



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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Editor: *Buddhiwardhan C. Ojha, M.D.*

V.A. Medical Center, West Palm Beach, FL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fusion, Harmony, and Cracked Crystal Balls



James R. Galt, Ph.D.

Fusion and Harmony

Nuclear Medicine has always been based on fusion. The crude images formed by the early rectilinear scanners were only valuable because we knew the anatomy that lay behind the tracer distribution. Today PET scanners are selling rapidly, and all of them have an integrated CT scanner so that tracer uptake can be precisely located and attenuation correction can provide more accurate uptake values. Sales of SPECT scanners integrated with CT have been slow but are beginning to pick up and are proving to be similarly valuable.

As we integrate new technologies more and more we have more to learn. Many of us have been taking crash courses in CT. Technologists and physicians are struggling with turf battles and licensure issues regarding who is qualified to perform and interpret the scans. In some institutions, PET/CT or SPECT/CT may require 4 people: 2 technologists to perform the scan, 2 physicians for interpretation.

Several months ago you may have read a column by my friend, Dr. Raghuvver Halkar, about the death of our mutual friend and mentor Dr. Yavuz Tarcan. Dr. T, as his students knew him, insisted on eating lunch with residents and technologists, discussing world events, important events in their lives, and their families. He treated everyone he worked with respect and made sure that they knew that he understood their worth. Harmony was important to Dr. T, and it is important to those of us who work in nuclear medicine as we deal with new technology, increased operation and equipment costs, and declining re-imburement.

The community of Nuclear Medicine requires fusion and harmony. While we have defined roles: physicians, technologists, pharmacists, chemists, and physicists we all have to work together. In the end, regardless of our title, our job is to ensure that the patient is taken care of to the best of our ability.

Cracked Crystal Balls

While the explosive growth of PET/CT has dramatically changed the world of nuclear medicine and SPECT/CT is struggling to fulfill its potential other technologies are emerging that may change the

way we work. An old idea, time-of-flight PET, has become practical with the introduction of new scintillation crystals and fast electronics. Revolutionary new SPECT cameras have been introduced for nuclear cardiology that may radically alter the future of SPECT.

Time-of-Flight PET: PET imaging is based on the detection of two 511 keV photons emitted at $\sim 180^\circ$ by the matter/antimatter annihilation of an electron and a positron. Time-of-flight PET uses the difference in the arrival time of the two photons at the detectors to further localize the annihilation event based on the speed of light. While time-of-flight PET was described and implemented over twenty years ago the wide spread adoption of BGO as the scintillation crystal of choice made the use of time-of-flight impossible. While it had many good properties, the duration of the scintillation light flash in BGO is too long for the use of time-of-flight. The introduction of LSO and LYSO crystals with their higher light output and faster scintillation decay time has made time-of-flight PET practical. The promise of time-of-flight PET is faster scan times with better resolution, always a welcome improvement.

Radical SPECT Camera Designs: While the installation requirements of SPECT-CT systems have become more complex the quest for nuclear cardiology has been for smaller, lighter, systems. Three systems have been introduced that further reduce these space requirements through upright imaging (the patient is seated in a chair), and also seek to radically improve sensitivity with unique detectors. The first uses individual CsI(Tl) crystals coupled with photodiodes in place of the conventional NaI crystal/PMT camera design to reduce camera size while introducing a third detector to improve sensitivity (Digirad, Inc. Poway, CA). The second unit surrounds 180° of the patient's chest with a stationary detector arc. Collimation is provided by vertical slits in a scanning aperture arc near the patient coupled with vertical detector elements (NaI/PMT) in the rear. Horizontal slats in between the aperture arc and the detectors provide slice collimation (CardiArc, Inc. Lubbock TX). The third system employs ten detector columns arranged in an arc around the patients.

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(President's Message cont.)

are detected using tungsten square hole collimators matched to CZT (solid state) crystals. The detector columns swivel in place to cover the heart (Spectrum Dynamics, Tirat Hacarmel, Israel).

