniques, pharmaceuticals, and instrumentation. And remember, if you have something to say, just write your thoughts to the editor, and if published, *you* become a spokesman for your profession.

VOICE (Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education): Many medical entities have used VOICE as a guideline for organizing their own continuing education programs. By joining VOICE, you have the unique opportunity to better your education and VOICE credits may be earned at the national, chapter, and local levels.

You improve yourself with additional knowledge and learn new techniques. Most important in the near future you will probably have to have a certain number of PAR and CEU credits or you will be required to become recertified.

Certification: Representatives appointed by the Section have a very strong voice in the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). Successful completion of this task-oriented certification examination will enable

Why join? To belong to the professional organization concerned with your career, to receive the many benefits of membership.

you to prove *proficiency* (as required by many employers). The Section is also in the process of developing continuing education programs that will give you the opportunity to prepare for the future NMTCB examinations.

JRC Seats: The Section and the Society each have two delegates to the Joint Review Committee of Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology. The Section therefore has a voice in developing requirements and approving training programs in nuclear medicine technology.

Placement Service: The newly established placement service provides you with up-to-date information on the availability of jobs throughout the country. This information can be obtained from the classified pages of the *JNMT* and also at the Annual Meetings of the Section and Society. If you wish to relocate, this is an especially important reason to belong to the Section. If you are a student in a training program and seek future employment, you can use the placement service now. (Remember: student technologists should be encouraged to join the Section.)

These are but a few reasons for belonging to the Society. Others are the recognition of excellence for outstanding work — awards, the availability of self-assessment programs and audiovisual aids, participation in policy making, assistance in running local meetings, and, of course, the educational meetings and courses offered.

So, why belong to the Technologist Section? It is *your* organization, and one of which you can be very proud. By your support, you strengthen both the organization and your profession, and yourself. If you are not a member — please join.

Message from the President

It's time for the Technologist Section to regroup! The first step was taken when you voted to create the NMTCB. In doing so you expressed that you wished to be recognized as professional individuals. Now with over 700 candidates taking the first examination and the NMTCB a successful reality, there are many other areas of professional involvement with which the Technologist Section must be concerned. In order to carry out activities best serving the needs of the membership, there is a need for long-range planning. I have appointed a Task Force on the Future Directions of the Technologist Section, chaired by Jim Langan, to look at the past, present, and future potential of the Technologist Section. The result of this group's activities will enable the Section to set immediate and long-range goals.

The chairperson and members of the Government Relations Committee, a new standing committee of the Section, have been appointed and are already hard at work. Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-WV) introduced a new licensure bill in July necessitating quick action. It is obvious that a long-range plan of approach to the problem of licensure is needed. The Committee is in the process of formulating philosophical goals which will be presented to the National Council for approval, in order that a more unified approach may be achieved.



The Continuing Education Committee will also be actively designing long-range plans for the Section's educational activities. This year, the Committee will be formulating grant proposals to acquire outside funding for its activities. VOICE participation and support have grown beyond all expectations. This rapid growth has caused a great burden for the National Office and minor difficulties for individual members. Therefore, the VOICE system will be revamped by the Committee this year to accommodate the ever increasing number of participants.

It is with great regret that I must report to you the resignations of Ron Andrews and Elaine Pritchard as Treasurer and Secretary-Historian of the Technologist Section, respectively. Both have accepted new positions of responsibility, which preclude their participation in the Section as officers. We wish them success in their new ventures. According to the provisions of the bylaws, I have made appointments to fill these offices until our next annual election. Joan Herbst has agreed to accept the office of Secretary-Historian and Lorri Vingers, past chairperson of the Finance Committee, has agreed to accept the office of the Treasurer. Both Joan and Lorri have served the Section in many capacities in the past and bring considerable expertise to the Section and the Executive Committee.

