

## Proposed By-law Amendment

According to our Bylaws, "Any member may propose changes in the bylaws to the officers or members of the Council. Such proposals must be submitted in writing. After study by the Bylaws Committee and endorsement by the Council members, the proposed changes shall be submitted to the membership for their study, consideration, and comment."

The following bylaws change has been submitted, studied and endorsed by the Council. It is now being presented to the membership for your study, consideration, and comment. Please study and consider the following bylaws amendment and submit any comments you have to Dr. Vincent J. Sodd at v.sodd@att.net. Thank you.

**Present Section 3.2.** The Council of the Chapter shall consist of the following, each being a member in good standing of the Chapter:

- (a) The Chapter's Officers;
- (b) The last four past Presidents, each serving for a term of four years after his presidency.
- (c) The Chairpersons of the standing committees (see Article 4);
- (d) Chapter members who are officers or voting members of the House of Delegates of the Society;
- (e) Six members of the Chapter elected by the membership for three year terms;
- (f) Editor of the Chapter Newsletter as appointed for 3 years;
- (g) The Chapter's representative on the Society's "Committee on Credentials and Membership."

**Proposed Amended Section 3.2.** The additions of lines (h) and (i) are proposed.

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- (f) Editor of the Chapter Newsletter as appointed for 3 years;
- (g) The Chapter's representative on the Society's "Committee on Credentials and Membership";
- (h) The National Council Delegate as appointed by the Technologist Section;
- (i) The President-Elect of the Technologist Section.

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## Technologist Section News

Editor: Sheila Knepfle, CNMT, NCT  
Siemens Medical Solution, Memphis, TN



### President's Message

*Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT*

I am happy to report that the planning is almost complete for this year's Southeastern Chapter SNM meeting to be held in Clearwater, Florida on September 25-28. Our program chairs (Ms. Carol Bonanno and Dr. Amir Khandani) have worked tirelessly to put together a superb program. In addition to the main

program, we will be featuring two technologist workshops (PET/CT and Nuclear Cardiology), as well as an Educator's Forum. We will be

hosting a social event (dinner cruise) on Friday night that you should be sure not to miss! And new this year—we are accepting registrations and payment on-line at [www.secsnm.org](http://www.secsnm.org).

Congratulations to Southeastern Chapter members on their elections to the National Office:

- |                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cybil Nielsen         | President-Elect                     |
| Kathy Thompson Hunt   | Secretary                           |
| Cindi Luckett-Gilbert | Finance Committee Chair             |
| Deborah Gibbs         | Finance Committee                   |
| Laura Norman          | Delegate at Large                   |
| LeRoy (Chip) Stecker  | Delegate at Large                   |
| Danny Basso           | Director at Large                   |
| Robert Pagnanelli     | Cardiology Specialty Representative |
| Carol Bonanno         | Industry Specialty Representative   |

Also, kudos goes out to Cindi Luckett-Gilbert on her fellow status that

was presented at the SNMTS Awards Ceremony in New Orleans. We are very fortunate to have her in our chapter and continue to benefit from her awesome leadership!

Speaking of leadership, a search has been underway for a new executive director of the Southeastern Chapter. The succession planning committee is close to naming this individual. We cannot thank Dr. Vince Sodd enough for his years of service and leadership in our chapter and appreciate his willingness to mentor in our next executive director.

### SNM Annual Meeting Highlights

This year's annual SNM meeting was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. I attended the National Council of Representatives and the House of Delegates meeting as your SECSNM-TS president. I am pleased to report that our society, (like our profession) while in the midst of profound change, is strong and flourishing.

Some of the highlights from this year's meeting include:

**Giving Back:** New Orleans was certainly ready to host our large group of attendees, yet there were still reminders of what the residents endured during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The theme of this year's meeting was "giving back". A blood drive was set up at the convention center and many attendees participated in an organized Habitat for Humanity project. The SNMTS Plenary Session featured an outstanding speaker from New Orleans who shared her experience as a healthcare provider during the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

**Education:** A new curriculum for the advanced practice professional officially titled: "Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate" was approved by the executive board. The first class is anticipated to begin in January of 2009. There is also a new curriculum for the entry-level Nuclear Medicine Technologist that includes CT, cross sectional anatomy and emerging technologies.