I won't predict how these advances will change nuclear medicine, I realized long ago that my crystal ball is cracked and my predictions are not worth much (I predicted in 1989 that we would all be using triple head SPECT cameras by the year 2000, a technology that never quite reached 3% of the market). There are too many questions to be answered: Will new crystals make LSO/LYSO obsolete? Will compact SPECT systems facilitate the integration of SPECT/CT? Will technology discussions next year focus on the roles of PET/MR and SPECT/MR in our clinics? I don't have the answers but I'm excited by the challenges that we face in the community that is Nuclear Medicine.

James R. Galt, Ph.D., Director, Nuclear Medicine Physics, Emory University Hospital

YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT



Dominique Delbeke, M.D., Ph.D.

Our S.E. Chapter is again honored to have one of its most distinguished members nominated for the Society's highest office, Vice President Elect. As you might know, the person elected to this office automatically ascends to the President of our Society.

Our Society has nominated Dominique Delbeke, M.D., Ph.D. for this high office. Those of us who have the pleasure of knowing Dominique, will immediately acknowledge that we are extremely fortunate to have her willingness to lead our Society.

Dr. Delbeke is a Professor of Radiology and the current Director of Nuclear Medicine and PET at Vanderbilt University. She has served in every office of our Chapter; as Program Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and as our President. Dr. Delbeke has taken on, and performed exceptionally well, every responsible position in our Chapter. We continually rely upon her to play a vital role in establishing, and participating as a lecturer, in our annual educational programs. She also has held several responsible positions in our national Society, such as an associate editor of our Journal, and she presently serves on our national Society's Board of Directors. She has always given unselfishly of her time and talents in achieving the goals of our profession.

For those of you who do not know Dr. Delbeke personally, let me relate a comment that was spoken at a committee meeting at the recent Mid-Year SNM Meeting in San Antonio. A Council program was being developed and the Program Chairman who was seeking recommendations for a choice of faculty was advised, "Whatever the actual nuclear medicine topic you decide on, just ask Dr. Delbeke to present it. She can speak on everything; and she will never refuse to contribute to an educational program". How absolutely true that is.

We will soon be receiving our ballots from the national office, whether they are paper or electronic ballots. Please join me and your other friends who know Dominique and vote for this exceptional person. Your vote is very important, since traditionally, only about 20% of the ballots are usually returned.

Vincent J. Sodd, Ph.D., Executive Director

Brucer Award Presented to Dr. William M. Smoak, M.D.

Dr. William M. Smoak, a Past President of our Chapter, was the recipient of the 2006 Marshall Brucer Award at our annual meeting at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World on September 14, 2006. This award is named after Dr. Marshall Brucer, our first Chapter President, who is considered the "Father of Nuclear Medicine" as he was the first real clinician to use radioactive substances in the diagnosis of disease, while directing the Medical Division of Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies.

The award was presented to Dr. Smoak for his outstanding accomplishments and leadership during his many years in the field of nuclear medicine, his contributions to our Chapter, and his commitment to our Society.



Award Chairman Dr. Warren R. Janowitz (left) presents Brucer Award to Dr. William M. Smoak

Nominations for the Brucer Award

Your nominations are requested for the Marshall Brucer Distinguished Service Award. Any member of the S.E. Chapter is eligible for nomination for this award which consists of a suitable engraved plaque and \$1,000. The letter of nomination must address the distinguished service attributes, accomplishments, and achievements of the nominee. Nomination information must be mailed prior to May 1, 2007 to:

Raghuveer K. Halkar, M.D.
Emory University Hospital
Nuclear Medicine/Radiology
1364 Clifton Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30322

(404)708-7767
raghuveer_halkar@emory.edu

J. Randolph Perry Scholarship

To educate and encourage medical students and residents to become involved in the practice of nuclear medicine, the S.E. Chapter is offering medical students and residents research fellowships up to a maximum of \$2,500 for each approved application. The medical student scholarship applications must be received by May 2, 2007 and will be awarded at the Fall Council Meeting. Contact Dr. V.J. Sodd at the Chapter address/phone number for specific instructions and application format.

