

Technologist News

Technologists: Section Set for San Diego '79

On Feb. 9, 1979, the Technologist Section returns to the site of the SNM 1974 Annual Meeting—the luxurious Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California—to begin its three-day Sixth Annual Meeting.

An expanded meeting site awaits and fittingly, the Section itself and the Scientific program for the meeting have also grown. The program offers Management, Computer Fundamentals, Educators, Clinical Update, Radioassay, and Licensure tracks, as well as scientific papers and exhibits.

More VOICE Choices

Perhaps the most important expansion for the San Diego meeting is in the VOICE program. According to John Reilley, 1979 Technologist Section Scientific Program Chairman, the recent credit changes in the VOICE program have been incorporated into the San Diego meeting.

“The scientific program has been restructured; our aim is to make the VOICE accreditation procedure more applicable to the average technologist,” Mr. Reilley says.

With that in mind, the committee worked hard to set up each track on the program for CEU credit approval, and also to make each track applicable for VUE credits.

“In this way,” Mr. Reilley continues, a technologist will not be locked into just one track, and the option to either stay within one track or alternatively, to rotate from track to track is available for the first time.

“We wanted to give technologists more opportunities to maximize the number of VOICE credits they can obtain.”

Another change that will be evi-

dent is that the number of limited attendance sessions and the prerequisite requirements for sessions have been reduced. In fact, the only limited session will be the Management track, because this course has been designed for the truly supervisory technologist. It will be limited to 24 participants; for this track then, preregistration is a must.

Tracks begin on Friday morning and continue through Saturday afternoon. The exceptions are the licensure track, which starts on Saturday afternoon and winds up at 12:30 Sunday afternoon, and the limited-attendance management track, which also runs over to 12:30 Sunday.

The licensure track has been specially scheduled to conclude Sunday

to allow most meeting-goers to take advantage of the opportunity to be brought up to date on this pertinent issue.

With the exception of the Management track, highlights of the tracks are:

Computer Fundamentals with Nuclear Medicine Applications—With computers rapidly becoming a vital part of all nuclear medicine departments, the committee has designed a course to familiarize the average technologist with all aspects of computer work. This track will start off with an introduction to computers, covering history, terminology, and general uses within a nuclear medicine department. This will be followed by presentations on structure

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The Town and Country Hotel: San Diego meeting site, in a near-perfect climate...



The NMTCB Response to First Exam Points Way to Successful Future



Chairman: Mark I. Muilenburg



Administrative Director: Barbara Horton



Treasurer: Susan Schlegel



Secretary: Joan L. Herbst

The first Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) examination has been given to 652 candidates and a new era in nuclear medicine technologist certification has begun. There were 800 applicants for the examination, which was given at 24 test sites in the U.S. The examination consisted of 200 multiple choice questions that assessed competence in nuclear instrumentation; dose calculation and administration; imaging procedures; radiopharmacy; radiation protection; and non-imaging procedures.

Developed for and by NMTs, the exam was based on a task analysis.

"This," Mark I. Muilenburg, NMTCB chairman, says, "is the first step in moving towards a criterion-referenced examination." The task analysis upon which the first exam was based will be published in a future issue of the *JNMT*.

The first NMTCB exam was designed to test the application of knowledge necessary for the competent performance of nuclear medicine technology. The fact that application—not just factual recall—was tested created a new, unique test. According to Mr. Muilenburg, the

consensus among candidates is that it was a fair and comprehensive examination.

The test results were carefully analyzed by the NMTCB and the American College Testing (ACT) program. The ACT provided professional testing consultation throughout the test development, administered the exam, and provided all psychometric evaluation services after the exam. The Board met Sept. 30–Oct. 2 in Omaha, NE, to review 1978 test results and plan for next year's exam.

During the meeting, Board members worked through the statistical procedures to arrive at a rational pass/fail decision, based on group consensus, regarding the performance of a hypothetical, minimally competent examinee. Based on this procedure, a score of 2 standard deviations above the perceived mean "minimal" performance was selected as the 1978 NMTCB pass/fail score. Preliminary data analysis indicates that use of this score will result in a pass rate of slightly more than 60%.

Development of additional test items is currently a high priority of the Board. Twenty additional new item writers are now at work for next year's examination. The Board welcomes submission of test items from anyone who would like to participate in the NMT certification process.

