

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER Society of Nuclear Medicine

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NEWSLETTER

Summer, 2010

Editor: Buddhiwardhan C. Ojha, MD, MPH

President's Message



Hadyn T. Williams, MD,
FACNP, FACNM

Back in the day, my internship in internal medicine at the West Los Angeles VA Wadsworth/UCLA began with two months on the wards, not a fond memory. I managed to serve the rest of my penance in the emergency room, which was much better. I learned to do arterial punctures for blood gasses, a skill I would later use in Nuclear Medicine. My first rotation in Diagnostic Radiology was Fluoroscopy, and the first day I did my first barium enema, having never before seen one performed

and with instructions from the technologist, who neglected to warn me not to stand at the foot of the table while barium was being instilled. Having received my barium shower and changing into scrubs, I was then never without tape to secure the balloon, and always stood well to the side – trial by fire (ready, set, fire barium at the novice!). My second rotation was Special Procedures, and after one week, I was on call by myself, and many nights and early mornings, the technologist and I did cerebral angiograms for aneurysms and strokes. Thanks to Godfrey Hounsfield, Electronics and Musical Instruments (EMI) company, and financial input from the Beatles who then recorded under the EMI label, we purchased our first head CT scanner during my residency, and it only took one hour to acquire a head CT, which could determine whether or not a stroke was hemorrhagic.

Turf wars then were between cardiologists and radiologists over coronary angiography and cardiac ultrasound, and, with the invention of imaging produced with magnets that lined up protons, knocked them about, and measured them as they lined up again, the turf war (more of a skirmish) was between nuclear medicine (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) and radiology (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). During my second year of mediocre radiology residency training, I rotated through Nuclear Medicine, where they were still using Benedict Cassen's rectilinear scanner to map a true size image of the thyroid gland via a raster grid on paper. Residents then used a rolling hand-held distance measuring tool to outline the dimension of the thyroid to calculate volume (rule was, you outlined it ten times, and moved the decimal over one to get a good average). The first rectilinear thyroid scan was done there. The Radioisotope Service at the West Los Angeles VA preceded the opening of UCLA. They had

SEC 2010 Annual Meeting in Durham, North Carolina



Robert Pagnanelli,
BSRT (R)(N),
CNMT, NCT

The 2010 SNM annual meeting is long past. Recent information is predicting that this most recent Tc-99m shortage may go away with summer. Almost as exciting, the SECSNM Fall meeting is also approaching. It will take place October 28-31, 2010 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham, North Carolina, the City of Medicine. The hotel is conveniently located just 4 miles from Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) and within 15 miles of three major universities and other many other

attractions.

The program committee is working aggressively to finalize the schedule of events. The program will kick-off on Thursday with two technologist workshops, one nuclear cardiology and one CT. Tentative plans include an ice-breaker reception on Thursday evening. Session one of the main meeting will begin Friday morning with lectures covering technologist topics. A second session Friday afternoon will cover mostly general nuclear medicine. The third session, Saturday meeting will focus on PET, followed by session four Saturday afternoon. The final session on Sunday morning will focus on nuclear cardiology.

As the 2010 SECSNM program is finalized, additional information will become available on our website, secsnm.org.

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President's Column Continued...

a whole body counter, a lead closet in which one sat, that measured native radioactivity levels in the body; and a Pho/Con whole body tomographic scintillation camera from Hal Anger. This was cool stuff – detection of disease through physiological measurements. I had found my niche. But having lost turf wars and skirmishes, the demise of nuclear medicine was said to be at hand. Great – I had finally found a part of medicine I enjoyed and it was doomed to obscurity. It seemed “the future ain't what it used to be,” but when “I came to a fork in the road, I took it.” (Yogi Berra). I plunged ahead into nuclear medicine. We got a PET scanner and cyclotron while I was a resident. The brain PET scanner was surrounded by a chain link fence on all sides and above (to keep it from being stolen, to keep antimatter/matter collisions from annihilating the universe?) in a room with a low ceiling in an annex of the VA. The scanner looked like C-3PO exploded. Residents started arterial lines and took blood samples for input functions. The room next door housed banks of Sun supercomputers. After just four hours of acquisition and overnight processing, we actually had tomograms of regional glucose utilization in the brain. Fantastic.