We Need Your Recommendations

We need your member recommendations for those individuals you would want to hold S.E. Chapter and National offices within your Society. Also, we wish to know if you or any of your associates are willing to serve on S.E. Chapter and/or national committees. Please list your recommendations below and clip or duplicate this form, and mail it to:

Raghuveer K. Halkar, M.D.
Emory University Hospital
Nuclear Medicine/Radiology
1364 Clifton Ave., N.E. (404)708-7767
Atlanta, GA 30322 raghuveer_halkar@emory.edu

Chapter Office Nominations:

National Office Nominations:

Technologist Section News

Editor: Cinthia Luckett-Gilbert, BHS, CNMT, PET, RT(N)

Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte, NC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kathy E. Thompson, MS, CNMT held in Washington DC in June 2 – 7, 2007.

As President of the Southeastern Chapter, I attended the SNMTS Chapter President's Committee meeting. This meeting was organized to inform chapter presidents and president-elects of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the SNMTS. An orientation manual was developed by the SNMTS to help guide these officers on how to hold business meetings and plan chapter meetings. The SNMTS is also planning a retreat in April for the president, president-elect and executive director of each chapter to help these leaders be more effective during their term in office.

The SNMTS needs to know and really wants to know the issues technologists are facing at the grassroots level. As your representative, I need to be informed about your concerns and issues so I can effectively represent you at these meetings. Please contact me with any local, state or regional issues you may have and I will take these concerns back to the appropriate committee for discussion. Please note my email address and phone number below. I look forward to hearing from you!

The Chapter President's Committee is also focused on professional development and mentoring in order to assist the chapter

leadership in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities. I want to encourage all of you to participate in the governance of the chapter and the technologist section by serving on a committee or running for an office. The resources are in place to help you grow professionally and I think you will be pleased with all of the support you receive just as I have been. The nominating committee is calling for you to throw your hat in the ring and make a difference in your profession!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Southeastern Chapter meeting that will be held October 25 – 28 in Atlanta. The program is coming together and I think there will be something for everyone. You can find more specific information about the upcoming events in this issue and future mailings. See you there! Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your President.

Kathy Thompson Hunt, MS, CNMT, Kathy.thompson@bchs.edu, (901)572.2642

PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE

It's a Great Time to be a Nuclear Medicine Technologist!

Whether you work in a rural or urban setting or if you work in general, cardiac or PET, you know the field of Nuclear Medicine is quickly changing. From our cameras, to the technology, even our name/logo is changing.

In 2005, more than 2,200 Nuclear Medicine Technologists responded to a survey that covered many aspects of our career. The results are in and available on the SNM website. The good news is: Our future looks bright!

- Salaries are high: total average salary (including on-call) \$70,470
- Job satisfaction is high: 94% reported as either very or somewhat satisfied

The great news is: Issues identified in the survey are the same ones that our leaders are working on.

- Certification and Licensure in all 50 states
- Hybrid imaging and training for technologists
- Adjust educational programs to mirror the technology in the field

I just came back from the Midwinter meeting in San Antonio and “WOW!” I was impressed by how many awesome people we have in our field willing to give up their time, energy and personal resources to advancing our profession. Here is a brief update:

Entry Level: Did you know that the SNM is recommending entry level into the field of Nuclear Medicine Technology be at the bachelor’s degree level by 2015? This has caused quite a bit of controversy, but as a program director of an Associate’s Degree program, I support this initiative.

Advanced Practice: How would you like to advance your education and career by getting an advanced degree in Nuclear Medicine? The curriculum and board examination is being worked on, as well as identifying schools that will offer this.

Advocacy: There has never been a time in our profession that advocacy was more important than now. Does your state allow you to train in CT? If not, how are you going to work on SPECT/CT and PET/CT cameras? Become a State Health Policy Liaison (SHPL). This is a grassroots effort with members in every state. You will stay abreast of the issues and get information on how you can help.

Continuing Education: By now, you should know that the NMTCB is requiring continuing education credits. As a member of the SNM, there are multiple, on-line continuing education offerings that are FREE!

Awards and Grants: The SNM offers multiple awards and grants. Do you know an outstanding technologist or educator you would like to nominate? There are scholarships available for students too.

Educators: If you are attending the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, make sure you attend the Educator’s Forums. On Saturday, Ann Obergefel will speak on Clinical Instructor Training and Non-Academic Requirements for students. That will be followed by a forum held by the JRCNMT. On Sunday, you can see a demonstration from Mark Wallenmeyer on an electronic clinical data management tool, followed by a presentation on entry-level requirements and advanced practice.