**Continuing Education:** The SNM and NMTCB have joined efforts on the reporting of continuing education credits. As a member of the SNM, if you are selected for audit by the NMTCB and have signed up for this member benefit, it is virtually a seamless process for you.

**Leadership Academy:** Applications are being accepted now through August 1st for the SNMTS Leadership Academy to be held October 24-26. Applications can be found on-line at [www.snm.org](http://www.snm.org)

And finally, thank you for the opportunity to lead the Southeastern Chapter Technologist Section. I have enjoyed going to several state meetings and meeting many of you. I am now all too ready to pass the torch to the very capable hands of our president-elect, Aaron Scott. See you in Clearwater!

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## President-Elect Message

The future of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (Technologist Section) has had its challenges over the past several years. Everyone wants to know about job availability as less and less nuclear medicine jobs are able to be found. We are now faced with dealing with USP-797 compliance for our hot-labs, which very few in our region (or the nation for that matter) are currently compliant with. There are the whispers floating around that general nuclear medicine may be a thing of the past and will be replaced by the new advances in Computed Tomography, Ultrasound, or Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

As your incoming chapter president, I urge you to attend your state and

regional meetings to stay abreast with the latest news and advances in your field. There are workshops to help educate you nuclear cardiology, CT, and PET. Whether you specialize in general, cardiac, or P.E.T., these meetings are designed to inform technologists of what is going on and what can be done to make things better. I will make efforts to implement a section on our regional website for job-postings throughout the 9 states in our region. Department directors and managers are encouraged to submit information when this system starts. I will research each state's current salary expectations and post them on the website to give you tools to ensure you are paid fairly. We have a guest speaker at our 2008 Meeting in Clearwater, FL, Phillip Chambless, who has information about what to expect and what is needed to be compliant with USP-797 who would definitely be an asset speaking at the state levels as well.

I look forward to meeting everyone in September. If I look like I am running around it's because I have big shoes to fill since Cybil Nelson will be the outgoing President. She has taught me so much and it has been an honor having someone so strong to work with. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the upcoming year for the future of our profession.

*Aaron Scott, BS, CNMT, President Elect 2007-2008*

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## Chapter National Council Delegate Report

The SNMTS Executive Board and SNM Board of Directors approved by the baccalaureate curriculum and the advanced practice, **Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate** curriculum. The NMAA curriculum will now be reviewed by the ARRT and the NMTCB. In addition, the SNMTS Educator's Task Force will continue presenting information to SNMTS members regarding the new baccalaureate curriculum during chapter meetings.

With the support of the Education and Research Foundation, the SNMTS was able to introduce 25 new travel awards totaling \$37,500 and 25 new student travel awards, totaling \$37,500 for individuals to attend the SNM Annual Meeting. Additionally, the ERF generously funded new Molecular Imaging Awards for the Technologist section including: the SNMTS Bachelor's Degree Completion Scholarship which serves to support a student who is pursuing a Bachelor's degree completion program related to his/her nuclear medicine career; the SNMTS Clinical Advancement Scholarship to support technologists who are pursuing clinical advancement through didactic educational programs; and finally, the SNMTS Advanced Practitioner Program which provides scholarship support for students who are pursuing an advanced practitioner program to advance their careers in nuclear medicine.

The SNMTS also introduced VOICE Credit Sharing, with the NMTCB, in May 2008. The VOICE credit sharing service will provide credit reporting for technologists by sending credit data directly to NMTCB. This new process will ensure that credits are reported on time and accurately for all interested SNMTS members who have participated in VOICE activities. In order to be enrolled in this new benefit, the SNMTS member will need to provide the SNMTS with your NMTCB certificate number and SNMTS membership number, as well as permission to share credits. The SNMTS will provide the NMTCB with monthly reports that include the identifying information on the form for each participating member. All SNMTS members received the notice to sign-up for the credit-sharing program. To date, (as of June 5, 2008) 547 individuals have signed-up to take advantage of this new member benefit.

A new Mentoring program was announced. Ellie Zimmer has put together a large amount of information that will be posted to the SNMNTS website for use by the membership. The Mentoring program was designed to pair young professionals in the SNMNTS with more senior individuals to teach them how the SNMNTS governance structure works. The SNMNTS Professional Development Task Force will be continuing to develop the Mentoring Program over the next year.