But, “the report of [our] death [as a specialty] was an exaggeration.” (Mark Twain). Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging is cooler than ever, and is poised to bring more effective measurements of physiology needed to diagnose and stage disease, produce effective treatments, and assess disease treatments' efficacy. PET has become “conventional imaging” (ACRIN 6660 trial compares whole body MRI to conventional imaging which includes PET/CT), and is growing rapidly except in cardiac applications. I suspect that this will change, with dedicated cardiac PET scanners under a million dollars being marketed directly to cardiologists, superiority of PET imaging over SPECT, and especially that now cardiac PET is reimbursed \$1000-\$1200 better than cardiac SPECT.

The line between radiology and nuclear medicine is being blurred. With the advent of the three year nuclear medicine residency, an equivalent of one year body imaging training may make nuclear medicine physicians eligible to be credentialed to interpret body imaging studies independently. Private practices may be more willing to hire a nuclear medicine physician if they can also interpret CTs. Interpreting PET/CTs requires us to have knowledge of neuroradiology (brain and CNS, head and neck) and body imaging (thoracic inlet to pelvis).

I took the correct fork in the road. We should be proud as a specialty for contributions of nuclear medicine to patient care. Endeavor to Persevere (Chief Dan George, “Outlaw Josie Wales,” quoting what Abraham Lincoln told them during their visit to Washington, DC. Of course, after thinking about it for a while, the Cherokee declared war on the Union.).

Hadyn T. Williams, MD, FACNM
President, Southeastern Chapter, SNM
Medical College of Georgia

2011 Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine Annual Meeting Update Jon A. Baldwin, D.O.

The 2011 SEC SNM Annual Meeting will be held September 22-25, 2011 at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort in Clearwater, Florida. As the one of the individuals helping to determine the program for this event, I am happy to provide this (very) preliminary overview of the topics to be covered at the meeting. As the education of residents and technologists is a priority for the chair and committee, we would like for the meeting to incorporate this theme in addition to the traditional “bread and butter” review of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging subjects. As such, some of the proposed subject matter for the meeting will include conflicts & debate in Nuclear Medicine and Radiology, including proposed changes to Authorized User status, Nuclear Medicine Residencies and the current job market, and looking at the question of who is going to perform and interpret combined modality molecular imaging. There will also be a section on sharing the “best practices” of technologist and resident education—a sharing of the education community of novel and innovative instructional procedures to optimize the experience of our students and residents.

There is also a proposal where program directors of both residency and technologist training programs invite their residents/students to prepare a talk to be given at the 2011 meeting. These submissions would be judged by a panel of “experts” (to be determined), and the best entries will be chosen for presentation at the meeting. We are doing this as an attempt to encourage scholarly activity amongst our trainees. More details of this project will be forthcoming as the structure is finalized.

Hope to see you in Clearwater!

SNM
Advancing Molecular Imaging and Therapy

SNMITS
Advancing Molecular Imaging and Therapy

SEC Proposing Bylaw Amendments

With the Southeastern Chapter Council's approval, James Patton, PhD, Vanderbilt, Chair of Constitution and Bylaws is submitting several proposed changes to the SEC by-laws. The detailed revisions are available on the SEC website at www.secsnm.org, with the official vote on these amendments taken during the business meeting at the SEC Annual Meeting to be held October 29-31st at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham, North Carolina.

In summary there are three proposed amendments, the first related to membership classifications. Currently, the bylaws provide a complete description for each category which mirrors the language in the bylaws of the SNM. Each time the SNM adds categories or changes the description of categories, it requires an amendment to the Chapter bylaws. The proposed change would remove the detailed descriptions and replace it with language to the effect that unless otherwise specified in the Chapter bylaws, the membership categories and descriptions would be those included in the SNM bylaws. The SNM did, in fact, change several provisions in their bylaws which makes the timing of the Chapter amendments appropriate.