For more information, please visit the Technologist Section page on the SNM website: www.snm.org.

And finally, get involved! Share your opinion. Our professional society is strong, with more than 16,000 members and a greater than 50 year history. We are one of the only professional societies that include members from every aspect of the profession (technologists, physicians and scientists). We are large enough to successfully advocate our needs, yet small enough to do so efficiently and allow all members to be heard.

If you would like to comment on any of the above, please contact me. Also, if you are planning on attending the Southeastern Chapter meeting in Atlanta this year and would like to get involved on a committee, please contact me. My e-mail address is cnielsen0001@kctcs.edu.

Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT, President-Elect

SECSNM-TS TREASURER REPORT

After taking over the treasurer position from Terry Hatcher in October 2006, I am pleased to report that the SECSNM-TS treasury is doing well financially. Due, primarily, to a 50% increase in SNM national membership dues last year, the SECSNM-TS has healthy

assets leading into 2007 and should be able to cover all budgeted items with no problems. Many thanks to Terry for the excellent record keeping she maintained as treasurer and to Dr. Vincent Sodd who works along side with the TS treasurer to maintain the funds.

Norman E. Bolus, MPH, CNMT, Treasurer

NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE’S REPORT

The SNM National Council of Representatives Midwinter meeting was held Friday, February 16, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the River in San Antonio, Texas.

The SNM is currently working on a new Strategic Plan to lead our profession into the future. This is always a long and difficult process that must be done periodically to keep the Technologist’s Section current and moving forward. Scott Holbrook, President of the SNM, gave a brief presentation to the National Council and stated the full plan would be unveiled during the SNM Annual meeting in June in Washington, DC.

Speaking of long and difficult processes, Mr. Holbrook has also appointed a Task Force to rewrite the SNM’s Scope of Practice. The Southeastern Chapter’s own Cindi Luckett-Gilbert is chair of that task force. Ms. Luckett-Gilbert reported that they were on the third draft of the document and would be ready to present the final draft to the Executive Committee and National Council at the Annual meeting for approval.

Virginia Pappas, the Executive Director of the SNM gave a report about the on going re-branding of the Society. This is an attempt to distance the SNM from being called the Society of Nuclear Medicine. It is the belief of the SNM leadership that being recognized as the Society of Nuclear Medicine limits the Society from moving forward on new initiatives such as molecular medicine and optical imaging. Part of the re-branding involves creation of a new logo. Ms. Pappas unveiled the proposed new logo to the National Council. There was some concern that the Technologist’s Section logo was smaller than the SNM’s and a difficult color to copy. Later, under new business, a proposal was made that the National Council finds the new logo unacceptable. This motion was passed. The SNM Board of Directors chose a different logo and it was unveiled at the House of Delegates meeting on Sunday.

In his final comments, Mr. Holbrook discussed the need to reevaluate the structure of the leadership of the SNM and to look into a possibility of restructuring. There is a concern that the Executive Council and the National Council of Representatives may not be functioning as well as they could. Many of the Chapter’s National Council Delegates expressed their dissatisfaction with the current structure and all agreed that a reevaluation was in fact needed.

Danny Basso

ADVOCACY REPORT

This is the year of the CARE Bill H.R. 583. Representatives in the House are co-sponsoring this bill in numbers and the chance of it passing this year is optimistic. C.A.R.E. no longer stands for Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence but now is Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. What makes this bill special from the previous years is this bill’s language. The language is the same as the RadCare that was unanimously passed by the Senate in December

2006. Medicaid, a state funded program, reimbursement will not be affected as threatened by the old bill. Originally the bill would have denied Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for scans performed by non-credentialed technologists. With the new CARE Bill, H.R. 583, Medicare reimbursement will still be tied to those non-credentialed technologist scans.

CARE is one of several issues the Advocacy Committee has in its radar. We are still keeping watch on the Food and Drug Administration's upcoming decision on how the USP-797 will be interpreted. Because nuclear medicine now falls under the auspices of pharmacopeia, the USP-797 has set rules affecting all hot labs in the country. These rules include labeling blood only within a class 100 hood (not I-131 hood), drawing up saline under the hood, and more.