SUSAN WEISS
The Children's Memorial Hospital
Chicago, Illinois

The 25th Annual Meeting: Best Scientific Papers and Exhibits

The best papers and exhibits presented at the 25th Annual Meeting, Technologist Section Scientific Program, are the following. Cash prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100, respectively, were awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners, as were plaques.

Scientific Papers:

First Place — "Technical Aspects of Joint Imaging." F. Kontzen, T. Namey, M. Tobin, E. Dubovsky, and W. N. Tauxe. Veterans Administration Hospital and University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL.

Second Place — "Three-Phase Bone Scanning of the Face and Skull." W. D' Souza, N. D. Greyson, and A. M. Noyek. Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Third Place — "I-131 6-B Iodo-Methyl Norcholesterol Adrenal Gland Imaging Technique." P. L. Bayer, Harrisburg Hospital, Harrisburg, PA.

Scientific Exhibits:

First Place — "Testicular Perfusion Imaging." Paul C. Hanson and Sheri L. Pasternak. Penrose

Hospital, Colorado Springs, CO.

Second Place — "Technical Aspects of Joint Imaging." F. Kontzen, T. C. Namey, C. D. Gilliam, M. Tobin, E. Dubovsky, and W. N. Tauxe. V. A. Hospital and University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL.

Third Place — "Ventilation and Clearance of the Sinuses and Middle Ears Utilizing Xenon-133." J. H. Christie, R. G. Robinson, F. R. Kirchner, D. F. Preston, R. V. Wegst. University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS.

The VOICE Box

All Subcommittee chairpersons reported progress in their projects at the Continuing Education Committee meeting in Anaheim, June 25.

VOICE: David William's proposal to evaluate audiovisual programs for VUE or CEU credit was unanimously accepted. The accreditation criteria for audiovisuals will be incorporated into the VOICE packet. The VOICE packet contains all program approval applications (PAR, VUE, CEU) and is available from the National Office.

The National Office also has a new audiovisual that explains the VOICE program, prepared by Committee Chairperson Marleen Moore and Richard Witcofski, who produces all SNM educational audiovisuals. The 3-minute VOICE audiovisual is designed for use with a caramate projector and it is ideal for all meeting information booths or hospitality suites. The tape explains why the Section developed VOICE, what participation in VOICE means to technologists, and defines clearly and succinctly the credits available through VOICE.

A further update on VOICE affairs includes the announcement of two new Continuing Education Review Board (CERB) members: Gary Enos and Wanda Hibbard. Both Mr. Enos and Ms. Hibbard have been active VOICE members and have served as course directors for local programs. They are familiar with CEU standards as set by VOICE, and are equally well aware of program concerns from a course director's point of view.

James Sims, a member of CERB since it began in 1976, is this year's CERB chairman. Mr. Sims is well versed in the intricacies of program development and accreditation. His major administrative concern is that programs be submitted to CERB two months before the program date. This guarantees a thorough review of each program by CERB members and allows time for communication between CERB members and the course director.

The addresses of the new CERB members are: James Sims, Dept. of Nuclear Medicine, University of Alabama Hospital, 619 S. 19 St., Birmingham, AL 35233; Gary Enos, Nuclear Medicine Dept., Holy Family Hospital, N. 5633 Lidgerwood St., Spokane, WA 99207; and Wanda Hibbard, Medical College of Georgia, Dept. of Radiologic Technology, 1457 Gwinnett St., Augusta, GA 30902.

Former CERB member Mary Maxwell, at the

request of Section President Sue Weiss, will organize the VOICE Appeal Board to which course directors may turn to question CERB decisions.

Self-Assessment and Syllabus Coming Along: In other committee activities, a subcommittee was appointed to initiate a plan of action for the development of the self-assessment series mandated by last winter's survey of VOICE members. The subcommittee will report to the full committee at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Technologist Section, to take place in February in San Diego.

At that meeting, the Technologist Syllabus will be nearing completion. Joan McKeown and Sheila Rosenfeld report that much progress has been made to determine the content and style of the syllabus. It is anticipated that it will be published in the fall of 1979.