The second amendment clarifies the Technologist Section President's membership on the SEC Council. Currently the appointment is indirect as it is designated as part of the Chapter's representation on the SNM House of Delegates which are the President of the Chapter and the President of the Technologist Section. The proposed amendment specifically indicates the Technologist Section President is a member of the SEC Council as it currently indicates that the Technologist Section President-elect and National Council Representative are members.

The third amendment streamlines the process for amending the bylaws. The current language calls for a vote of the membership plus a vote at the annual meeting. The proposed amendment calls for distribution of the proposed amendments to the membership with the vote taken at the annual meeting. Again the entire bylaws showing the proposed amendments can be reviewed on the Chapter website, www.secsnm.org.

Mark Your Calendar Future Meeting Dates

2010 Southeastern Chapter Annual Meeting

October 28-31, 2010
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Durham, North Carolina

SNM Conjoint Mid-Winter Meetings

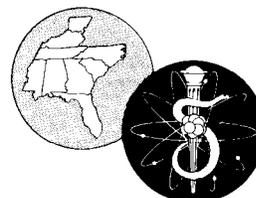
January 20-23, 2011
Palm Springs, CA

SNM 58th Annual Meeting

June 4-8, 2011
San Antonio Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas

2011 Southeastern Chapter Annual Meeting

September 23-26, 2011
Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort
Clearwater Beach, Florida



*Plan to attend the
2010 Annual Meeting
of the
Southeastern Chapter Society of
Nuclear Medicine*

October 28 - 31, 2010

Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Durham, North Carolina

Technologist Section News

Editor: Cynthia E. Brodnax CNMT, NCT, RT(R,CT)

SECSNM-TS President's Message



Laura K. Norman, CNMT, PET

Planning is almost complete for the 51st Annual SEC Meeting in Durham, North Carolina at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center October 28-31, 2010. Our program chairs this year, Robert Pagnanelli, Norman Bolus and Dr. Robert McDonald, have been working hard on an exciting educational program. In addition to the main program, there will also be two technologist workshops on Thursday, Nuclear cardiology and CT. On Saturday evening, we will be providing transportation to Raleigh's entertainment district where

there are plenty of restaurants and lots of fun attractions. Be sure to register early for the meeting! You can find meeting information, make hotel reservations, and register on-line at www.secsnm.org.

Once again, the SEC had strong representation at the 2010 SNM annual meeting in Salt Lake City with leaders from the executive board to committee members. I would like to send special congratulations to the following SEC members: Kathy Hunt - President of the SNMTS, Danny Basso - Presidential Distinguished Service Award and a 2nd place JNMT article, and Norman Bolus - Educator of the Year and a 3rd place JNMT article.

This past year, the SEC-TS began working on a new strategic plan that will help us to align ourselves with the future of the SNMTS and also to set a path forward for our future leadership. We have accomplished many of our goals and continue to make progress on others. Our committees have been hard at work this year in working to improve our chapter and to keep us informed of the issues that face nuclear medicine.

Advocacy – We are in the midst of a big CARE bill push and we are closer than we've ever been.

By-laws – Our new by-laws are now available on our website.

Academic – The deadline for posters is the first week of October.

P&P - We are working on digitizing our policies and procedures.

Membership – The SNM posted the proposed amendments to the SNM Bylaws in the May edition of Newline. Based on the comments of the SNM Membership, the SNM Leadership agreed to amend the full membership category to include pharmacists. The revised language reads. . . **“Physicians, or scientists or pharmacists possessing an advanced degree who have presented credentials indicating their professional activity, either medical, paramedical, investigational or educational in the scientific or clinical disciplines of**

molecular imaging or nuclear medicine concerned with the diagnostic, therapeutic or investigational use of radionuclides, may join the Society as Full Members.”

Strategic Planning – We are working on building our strategic plan and will have that available on our website when it is completed.

Local Groups – Our states continue to have very strong annual meetings, many of which Nancy McDonald DeLoatch and I visited this past year. Our chapter will be working with local nuclear medicine groups to be a supportive resource and to help with dissemination of information.

Three Southeastern Chapter NMT Students receive Paul Cole Scholarships.