You can follow up as information develops by visiting www.snm.org then click on Government Relations to GR News.

Cindi Luckett-Gilbert, BHS, CNMT, PET, RT(N), Advocacy Chair

CT WORKSHOP AND EDUCATOR'S FORUM

Thursday, October 25, 2007

We welcome all nuclear medicine technology program directors and clinical coordinators to join us for the SE Chapter's Educator's Workshop and Forum. This year's agenda will focus on changing trends in curriculum, workforce, and educational degree levels. We'll discuss quickly evolving technology that dictates stuffing an already burgeoning curriculum with new content, specifically CT. We'll also discuss updates on the job market in the southeast and updates on baccalaureate and Nuclear Medicine Practitioner initiatives.

Educators will have the opportunity to attend the CT workshop in the morning at a discounted rate of \$50.00 before the Educator's Forum which begins at 1:00 pm. The CT workshop will focus on the concepts of basic CT physics and performing procedures. The Forum will follow with a discussion on the challenges of incorporating CT into an already crowded curriculum.

CT Workshop 8:00-12:00

Basic CT Physics

George David, M.S., Associate Professor, Medical College of Georgia

CT Procedures and Patient Care TBA

Lunch will be provided

Educator's Forum 1:00-5:00

Educators Roundtable

How to Deliver CT Education in a Crowded Landscape

NMT Workforce in the Southeast: Is the Environment Changing?

Update on Educational Program Shifts

Mimi Owen, Chair Educators Forum, mowen@mail.mcg.edu

Call for Student Posters

The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine requests submission of student posters for evaluation and award at the annual meeting, October 25-28, 2007, Atlanta Georgia. Posters may

be submitted by individual technologist students, or group presenters (no more than 4 individual technologist students per group)

Judging Criteria

Originality: The presenter(s) should describe a position, technique, or principle relevant to diagnostic or therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures or scientific advancement; evidence of scientific research, effort, or ingenuity.

Educational Value: The poster content contributes to a higher standard of diagnostic or therapeutic work, shows outstanding technical or educational value, research, etc.

Technical Accuracy: Research **must** display accurate/correct information; correct labeling of images, charts, diagrams, as well as good image quality. A listing of references **must** be submitted at the time of application. The references **must** be typewritten, double-spaced, obtained from peer review and/or scientific journals and follow the reference style specified in the American Medical Association Manual of Style or APA format. Photographic references must also be included either on the image itself or listed on the back of the poster.

Presentation Quality: The poster should be mounted on **tri-fold display board** (no professionally mounted boards will be accepted), with quality mounting of descriptive material, images, photographs, computer graphics. It should demonstrate organizational balance, completeness, neatness, and thoroughness in accordance with HIPAA rules and regulations, no patient or institutional identification is permissible. Should this occur, the poster will not be permitted to be displayed for competition and will be removed.

Poster must score a minimum of 17 points out of 25, based on an average of all scores from all critique sheets, to be eligible for an award.

Academic Affairs committee will provide educators with applications and supportive resources for poster development by April 1, 2007. Materials will also be posted at www.secsnm.org at that time.

Poster applications must be submitted by program director by September 30, 2007

All applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited NMT program.

Mimi Owen, mowen@mail.mcg.edu

PET/CT WORKSHOP

Preparation is underway for this year's 4th annual PET Workshop. CT will be added to the program. The lectures are designed to give Nuclear Medicine Technologists an understanding of CT principles, introduction to CT clinical applications and PET/CT protocols. The Workshop will take place on Thursday, October 25, 2007 from 8:00am-5:00pm. You may register for this program using the registration form printed in this newsletter. Registration must be made before September 25, 2007.

New this year, we are offering the following options for attendees:

The Morning Session will cover basic CT physics and CT patient care and procedures. The Afternoon Session will cover PET physics, procedures, and operations. The cost is \$75.00 per session for members and \$100.00 per session for non-members. **The cost to attend both sessions is \$125.00 for members and \$150 for non members.** Lunch will be provided for attendees.