Quality Assurance Workshop: Committee members were also reminded of the availability of the Quality Assurance CEU course cosponsored by the Bureau of Radiologic Health and the Section. The course comes as a package, containing an outline of information to be covered and supplementary materials provided free of charge by the BRH. For further information contact: Marleen Moore, Dept. of Radiology, C278, University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 E. Ninth Ave., Denver, CO 80262.

VOICE Booms In Anaheim

Seventy more technologists joined the VOICE program during the SNM Annual Meeting in Anaheim this June, bringing membership up to almost 2,000. Credit was earned for participation in both the physician and technologist scientific programs. A special CEU course on developing continuing education programs was well attended and well received by VOICE members and may be repeated at future meetings.

During this course, Committee Chairperson Marleen Moore stressed the fact that CERB members are available at any stage in the program planning process for advice and clarification of VOICE policies.

VOICE policies and committee activities have always been responsive to membership needs. Anyone interested in participating in any of the various continuing education activities mentioned herein should contact either Marleen Moore or the Education Coordinator of the National Office.

Setting Sites Now For San Diego

It's not too early to circle the dates Feb. 9-11, 1979, now on your calendar. These are the dates of the Section's Sixth Annual Meeting and the site is San Diego, CA.

It's not too early because you won't want to miss the six-track scientific program, plus scientific papers and exhibits, that will be offered. An by planning your trip in advance, you can, for example, take advantage of Super Saver airline flights to Southern California, which must be booked at least 30 days in advance with a minimum stay of 7 days, to give yourself a mini-vacation, too.

More than PARs for the Course

Scientific Program Chairperson John Reilley, who is Administrative Chief, Nuclear Medicine Section, Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, says the San Diego meeting will incorporate the credit changes in the VOICE program approved last year at the Orlando Winter Meeting. This means that the scientific program will offer VUE (10 points per hour) as well as CEU (10 points per hour) credits of VOICE. This is expected to alleviate many criticisms made at past meetings, in which meeting-goers had to attend an entire track in order to receive CEU credit and only PAR credits were available if attendees went to individual sessions on different tracks.

For the San Diego meeting, there will be exams corresponding to individuals speakers on the different tracks; these must be taken in order to receive VUE credit. Attendees, of course, may also concentrate on one complete track for CEU credit; PARs will be available for those who do not take the exams for VUE credit.

Special Session on Licensure

Something new for the 1979 meeting will be a session on a very

pertinent topic: licensure. The session is scheduled to begin Saturday afternoon and continue on Sunday morning. All other tracks will take place all-day Friday and end by noon on Saturday. Invited speakers will discuss various aspects of licensure on state and national levels and the session has been specially scheduled to accommodate a large number of participants.

The ICRU: The Leading Voice in Radiation Information

While the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) is well known to nuclear medicine technologists as the publisher of scientific and technical reports, the organization itself and some of its aims might be of interest:

Since its inception in 1925, the ICRU has had as its principal objective the development of internationally acceptable recommendations concerning quantities and units of radiation and radioactivity, procedures suitable for measurement and application of these quantities in clinical radiology and radiobiology, and the physical data needed in the application of these procedures, the use of which enables uniformity in reporting.

The ICRU endeavors to collect and evaluate the latest data and information pertinent to the problems of radiation measurement and dosimetry and to recommend the most acceptable values and techniques for current use. Its recommendations are kept under continual review, to keep abreast of the rapidly expanding uses of radiation; its published recommendations are recognized as the definitive statements on many important questions. These recommendations represent the consensus of leading scientific opinion on questions of radiation quantities, units, and measurement techniques.