Three NMT students from training programs located in the Southeastern Chapter were selected to receive the 2010 Paul Cole Scholarships. The scholarships are named in memory of Paul Cole, CNMT, who served as President of the SNM Technologist Section (SNMTS) in 1986 and who was known as a champion of education for technologists.

Recipients of the \$1,000 scholarships are:

Patrick Jackson & Katrina Sheets, Medical College of Georgia

Amber Lindars, University of Alabama at Birmingham

The selection process is administered by the SNM-TS with funds provided by the Education and Research Foundation of the SNM. Each year the SNMTS Executive Board appoints a scholarship committee of nuclear medicine technology professionals to evaluate scholarship applications. All applicants' personal and institutional information is blinded when reviewed by the Awards Committee to ensure an unbiased evaluation.

To be eligible for the Paul Cole Scholarship, candidates must demonstrate a financial need, be enrolled in or accepted into an institution accredited through the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) To see if your institution is accredited with JRCNMT, please visit their website at www.jrcnmt.org. This award is open to students in associate, baccalaureate, and certificate level programs. Candidates must have maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale or a B average in a Nuclear medicine technology core curriculum. Further information may be obtained from the SNM Development Office at 703-652-6795, or at www.snm.org



**Message from the SNM-TS
President
Kathy E. Hunt, MS, CNMT**

Kathy Hunt, MS,
CNMT

I have had the pleasure of working alongside my friend and colleague, Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT, since 2006 when I served as president and Cybil served as president-elect of the Southeastern Chapter. We continued working together on the SNM-TS Educator's Committee on the Entry-level Task Force. Last year, I had the opportunity to serve with her again as she assumed the role of president and I assumed the role of president-elect of SNM-TS. Cybil has demonstrated effective leadership skills in guiding our section through tumultuous times. Her commitment to serving the field of nuclear medicine and the technologists she represents has been inspiring. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud her numerous successes during the past two years as she served as president-elect and president of SNM-TS.

Now, it is with great excitement that I enter into the SNM-TS presidency. I have come to understand how important the SNM-TS membership is to the ultimate success of our profession. SNM-TS makes it possible for nuclear medicine technologists to have a voice on issues that have a huge impact on our profession. Over this next year, SNM-TS will continue to look to its membership for expertise in imaging modalities from CT to MRI and advocate for health care issues from credentialing to reimbursement.

This past year has truly been a tough one for nuclear medicine technologists, as we are continually plagued by the decreasing job opportunities. This situation is largely due to the decreased availability of Technetium-99m and decreasing reimbursement for procedures. The pending changes from health care reform and the slow recovery of the economy are not making this time any easier for us. SNM-TS is doing everything it can to support its members during this time. We are constantly monitoring the evolution of health care reform and working diligently to secure the future domestic supply of Mo-99. The Awareness Campaign, "Got ^{99m}Tc?", has been successful in promoting the domestic supply of Mo-99 to the general public, government officials and health care professionals. The passage of the American Isotope Production Act of 2009 is an important issue for our profession, and we must do everything we can to work toward getting this bill passed by the senate.

Other advocacy initiatives involve strengthening relationships between SNM-TS and grassroots NMT organizations. If we combine our efforts, we can have a unified voice to accomplish the goal of advancing our profession. We should also be looking to proactively build relationships with accrediting, credentialing and regulatory agencies to ensure that nuclear medicine technologists have the necessary tools for maneuvering in the changing world of health care. Through these initiatives, I am confident SNM-TS will remain the professional organization of choice for nuclear medicine technologists.

We will also focus on continuing to improve collaboration between the chapter and national levels of SNM-TS on advocacy issues and increase the roles and responsibilities of State Health

Policy Liaisons (SHPLs) to include assisting technologists on how to navigate through the legislative policy system within their state. Over the next year, one of my goals is to call on the SHPLs and SNM-TS members to take the lead on working the state level to further develop state licensure for NMTs. Currently, only 26 states have established standards for nuclear medicine technologists. These initiatives can only be achieved by speaking with a unified voice to our regulating agencies, legislators and health care reformers. SNM-TS is the voice representing nuclear medicine and nuclear medicine technologists. Under the leadership of Cybil Nielsen, year one of the strategic plan is off to a great start! I will work diligently to continue the momentum she has established for our organization. As we take on the myriad of challenges facing us during the upcoming year, I believe if we work together, we can turn these challenges into opportunities and nuclear medicine technologists will come out on the other side—more unified and stronger than ever!