The NMTCB's success has made certain administrative changes possible. Most important is that Board headquarters will move to Atlanta, GA. Barbara Horton began to serve as Administrative Director on Nov. 15, 1978. Ms. Horton's experience as a practicing NMT, her active involvement in the local and national levels of the Technologist Section, and her membership on the original NMT Certification Task Force and subsequent NMTCB make her

highly qualified for this full-time position. The new address and telephone number for the Board are P.O. Box 1034, Stone Mountain, GA, 30086; (404) 296-8444.

Four new members have been elected to the Board. Lou Izzo, John Reilley, Sheila Rosenfeld, and Susan Schlegel will serve three-year terms beginning in January. Nominees for the vacant positions were provided by the Technologist Section. The NMTCB officers for the coming year are: Mark I. Muilenburg, chairman; Joan L. Herbst, secretary; and Susan Schlegel, treasurer.

The test date for the 1979 examination will be Saturday, Sept. 15. It is hoped that the change to a Saturday for the exam will be more convenient for students and working NMTs, and the number of test sites will be increased to 30.

Certain eligibility requirements

have been changed:

- The eligibility requirements for applicants from CAHEA-accredited programs are unchanged;
- Applicants who begin on the job training after Jan. 1, 1979, must fulfill the OJT requirements of four years of clinical experience plus a B.S. or A.S. degree, MT, RT, or RN; or six years of clinical experience, plus high school, under the supervision of a board-certified physician in nuclear medicine, nuclear radiology, or isotopic pathology;
- Applicants involved in OJT before Jan. 1, 1978, are exempt from the supervision criteria (restatement of old policy).
- Applicants beginning OJT between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1978, must fulfill the three- or six-year OJT experience requirement under the supervision of a cert-

ified NMT and a physician licensed for the use of radionuclides (restatement of old policy).

Mr. Muilenburg also reports that over 1,600 NMTs have so far applied to the Board for recognition of previous certification. The NMTCB will issue a certificate to any applicant with current certification in nuclear medicine technology, if that certification was issued prior to the September 1978 exam. The NMTCB now invites all previously certified NMTs who have not already done so to apply for Board recognition of previous certification before its September 1980 deadline.

"We expect even more support and increasing success for this innovative exam," Mr. Muilenburg observes. "It is obvious that the NMTCB will become the certifying body in nuclear medicine technology in the very near future."

Now You Are a Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist — What Then?

A certified nuclear medicine technologist has earned the right to use this title; it denotes a competent, well-trained individual. The label, however, cannot assure us of continuing competency. All of us in the medical profession know that for the remainder of our professional lives, we must dedicate ourselves to continued study and development of whatever skills are necessary to function to the best of our ability.

With these thoughts in mind, what better way is there to continue your professional development than to join your professional organization—the *Technologist Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine*. This is the organization that provides the means whereby your education is kept up to date—through the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* (your publication), through VOICE (your formalized continuing education program), and through national, chapter, and local meetings (your professional meetings).

Because you receive the *JNMT*, you are a member of the Technologist Section. But what about those who do not belong? As Membership

**George Alexander, Jr.
President-Elect**



Chairman, I urge you to do two things:

- Try to get two technologists to join the Section this year,
- Circulate the *JNMT* among your peers in order to stimulate interest.

By doing these two things, we can, very simply, double the size of our membership.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Section will take place in San Diego this February. Over the past years, our meetings have grown in terms of participation, content, and sophistication. I can think of no better way to support your organization than to have a superb turnout for the meeting. A great deal of hard work has taken place to make this meeting the best ever.

In summary, I urge you to

- Accept the challenge—get two nuclear medicine technologists to join the Section;
- Stimulate interest in the Section by making the *JNMT* available to your peers; and
- Come to San Diego in February 1979.

Combining Credits with Conviviality and Climate

(hardware); software; in vitro nuclear medicine applications (data reduction and quality control); and concluding with in vivo nuclear medicine applications covering static images, dynamic imaging, and quality control.

Educators—The overall theme for the educators program is "Designing a Course." Using instrumentation/statistics as the example, five aspects of preparing a course—writing objectives, textbook evaluation, resources and materials, student labs, and evaluation techniques—will be covered.

Clinical Update—This track will examine the current role of nuclear medicine in the work-up of cancer patients, biliary imaging, choice of film for multiformat imaging devices, the current status of fibrinogen studies, and radionuclide venography.