Susan Coleman, PET/CT Workshop Chair, susan@dpgonline.com

Mallinckrodt Initiates Tc-99m Generator Recall

“Mallinckrodt initiated a voluntary recall March 5 of all lots of Ultra-TechneKow® DTE Generator (Technetium Tc-99m Generator) manufactured on or after February 23. The specific generator lot numbers involved in this recall are 7030, 7032, 7801 and 7033. This recall is effective immediately, and it is important to note that there should be no further use of any of these generators.

In addition, the previously announced generator production stoppage has been extended until April 2. Mallinckrodt is taking this action to allow sufficient time for the re-validation of its manufacturing process. Due to the significant impact of this action to the nuclear medicine industry, we feel it is our responsibility to provide some relevant information on the production interruption, the actions taking place to correct the situation and the impact to our customers.”

Steve Hanley, President, Global Business Unit, Imaging Solutions

STATE REPORTS

Florida Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists

Hi, my name is Anna Marie Zambito and I have the privilege of serving as President of the Florida Nuclear Medicine Technologists. I am very pleased to announce that our 36th annual meeting will be held at the beautiful Florida Mall Hotel in Orlando. The meeting dates are May 3, through May 6, 2007. We will offer an educational and informative symposium providing our members an opportunity to receive 22 CEUs. The 2006-2007 FNMT Officers are as follows:

President	Anna Marie Zambito, CNMT
President-Elect	Donna Diaz, RT(N), CNMT
Vice President	John Cieply, CNMT
Secretary	Wendy Welker, CNMT
Treasurer	Martha Griffin, CNMT

Greetings from Georgia!

The Georgia Nuclear Technologist Society is an organization dedicated to promote continued education in the art and science of Nuclear Medicine. Through regular annual meetings and scientific sessions, members are provided the opportunity to not only review existing technology and methodologies, but also become familiar with newer techniques, equipment and radiopharmaceuticals. In this manner, the members are kept apprised of current changes in technology, its application and appropriate use.

We are very excited and looking forward to our 18th Annual Conference at Lake Lanier Islands, Georgia, May 4-6, 2007, where we are offering 13 C.E.U.'s. I take this opportunity of once again congratulating the Organizing Committee for the wonderful job that was conducted at St. Simons Island, GA last year that had the largest attendance ever in the state of Georgia. We have a very good line up of speakers this year and all the invited talks are being delivered by speakers from Georgia and are of a very high standard. Students from various schools throughout Georgia will be competing for the Nuclear Medicine Technology School of the Year which the Medical College of Georgia currently holds. Saturday evening will feature “Casino Night”, where there will be a chance to win prizes

depending on how well you place your bets!

We at the Georgia Society are continuously trying to improve our website to make it more user-friendly, interactive and informative. Paypal is being installed to help expedite the payment process for state meeting registration. I solicit your comments and suggestions towards the same. I shall be happy if interesting cases are sent to us to host on the website. Please use the web form to update your particulars.

Lake Lanier Islands is a golf resort with a water park located near Atlanta, Georgia. Come visit Lake Lanier Islands with us to play golf, have fun at the water park, or rent one of the 53 foot houseboats to cruise the lake. The Emerald Pointe Golf Club was designed for both expert and novice golfers in mind. The par-72, 18 hole championship course is set near Lake Sidney Lanier and offers spectacular scenery. After a round of golf, relax on the resort's white sandy beach. The Emerald Pointe Resort offers 216 rooms (of which 90 have been reserved specifically for GSNMT attendees) with balconies or porches. Try a room facing the lake to enjoy good views. Instead of renting a houseboat, guests can book one of the lakeside retreats which feature two bedrooms and a heated spa. Guests can dine at the Windows Restaurant or at Bull Frog's Bar & Grill.

Aaron Scott, BS, CNMT, GSNMT President

COLLEGE REPORTS

University of Alabama Birmingham

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) NMT Program graduated 10 students in the Fall of 2006. Their names were Vetayna Armstrong, Scott Dixon, Keisha Edwards, Erin Ferguson, Jonathan Harbin, Carol Long, Michael Matson, Ashley Rasch, Phillip Russell and Stefane' Stinnett. Erin Ferguson was our first Honors Program graduate from the UAB NMT Program. Her research topic was Lymphoscintigraphy Methods and Techniques and she presented a poster presentation on her topic at the SouthEastern Chapter of the SNM in Orlando, Florida this past Fall. She has submitted this poster for acceptance at the National Meeting in Washington D.C. Stefane' Stinnett received the 2006 Mallinckrodt Award for Excellence for being the Outstanding NMT student for the academic year of 2005-2006 in the UAB NMT Program.