Norman E. Bolus,
CNMT, MPH

**SECSNM-TS Treasurer's Report
Norman E. Bolus, CNMT, MPH**

The SECSNM-TS continues to benefit from many of the leadership having dual roles in both the SECSNM-TS and the SNM-TS. This fact alone has allowed the SECSNM-TS to be under budget for the past few years. While membership is down for the SNM-TS in 2010 as a whole and this has affected our income it has not affected our budget this year to date. We remain on budget for 2010. As my four year commitment of being treasurer comes to an end, I look forward to a smooth transition with whoever is elected treasurer at this year's SECSNM meeting.

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SNM-TS

Advancing Molecular Imaging and Therapy

**SNM's Technologist Section Announces
Award Winners**
***Technologists recognized for outstanding
education and service to the nuclear medicine
profession***

Reston, Va.—SNM's Technologist Section (SNMTS)—an international scientific and medical organization—recognized the contributions and work to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging during its 57th Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. Several awards ceremonies were held to recognize the value that SNMTS members play in advancing the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, cancer and neurological conditions.

"It is a pleasure to honor the contributions made by these talented nuclear medicine technologists," said Kathy Hunt, MS, CNMT, SNMTS president and assistant professor and program chair of nuclear medicine technology, division of allied health at Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis, Tenn. "Nuclear medicine is a vital element of today's medical practice, and these award winners embody the dedication and commitment needed to advance our profession within the health care system."

SNMTS Outstanding Educator Award

Norman E. Bolus, CNMT, MPH, was named the 2010 SNMTS Outstanding Educator. The Outstanding Educator Award recognizes an SNMTS member whose contributions and knowledge have advanced and promoted the field of nuclear medicine technology through outstanding work in education. Bolus received \$750 and was presented with a plaque.

Bolus is the director of the nuclear medicine technology program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the School of Health Professions, where he is also an assistant professor in the department of clinical and diagnostic sciences. His career in nuclear medicine began in 1989, when he worked as a technologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital's nuclear medicine department. Bolus made the jump to education a few years later and has held several roles as an educator, including teacher's assistant, instructor, assistant professor, clinical coordinator and program director.

Bolus has been involved with SNMTS by serving on many committees, including the Educational Curriculum Guide Task Force, Educators Transition Task Force, NMAA Committee, Student Membership Task Force. This year, he served as chair of the Educators Committee. Recently, Bolus developed a podcast on thallium stress test protocol to provided SNMTS members with a quick refresher on how to use alternative testing for radionuclides that are not available.

Presidential Distinguished Service Award

Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT, FSNMTS, manager at Cardiac Imaging of Augusta, Augusta, Ga., was awarded the SNMTS Presidential Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes an SNMTS member who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to the field of nuclear medicine technology. Basso was presented with a plaque.

As chair of the SNMTS Advocacy Committee and a member of the SNM/ACNM Joint Government Relations Committee, Basso has been instrumental in providing SNMTS with support and guidance on issues that affect the regulation, legislation, practice standards and reimbursement of nuclear medicine. Over the past several years, Basso has been involved with SNM and SNMTS in several capacities of leadership, including serving on the SNM House of Delegates and the SNMTS Executive Board. In addition, Basso serves as a director-at-large of the SNM National Council of Representatives and Board of Directors.

Basso belongs to the Southeastern Chapter of SNMTS and recently served as treasurer of SNM's Cardiovascular Council. He has also served as a member of the editorial board for *Uptake*—the SNMTS newsletter—and a member of the Publications Committee. He also serves as associate editor of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. Basso is also a past chair of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board.

SNMTS Fellowship Awards

The following individuals were inducted into the Fellow category. These are members of the SNMTS who have demonstrated leadership and have made a significant contribution to the profession of nuclear medicine technology at the national level. SNMTS selects Fellows based on demonstrating exemplary contributions in the following areas: participation in professional activities, education, professional experience, professional contributions and civic activities.