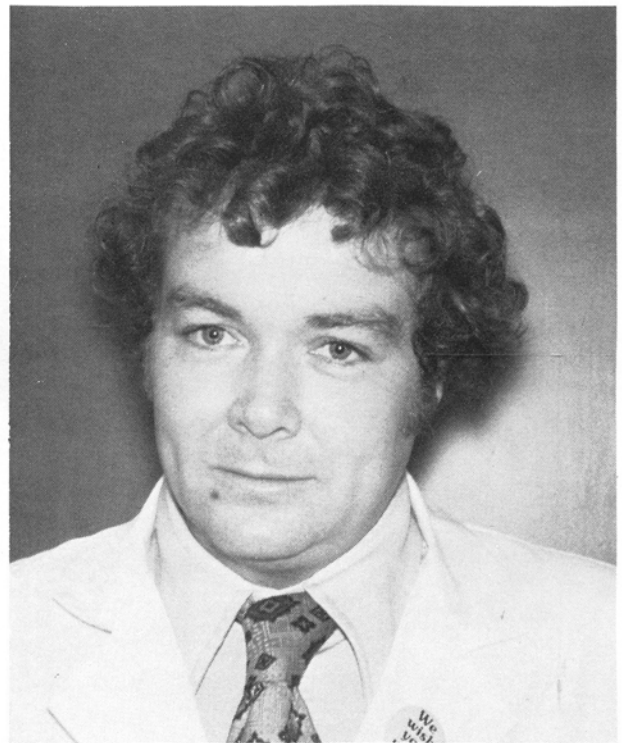
Radioassy Track—The main goal of this session will be to review current clinical applications of RIA. Presentations are planned on newer clinical thyroid function assays, an update on automation, hematological aspects, and drug monitoring.

Licensure—The objective of the program is to orientate the participants to the licensing process. How to make the decision to pursue licensure in your own state; how to write proposed legislation; how to build a legislative network; how to lobby; and what you can expect to happen are the topics.

Fulfill Your Commercial Commitment

Once again, commercial exhibitors will be awaiting meeting attendees. To encourage an especially good turnout in the exhibit hall, time has been set aside in each of the program tracks to allow time to visit the exhibits and these times will be staggered.

*John Reilley,
Program Chairman: "We have maximized the number of VOICE credits a technologist can receive in a scientific program geared to the needs of the staff technologist."*



There will be a prize drawing beginning at 3:30 Saturday afternoon. To be eligible for the drawing, technologists must visit each commercial exhibitors' booth and have each visit stamped accordingly on the official form. There will also be coffee available in the exhibit hall.

On the social side, be sure and reserve Saturday evening for the cocktail party featuring live music...

Meetings of interest within the San Diego meeting include the two-day National Council Delegates meeting, to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 7 and 8.

James J. Conway, MD, will be awarded the Section's "Distinguished Honoree" citation, in recognition of his many efforts in support of nuclear medicine technologists, at the semiannual Section Business meeting; consult your meeting program for the exact date, time, and location.

Both meetings are open to all Section members and everyone is encouraged to attend.

On Friday, Feb. 9, beginning at 10:00 a.m., there will be a general information, questions and answers meeting on the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). Many of the Board members will attend; NMTCB Chairman Mark I. Muilenburg will preside, and all meeting-goers are welcome.

Editor's note:

More San Diego meeting information—on Super Saver air fares—is presented on p. 191 of this issue.

The VOICE Box

To date, 183 VOICE members have received VOICE Certificates of Achievement based on two years of active participation in the VOICE program. Certificates of Achievement are awarded biannually, following the issuing of June and January VOICE transcripts. Another hundred certificates are expected to be issued this February, after the January 1979 VOICE transcript update is completed.

The Certificate of Achievement reflects participation in at least one 0.5 CEU (Continuing Education Unit) course, plus an accumulation of up to 50 PAR (Professional Activity Recognition) credits. Additional credits are earned through participation in other CEU and VUE (Verified Unit of Education) approved programs. Accumulation of 150 points, with the above mentioned stipulations, results in a certificate award.

CEU and VUE courses (10 points per hour) are more demanding of participants; they require successful completion of a test or project in order for credit to be awarded. PAR program credit awards are based on attendance only, at two points per hour. Other PAR activities, such as preparing and presenting papers or exhibits, serving as a committee member or officer in a professionally related organization, serving as a VOICE Course Director, or publishing articles are awarded five to ten credit points, depending on the activity.