The ICRU's field of interest is divided into 11 technical areas and one or more of its members (the Commission's membership, including its subgroups, totals 90 persons from 13 countries) is assigned the responsibility to identify potential topics for new ICRU activities in each area. These areas are: radiation therapy; radiation diagnosis; nuclear medicine; radiobiology; radioactivity; radiation physics—x-rays, gamma rays, and electrons; radiation physics—neutrons and heavy particles; radiation protection; values of factors— W , S , and so on; theoretical aspects; and quantities and units.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the ICRU has developed relationships with other organizations with similar interests. These include consultative status with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and information sharing with WHO.

JNMT Best Paper Named In Anaheim

The 1977 winner of the "Outstand Paper" award, given annually, was announced during the Business Meeting in Anaheim by Journal Editor Patricia Weigand.

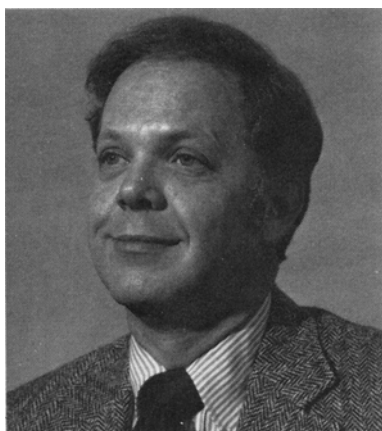
"Practical Program for Statistical Evaluation of Normal Range Data" is the winning paper; Danielle J. Battaglia, Christie Burkhead, and Michael L. Cianci, Oscar B. Hunter Memorial Laboratory, Washington, DC, are the authors.

Selected by the associate editors of the *JNMT*, the outstanding paper is chosen after a careful review of all articles published each year. Innovation, educational utility, timeliness, and method of presentation are important considerations. A plaque and a check for \$100 accompanies the award.

Newly Elected Technologist Section Officers

1978 - 1979

President-Elect
George Alexander, Jr.



Secretary-Historian
Joan L. Herbst



Treasurer
Lorri S. Vingers



Chief Technologist and Associate Director of Training at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH, George Alexander Jr., has held some 15 offices on both the national and local levels, including President, Southeastern Chapter, Technologist Section. His statement: "Many thanks for electing me."

"In the twenty years of my association with nuclear medicine technology, the field has emerged as a discipline in its own right. While it has clearly assumed the status of a profession that exercises leadership, there is always work to be done. As President-Elect, I hope to use my experience to contribute further to the field that has done so much for me personally."

"The experience that I have gained last year by serving as Secretary-Historian will help me be more effective in serving on the Executive Committee. Being receptive to the needs of the membership continues to be my most important goal and I look forward to a year of positive changes and growth for the Technologist Section," Ms. Herbst says.

She is due to become President of the Technologist Section's Southern California Chapter in October. Ms. Herbst was also the chairperson of the very successful Local Arrangements for the Technologist Section at the Anaheim Meeting. She is Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist at the Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield, CA.

A Chairperson-Elect of the Central Chapter until her appointment to be Treasurer demonstrates her active involvement in the Section on the state and national level. Ms. Vingers is Chief Technologist, Fairviews Hospital, Minneapolis, MN. Having served on the Section's Finance Committee for a number of years, she hopes to utilize this knowledge and experience in her new office. In addition to her work on the Finance Committee, Ms. Vingers has also served as chairperson of the Bylaws Committee.

"I am hopeful," she says, "that we can develop a financial system that will delineate much more closely the financial affairs of the Section and that our budgeting processes will continue to be improved."

Other Elected Officers

Membership Committee

Shirley Ledbetter
Shelly Hartnett

Nominating Committee

Jerry Porter
Liz Joyce
Margaret Perry
Wayne Cotnoir

Finance Committee

Douglas J. Anderson

Executive Committee

Note: As of June 1978, the Executive Committee of the Technologist Section, SNM, is as follows:

President

Susan C. Weiss

President-Elect

George W. Alexander Jr.

Secretary-Historian

Joan L. Herbst

Treasurer

Lorri S. Vingers

Finance Committee Chairperson

Carter W. Taliaferro

Publications Committee Chairperson

James J. Kellner