The Advocacy Committee introduced a white paper, with the intent of establishing the position of the SNMNTS regarding the practice of nuclear medicine technology and the impact of individual state laws, regulations, and licensing in the United States as recommended by the 2002 PET-CT Consensus Conference of 2002. There is no currently uniformity of these standards between the states. This fragmentation inhibits nuclear medicine technologists from the standardization of education and compliance across the states. The position paper was voted on by the SNMNTS Executive Board and was approved.

Congratulations to the Southeastern Chapter Technologists who were elected to the following positions:

President-Elect	Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT
Secretary	Kathy Thompson Hunt, MS, CNMT
Finance Committee Chair	Cindi Lockett-Gilbert, MHA, CNMT, PET, RT(N)
Finance Committee (3-year)	Deborah M. Gibbs, BS, CNMT, RT(N), NCT, PET
Delegate-at-Large	Laura K. Norman, CNMT, PET LeRoy (Chip) Stecker, III, CNMT
Director-at-Large	Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT, FSNMNTS
<b>Specialty Area Representatives</b>	
Cardiology	Robert A. Pagnangelli, CNMT, NCT
Industry	Carol V. Bonanno, CNMT, FSNMNTS

*Cindi Lockett-Gilbert, MHA, CNMT, PET, RT(N), FSNMNTS*

## Advocacy Report

Many events are happening that affect our day to day practice of nuclear medicine. The CARE Bill still sits in the House and Senate with the Senate Finance Committee holding the ball for the Senate side. Another bill, a Medicare bill had in it that all advanced imaging locations, meaning nuclear medicine and PET among others, must be accredited in order to receive Medicare reimbursement passed the House but failed by 2 votes in the Senate. The same bill would have stopped the 10% physician reimbursement cuts planned to start July 1. Once the summer recess is over, more activity on these issues should come about.

USP <797> is a standard for sterile compounding and has the nuclear medicine community concerned. Fortunately or unfortunately, this is a state's right issue. Individual state Boards of Pharmacy (BOP) own this issue. In some states, such as North Carolina, the BOP does not have state authority to enforce <797>. Major construction to hot labs, technologist training and competencies, cleaning protocols, and more are part of this standard. Find out where your state stands on this standard. Then go to your in-hospital pharmacy to see how they are getting compliant and what standard operating procedures they have, as not to reinvent the wheel. They can help perform a gap analysis to see what needs to be done in the hot lab, competencies, and standard operating procedures. For questions, contact me at isotoper@msn.com

The SNMNTS adopted a white paper to establish the position of the SNMNTS regarding the practice of nuclear medicine technology.

Individual state laws, regulations, and licensing are not currently uniform. This fragmentation inhibits nuclear medicine technologists from the standardization of education and compliance across the states. Georgia and North Carolina are two states in our chapter that do not regulate nuclear medicine technologists.

*Cindi Lockett-Gilbert, MHA, CNMT, PET, FSNMNTS*

## A Student's Trip to the SNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans

As you are aware on June 14-18 the SNM held its annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ten out of the eleven members of the nuclear medicine technologist class of 2009 at Jefferson Community and Technical College had the opportunity to attend this meeting. It was a great experience to learn more about our field and to have fun and get to know each other.

Our three cars arrived Friday 13th with no problems even considering the date and set up our two-bedroom/multiple air mattress suite. The next day we attended an NMTCB board review from 9AM to 6PM. It was very beneficial for me and I brought back some good study materials. That night some of us visited and mingled with the vendors and got some tickets to some great parties later on in the weekend thrown by the larger vendors.

Sunday morning I went to the first-timers brunch (we were provided with a lot of excellent food during the trip). I then went to the SNMNTS Plenary Session where a New Orleans health care worker gave us her inspirational story of care giving and preparedness during Hurricane Katrina. On Sunday afternoon we took the NMTCB mock exam, which I didn't do so well on, but I do have another year of studies.

The next two days I spent attending continuing education lectures. I went to one lecture on professional and personal development, which highlighted some important changes for the future that the SNMNTS would like to implement, such as a BS program for technologists and incorporation of hybrid imaging modalities like PET/CT and PET/MRI. After this I was interested in PET/MRI so I attended a lecture on the subject, which was geared towards PhD's and physicians and a bit out of my realm of knowledge, but interesting none the least. It also made me realize I knew nothing about MRI so I attended a three-part lecture the next day on the basics of MRI for the nuclear medicine technologist.