As the number of CEU, VUE, and PAR programs continues to increase, the number of Certificate of Achievement recipients rises correspondingly. This indicates that nuclear medicine technologists are committed to the principle of continuing education, but need national and local assistance in preparing and presenting more accredited programs.

Attn: Course Directors

The cooperation of Course Directors is imperative if certificates are to be awarded as soon as possible after requirements are met. Lists of credit recipients must be submitted to the SNM National Office (VUE/PAR) or to the CERB Chairperson (CEU) immediately after the accredited program has taken place.

Course Directors are urged not to "hold" credit information. This delays the recording of credits earned, and consequently, the Certificate of Achievement itself. In addition, once a program is approved for PAR, VUE, or CEU credit, the Course Director *must* file credit registration

sheets or send a letter stating participants were not awarded credit. Too many files, to this date, are missing lists of program participants. Please help us serve VOICE members as efficiently as possible.

New Credit Coordinator

VOICE office staff is expanding: Larry Egan is now responsible for processing VOICE membership applications and all continuing education credits. Other matters concerning VOICE and program accreditation should continue to be directed to Karen Chang, Education Coordinator.

January 1979 Transcript

Under new administrative guidelines, VOICE credits are computerized early each month. The next VOICE transcript will be mailed in January, prior to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Section. The January transcript will include all credit data properly submitted to the VOICE office before Christmas. Please note this deadline: *credit registration sheets must reach the VOICE office before December 22, with VOICE numbers listed, in order to be included in the January transcript.*

San Diego Preview

An outline of CEU and VUE courses to be offered at the Technologist Section Annual Meeting in San Diego was mailed to all members of the Section by Program Chairman John Reilley. This year, a concerted effort has been made to design a program relevant to technologists with varied interests, including sessions on computer fundamentals, clinical procedures, radio-assay, licensure, management, and continuing education program development.

The CE program development course, directed by Marleen Moore, is of particular interest to prospective VOICE Course Directors. It was also presented in Anaheim last June, and in Birmingham this past November as part of the Southeastern Chapter Meeting. Increasingly popular and pertinent, the course is open to anyone interested in learning about educational objectives and appropriate evaluation tools.

All portions of the San Diego scientific program have been submitted for CEU credit—for those wishing to attend entire courses—and VUE credit—for those who wish to attend portions of various courses. A VOICE Booth will be located in the meeting registration area. All

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Message from the President

The NMTCB administered its first examination on September 15 and the examinees have been notified of the results. That it is a reality should be gratifying to all of you, because the NMTCB came about through your determination and support and I hope that you will continue this support of the Board and our profession. Because there are still many of you who have not yet applied for recognition of prior certification, may I remind you that you have only until 1980 to do so.



By this time you should have received your 1979 dues statement. Remember that you now have an option: you can elect not to receive the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, and reduce your dues by \$5.00. If you have the Journal available in your department, you might wish to save money and chose to receive only the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. Many of you have requested this option in the past and the Society has now made it possible.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about our Sixth Annual Meeting. John Reilley and his program committee have worked hard to put together

a good scientific program. The program includes several topics of current interest as well as scientific papers. Another important part of the meeting will be the National Council Delegates meeting. Your chapter Delegates meet as the governing body of the Technologist Section to carry out the business of the Section. In San Diego, they will make several important decisions regarding fiscal policy, the administration of the Section, and the relationship of the Section to the Society. These decisions can be made wisely if the Delegates have your input. Since they are *your* representatives, they are obligated to bring your concerns and recommendations to that meeting to be acted upon. If there are particular issues that you want the Technologist Section to address, please inform your Delegate. You are welcome to attend the Council meeting: it is an *open* meeting and the Council welcomes your input and interest. I hope to see many of you there and at the Section business meetings.

Finally, I wish you a happy holiday season. May the New Year be a productive and a rewarding one for you and for the Technologist Section.

SUSAN WEISS
The Children's Memorial Hospital
Chicago, Illinois

The VOICE Box (cont'd.)

registration packets will contain a San Diego Credit Card for attendance verification. Credit is also available to all current VOICE members and to those who join VOICE during the meeting.

CERB Members Change

James Sims, CERB chairman since June 1978, has resigned to assume a new position in the commercial field that will require a great deal of his time. Wanda Hibbard, of the Medical College of Georgia, Dept. of Radiologic Technology, 1457 Gwinnett St., Augusta, GA, 30902, and also a member of CERB, will replace Mr. Sims.