Fellowships are awarded at the SNMTS Annual Business Meeting each year during SNM's Annual Meeting. SNMTS Fellowship awardees receive a memorial plaque and pin signifying their Fellow status.

Royal T. Davis, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS, has been the technical director of the nuclear medicine division at Children's Hospital, Boston, for more than 30 years. He is a graduate of the St. Barnabas School of Nuclear Medicine Technology. He has published 13 peer-reviewed journal articles, five book chapters and has presented abstracts at dozens of international, national and local meetings. He has organized the pediatric technologist teaching sessions at the SNM annual meetings for many years. He has recently coauthored several articles on dose reduction in children and is a member of the dose reduction committee of SNM's Pediatric Council. Davis has also served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*.

Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS, is an assistant professor/clinical coordinator for the Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences program in the College of Health Related Professions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock and served as the 2008–2009 president of SNMTS. A past president of both the Missouri Valley Chapter of SNMTS and the Southwest Missouri Society of Nuclear Medicine, he has held—and continues to hold—numerous committee appointments. Recently, he was selected as the Missouri Valley Chapter Executive Director and chair of the Transition Task Force for the SNMTS.

Award Winners Continued...

Leo A. Nalivaika, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS, is the educational coordinator/clinical instructor in the nuclear medicine technology program at Worcester State College, Worcester, Mass. He is also the senior staff nuclear medicine technologist at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Nalivaika is active within the New England Chapter of SNMTS and has held numerous professional positions, including chief editor of the *New England Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* and historian emeritus. He received a bachelor's degree in natural science/nuclear medicine technology from Worcester State College and a master's in business administration from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass.

Rebecca A. Sajdak, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS, is a senior staff technologist and computer specialist at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill. She is currently a delegate-at-large for the SNMTS National Council of Representatives and served on the Nominating Committee, which oversees the nomination and election process for the organization. She also serves on the Technologist Educators Subcommittee for SNM's Clinical Trials Network. She previously served on the Continuing Education Committee and Bylaws Committee. Sajdak received an associate of science degree from the nuclear medicine program at Triton College, Northlake, Ill., and a Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University in Chicago.

LisaAnn Trembath, MSM, CNMT, CCRA, NCT, FSNMTS, most recently served as manager of medical affairs at Collectar, a radiopharmaceuticals company in Madison, Wis. Trembath has been active nationally in SNM and SNMTS, and has served as president and chair of the Finance Committee for SNM's Central Chapter SNMTS. She has served as a member of the SNM Brain Imaging Council, the Scientific and Teachings Committee and has chaired the Government Relations Committee. She also served as a member of the Nominating Committee for the Wisconsin Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists and as a reviewer for the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. She currently chairs the Site Orientation Committee for SNM's Clinical Trials Network. She received a bachelor's degree in natural science from Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., and a master's degree in science of business management from Cardinal Stritch University in Madison. Trembath is a certified nuclear cardiology technologist (NCT) and certified clinical research associate (CCRA).

SNMTS President's Plaque

Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT, is the nuclear medicine technology program coordinator for Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, Ky. In recognition of her service as the 2009–2010 SNMTS president, she was awarded the SNMTS President's Plaque and gavel.

Nielsen served as the president of the Southeastern Chapter of SNMTS in 2007–2008 and has held numerous committee appointments. She served as chair of the SNMTS Educator's Task Force and a member of the SNMTS Advanced Practice Task Force. For three

consecutive years, she was an SNMTS state health policy liaison. She has also served as co-chair of the SNMTS Entry Level Taskforce and as a member of the SNMTS Awards and Grants Committee. Nielsen received a master's of business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind., and a bachelor of health science in nuclear medicine technology from the University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky.

JNMT Best Papers for 2009

The *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology (JNMT)* selected the following three research papers to win the "Best Papers for 2009" category. The first-place winner received \$500 and a plaque, the second-place winner received \$100 and a plaque and the third-place winner received a plaque.

