Commentary

A Survey of Nuclear Medicine Technologists in Connecticut

In Connecticut, the recruitment of nuclear medicine technologists has been difficult. Considerable time delays have been encountered and eventual hiring of individuals from distant areas has sometimes been a result. This was the impetus to survey the pool of technologists in Connecticut and determine the number of positions and the expected increase in available jobs within the state. By means of letters, telephone conversations, and personal contacts, we attempted to identify technologists who were involved in imaging aspects of nuclear medicine (whether patient care, teaching, or research). The numbers we have found should be viewed as a minimum figure, since other unidentified institutions are also likely to employ such personnel.

1. Institutions identified: 41. (These include 1 college, 1 U.S. Navy base, 2 V.A. medical centers, 2 private offices, and 35 hospitals.)
2. Full-time equivalent (FTE) positions: 112. These are divided among 121 individuals.
3. Range in number of FTE nuclear medicine technologists at an institution: 0.5 to 10.

0.5 to 1.5 FTE:	13 institutions
2.0 to 3.0 FTE:	18 institutions
4.0 to 5.0 FTE:	8 institutions
9.0 to 10.0 FTE:	2 institutions
Total:	41

4. Hiring additional technologists in the next 2 years? Yes, 20 FTE.
5. Refresher courses desired for technologists presently employed? Yes, 22 institutions.
6. Highest college degree of presently employed technologists.

Masters:	2
Bachelors:	12
Associate:	20

7. Number of technologists having certification in radiologic technology: 53.
8. Number with nuclear medicine certification: 32 (some also have certification in radiologic technology).
9. Technologists involved with in vitro studies. The survey is incomplete in this area; only 3 institutions in the state have in vitro procedures under control of the nuclear medicine department.

Since Connecticut has a population of 3.1 million people, the number of nuclear medicine imaging technologists per 100,000 population is 3.6 (112÷31). Similar data are needed for other states and I urge their compilation in the near future. These figures are being distributed to the technology training programs within Connecticut for their use in determining if the number of trainees should be increased.

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