Norman E. Bolus, MPH, CNMT, Assistant Professor & Clinical Coordinator, UAB NMT Program

Bluegrass Community and Technical College

The up-coming graduates from Bluegrass Community & Technical College, Lexington KY, have taken a big step towards the completion of their studies. The class has mailed their applications for the NMTCB in anticipation of their May 6, graduation date! It's always a momentous step for the students (and a moment to make me feel a year older). There will be 10 graduates from this year's class. Local job prospect are very thin this year. Presently there is one anticipated opening in Lexington proper. Even the surrounding area appears to be tight.

Prospective students are always advised that jobs do not turnover quickly in this area, so hopefully they took this advice to heart 2 years ago when they applied to the program. The current applicant pool is down by about 1/3 (about 20 candidates for 9 openings) possibly because I've been very insistent that local jobs are scarce, and

that graduates will probably have to move away to work in NMT. The 2nd-year students will be taking case presentation posters to the state educational meeting of the KSNMT in April. Best wishes to all the new grads across the SECSNM.

Charles H Coulston, MSED, CNMT, RT(N)(R), Lexington KY

Jefferson Community and Technical College

The Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) Nuclear Medicine Technology program's class of 2007 is gearing up for graduation this May. We will graduate 12 students from our 21-month Associate Degree program this year. We have a very talented class and we wish them all success as they embark on their journey as Nuclear Medicine Technologists. This is also the first year Jefferson Community and Technical College has offered a 12-month accelerated program for registered radiologic technologists wishing to also pursue an Associate Degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology. In August, the first students of our 12 month program will be eligible for graduation. Congratulations to Nick Bischoff and Marvin Stevenson for being our "pioneers" in this endeavor.

Members of the 2007 graduating class are chairing the KSNMT Spring Education meeting to be held on April 7, 2007. The meeting will be held at Louisville Slugger Field and has several interesting topics scheduled for presentation.

Congratulations go out to Morgan Creason, a member of our 2008 graduating class. Morgan was a recipient of a Paul Cole Scholarship awarded by the Society of Nuclear Medicine. We are very proud of Morgan's selection for this award.

The students of the 2008 graduating class began an organization for students of the nuclear medicine technology program at JCTC. The organization, AlphaBetaGamma, was officially recognized by the college in January 2007. The organization promotes student involvement in the field of nuclear medicine and encourages professional development activities. Students are currently working on fund-raising efforts to attend the SECSNM meeting in Atlanta this October. The elected officers are as follows for the 2007 term: Kelly Smith, President; Secretary/Historian, Morgan Creason; and Treasurer, Paul Brown.

In November 2006, Stephanie Land, CNMT, joined our program as Clinical Coordinator. She replaced Aloris Owens who left the program in March to pursue other interests.

Finally, we look forward to the challenging task of selecting our incoming class for the Fall of 2007. We have several extremely qualified applicants interested in both the 21- and 12-month programs that we offer. We definitely have our work cut out for us. Acceptance letters should go out in June of 2007.

Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT, NMT Program Coordinator

Trip to Orlando, FL for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the S.E. Chapter, SNM

It was no small feat for the class of 2007 to plan and raise funds for the annual meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. After months of planning and the well appreciated hard work of our professor, Cybil Nielsen, we were finally able to depart for Orlando, FL and attend the three day conference that was held September 14 – 17, 2006 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort.

While at the conference we assisted in the verification process for VOICE credits. This allowed us an excellent opportunity to meet a great many of the attendees as well as attend all of the presentations

on Friday and Saturday. The lectures covered a wide range of issues that we will no doubt encounter on a daily basis as technologists.