CEU applications should continue to be sent to Ms. Hibbard and Gary

Enos, Nuclear Medicine Dept., Holy Family Hospital, N. 5633 Lidgerwood St., Spokane, WA 99207. A third member of CERB will be appointed soon, and will be reported in the VOICE Up-Date mailed with the January transcripts.

VOICE National Impact

In September, Continuing Education Chairperson Marleen Moore attended a CE meeting on behalf of the Section sponsored by the American Society of Allied Health Professions.

"I was most pleased to note how well the VOICE program—its philosophy, its accreditation and credit approval systems, and its record-keeping system—coincided with the

overall recommendations of other institutions' representatives," Ms. Moore says.

"I was also gratified to note that some institutions are now working on programs to offer bachelor degrees based on allied health profession work experience, and also based on the recognition of CEUs as college credit, *if the CEU has been awarded according to strict guidelines, and in increments of 0.5 CEUs.*"

This plus the news that the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals is considering recognition of VOICE as a method to document continuing education to meet JCAH requirements is good news to all VOICE members.

New Associate Editors Appointed for JNMT



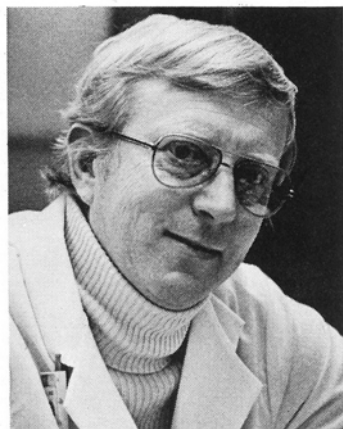
Donald R. Bernier

The President of the Technologist Section, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 1971-72, Donald Bernier is currently the Director of Technical Education, Division of Nuclear Medicine, Mallinckrodt Institute, St. Louis, MO.

For the Technologist Section, Mr. Bernier has also served as chairman of the Bylaws Committee. He is currently a member of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB), and of the Task Force on the Future Directions of the Technologist Section.

Mr. Bernier attended the U.S. Air Force Radiologic Technology School, Gunter AFB, AL, and the USVA, University of Nebraska, nuclear medicine technology program.

"The *JNMT* has played an important role in the growth of the Section," he says, "and I look forward to its continued success and hope that I am able to make some small contribution to the effort."



Harold D. Hodges

Harold D. Hodges is a Research Associate, Medical Division, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Oak Ridge, TN. He is the author of some 20 published scientific articles, and has served as a manuscript reviewer for the *JNMT*. His current Technologist Section activities include membership on the Section's Task Force on Future Directions.

"The *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* is a most effective means of communication among all of us involved in nuclear medicine technology," Mr. Hodges says. "Through it, everyone has an open and equal opportunity to share his thoughts and work by submitting contributions for publication. Because I personally have been treated so courteously and have benefited so much from reading the Journal, I feel a professional obligation, not only to those who have shared their experiences with me, but to those who are just beginning their careers in nuclear medicine technology. I am very proud to be working with such an outstanding group of colleagues."

Round Trip Fares to San Diego

From:	Full Fare Coach	Midweek Super Saver	Midweek Excursion Fare	Weekend Excursion Fare	Split Week Excursion Fare
Boston	\$460	\$276	\$368	\$391	\$379
New York	438	263	350	372	361
Philadelphia	428	257	342	364	353
Balt./Washington	412	247	330	350	340
Atlanta	356	214	285	303	294
Miami	412	247	330	350	340
Cleveland	376	226	301	320	310
Pittsburgh	388	233	310	330	320
Chicago	330	198	264	281	272
Detroit	366	220	293	311	302

All fares are subject to increase (3 to 5%) on November 1. Super-Saver Excursion fares are discounted and have various rules and restrictions. Seats are limited at this special fare and require advance purchase.

Midweek Super Savers: must be purchased no later than 30 days prior to departure. Minimum stay is 7 days; no stop-overs are permitted. To use the midweek super saver, you must travel from Monday through Thursday.

Excursion Fares: must be reserved no later than 7 days prior to departure. Seats are limited, so making reservations more than 7 days in advance is recommended. You must stay at least up until the first Sunday following the day of departure. You can travel from Monday through Thursday.