The meeting was a wonderful experience and made me realize how vast the possibilities are for the future of our field. New Orleans is a great city that seems to be getting back on its feet post Katrina. Last but not least I would like to thank The Kentucky Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Cardinal Health for their generous contributions to help fund our trip.

*Jon Luc Paulin, KSNMT Student Representative (JCTC)*

## State Reports

### Baptist College of Health Sciences – Memphis, Tenn.

The thirteenth commencement of Baptist College of Health Sciences (BCHS) was held April 17, 2008. There were 53 students graduating with a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from the Allied Health Division and 58 students graduating with a bachelor's degree from the

Nursing Division. Five out of the seven NMT majors graduated with honors: Kelly Drake, Nathan Masters and Metellos Skipper graduated with magna cum laude and Heather Evans and Kelley Woodard graduated with cum laude. Nathan Masters was also awarded the Dr. John F. Rockett Award, which is given to the NMT graduate who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance and a commitment to excellence in clinical practice as demonstrated by the graduate's research project.

As the top academic performers of their class, Kelly Drake and Metellos Skipper were also inducted into the National Allied Health Honor Society, Alpha Eta, in April. They were honored, along with graduates representing the top 10% of each Allied Health Major at BCHS, at a conjoint Alpha Eta ceremony with inductees from The University of Tennessee's College of Allied Health Sciences and Arkansas State University's College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Junior and senior NMT majors attended the Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists (TSNMT) annual meeting held in Memphis in April. All of the senior students participated in the meeting by submitting abstracts representing their research projects conducted during their senior year. Nathan Masters' abstract was accepted for oral presentation at the TSNMT and SNM annual meeting. He received a 2nd place award at the TSNMT and received a travel scholarship from the SNM to present his abstract in New Orleans in June. His abstract entitled "Moderately Elevated D-dimer's Relation to Pulmonary Embolism" represented original research and was well received by both audiences.

The 2008 NMT graduates also performed very well on the NMTCB. One student received the highest level of passing with a "Pass with Highest Distinction" and four other graduates earned a "Pass with Distinction". All of the 2008 graduates completed the NMTCB the week after finals and none of them scored under 80 on the exam. The BCHS faculty congratulates them on this accomplishment!

The eight NMT juniors have now progressed to seniors and are currently working hard this summer in classes and clinic. They are cur-

rently indentifying an area that they would like to focus on for their research project.

*Kathy Thompson Hunt, MS, CNMT, Program Chair*  
*Donna Mars, M.Ed., CNMT, NCT, Assistant Professor*

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## Bluegrass Community & Technical College, Lexington KY

Eight students graduated in May, and slowly but surely, the boards are being passed and jobs are being found—not necessarily in that order. Seven continuing students have just completed the summer transition from 1st year to 2nd year in the curriculum, and they are ready for a break until the fall semester begins again. Eight in-coming students are preparing to start a newly revised curriculum renamed the Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technology program. This will include a required course in CT and MR cross-sectional anatomy. At this point this is the only accommodation of the new NMT curriculum from the SNMTS Academic Committee that was approved in New Orleans this summer. Second-year students continue to enroll in the CT and MR courses as additional elective courses in anticipation of the ever-changing demands of the Nuclear Medicine job market in PET-CT, PET-MR and SPECT-CT. Our best wishes go out to all the spring and summer graduates as they enter Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technology.

*Charles H Coulston, MSEd, CNMT, RT(N)(R)*

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## Jefferson Community & Technical College, Louisville, KY

Our program has officially changed its name to: Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technology. This name change reflects the changing environment of our field with the incorporation of CT and emerging technologies. This was the first year students from our program were able to attend the national SNM meeting. The Class of 2009 just arrived back from New Orleans where they were able to attend the board review session, meet with vendors and attend continuing education sessions. I heard they also found time for fun while in the Big Easy. And finally, congratulations to the Class of 2008: Nikki Anderson-Smith, Paul Brown, Chris Clark, Morgan Creason, Silvia Dekova, Josh Fentress, Lindsey Greenwood, Michael Napper, Amanda Purdue, Kelly Smith, Daniel Spalding, Jason Trinh and Kristen Yates. We wish them well as they embark on their new career as Nuclear Medicine Technologists.

*Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT*

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# SNM

Advancing Molecular Imaging and Therapy

Southeastern Chapter

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