I think we would all agree that Carolyn Kuykendall's presentation on PET/CT preparation and acquisition artifact reduction was among one of our favorites. She is a tech at the Moffitt Cancer Center and used very practical and real-world examples to convey her ideas. Many of the presenters were from Emory University and among those Professor James Galt, PhD. gave two very informative lectures. One was on bone imaging and the other on Cardiac SPECT with attenuation correction physics and technical artifacts. However, he went into such great detail, that he found it necessary to pull out the old single and double integration formulas that can really bring on MEGO (my eyes glazed over). However, I am sure that his fellow nuclear physicists in the audience found it quite stimulating intellectual stuff.

All and all I would have to say that this was a very successful

endeavor that we as a class, nay, and a team came together to accomplish. Those of us who were able to attend will not soon forget the wonderful experiences that we were fortunate enough to have had. We would like to thank all the people who helped us raise funds, by either approving grants or buying t-shirts, and making this all possible.

Doug Poynter, Student Class 2007



Students - Dawnita Avendano, Laura Lawallin, Meghan Edwards, Tiffany Thompson, Doug Poynter and Stephanie Zoll

Medical College of Georgia

There is much news from the NMT Program at the Medical College of Georgia. We moved into our beautiful new instructional and administrative base in the Health Science Building of our Augusta campus in August 2006. Since that time we're proud to be able to conduct classes and laboratories in our shiny new hot lab with state of the art equipment; Also in our huge camera lab with our *new* Siemens Orbiter camera. Students from Columbus, Atlanta, and Athens all benefit from these wonderful resources during our demo days activities. We'll graduate 15 senior students in May, who are currently vying for the honor of the first Tony Molini scholarship award.

The Tony Molini Foundation was established in the memory of Mr. Molini who was a graduate of the MCG program and served as an excellent clinician and mentor to students. Fifteen junior students will be competing to retain the award from the Georgia Society of Nuclear Medicine student competition at Lake Lanier Resort in May 2006.

Midlands Technical College

Midlands Technical College in Columbia, SC welcomes Ray Wiegner as its new NMT program director. Ray has been in the southeastern area for years too numerous to mention in roles as chief technologist as well as educator for Bristol Meyers Squibb.

North Carolina NMT

The upcoming NCNMT Spring meeting will be held in Wilmington, NC at the Wilmington Hilton Riverside on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21. Topics include ICANL, cardiac stress testing, Rubidium-82 cardiac studies, interpreting myocardial stress tests, new state regulations and their impact on NMTs, and methods of localization of radiopharmaceuticals. 12 credit hours will be offered at this meeting. For more information please go to the website at www.ncnmt.org. President-elect is Josh Hilton jshcnmt@yadtel.net

Corey Brown, CNMT, PET, RT(N) cobrown@wfubmc.edu

South Carolina NMT

The Old meets the New when The South Carolina SNMT celebrates its Annual Meeting with the cordial southern hospitality of Charleston. Ten continuing education credits will be offered over March 18th and 19th with topics including SirSpheres, blood volume analyzers, first pass cardiac studies, Proscint, radiation safety, cyclotron and dose preparation, rubidium-82 cardiac perfusion studies, radiotherapies, and more.

Our President's Fall Seminar will offer as exciting topics and will be held in the fall. For information please visit our website at www.scsnm.org.

The president is Karen Lauffer from McLeod Regional in Florence, president-elect is Sonya Richardson from Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, secretary is Sheila Boyle from Pee Dee Isotopes in Florence, outgoing treasurer is Cindi Lockett-Gilbert from Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, NC, Advisor to the Board is Jessica Riley from Lexington Medical in Lexington, Chairman of the Board is Gerald Stone from Dorn VA in Columbia, Executive Secretary is Kathi Knight from Palmetto Baptist in Columbia. Karen Sheriff from Shertech in Greenville is outgoing Legislative Chair.

Karen Lauffer

Tennessee Society of NMT

It's a BIG year for the Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists (TSNMT). We are gearing up for our 30th Annual State Meeting to be held May 4-6, 2007 in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Opryland Resort. We have also developed a new website for our organization which has information about what's happening throughout the state. You can also pay local and state dues online. Please visit the new site at www.tsnmt.org for more information.

Dusty York – President

Southeastern Chapter, Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc.

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