First place:

Tezontl Rosario, Michel C. Öllers, Geert Bosmans, Dirk De Ruyscher, Philippe Lambin, and Andre Dekker
Phased versus mid-ventilation attenuation corrected respiration correlated PET for patients with non-small cell lung cancer. *J Nucl Med Technol.* 2009;37:208–214.

Second place:

Danny Basso, Gregory Passmore, Michael Holman, Ward Rogers, Leslie Walters, Thomas Zecchin, and Jayme Butler
Semiquantitative Visual and Quantitative Morphometric Evaluations of Reduced Scan Time and Wide-Beam Reconstruction in Rest-Gated Stress SPECT Myocardial Perfusion Imaging. *J Nucl Med Technol.* 2009;37:233–239.

Third place:

Norman E. Bolus, Remo George, Johnnee' Washington and Bradley R. Newcomer
PET/MRI: The Blended-Modality Choice of the Future? *J Nucl Med Technol.* 2009;37:63–71.

For more information and for photos of the award winners, visit <http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=9831>.

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2010 Annual Meeting
of the
Southeastern Chapter Society of
Nuclear Medicine*

October 28 - 31, 2010

Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Durham, North Carolina



SNM National Council of Representatives Report
Sheila A. Knepfle, BS, CNMT
SECSNM-TS National Council Delegate

Beautiful Salt Lake City was the site of the SNM National Meeting in June. Educations sessions included great lectures and many discussions by the National Council of Representatives. Regulatory, education, strategic planning, membership, job shortages and the Tc99m shortage were the main topics discussed by the NCOR. One main topic discussed was a potential for an exception to the USP 797 regulation that would allow for tagging of red blood cells by technologists in their labs. The SNM and SNMNTS are currently working diligently to have this exception added to the regulation.

Sheila A. Knepfle, BS, CNMT

The current technologist job shortage remains a great concern to SNMNTS and its members. Continued decline in reimbursements, merging of labs, downsizing, and the weak economy has decreased the number of jobs that were available and the number of new graduates still remains steady. There are simply not enough jobs to employ those that have been cut and all the new graduates. Due to this a few of the schools have decided not to accept students this year.

The current Tc99m shortage remains to affect the nuclear medicine community. The SNM and SNMNTS advocacy committee continue to legislate for a US based reactor. ICANL and the SNM both have webinars for assisting technologist in the use of Thallium 201 for cardiac imaging. Another concern is the decrease in SNMNTS membership and attendance at the Mid-Winter and National meetings. This has impacted the SNMNTS budget and could impact the number of programs that the SNMNTS can perform. Remember that now, during these critical times for nuclear medicine, your membership dollars can help the SNMNTS and SNM advocate crucial governmental issues that can assist you and our profession.

I would like to end this report with special congratulations to several SECSNMNTS members for their recognized accomplishments. They are: Danny Basso CNMT, NCT, FSNMNTS awarded the SNMNTS Presidential Distinguished Service Award and 2nd Place Best Papers award, Norman Bolus CNMT, MPH awarded the SNMNTS Outstanding Educator Award and 3rd place Best Papers award. and, Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT the SNMNTS President's Plaque. Kathy Hunt is now our SNMNTS President. Congratulations again to each of you for your dedication to the profession and the SNMNTS and representing the SECSNMNTS so honorably.



Advocacy Report
Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT,
FSNMNTS
SECSNMNTS Advocacy Chair

Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT, FSNMNTS

As the Advocacy Committee continues to push for the passing of the CARE bill, we are also going to work on a state by state approach. Working with the SNM's State Health Profession Liaisons (SHPLs) and the Council of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) we are going to push for consistent state regulations.

One of the goals this year is to have a SHPL working with a member of the CRCPD in every state to assure state regulations require individuals to at least meet a minimal standard to perform nuclear medicine procedures. Changing the regulations can be done much easier than creating new laws and in the end can provide the same desired outcome.

A new program, "SNMNTS Advocacy 101" is available for presentation at your local meetings. This presentation has current information about health care reform, the Care Bill, accreditation, USP 797 and more. It also includes information on some of the SNMNTS's actives to deal with the ever changing health care environment. For information about this program, please email dbasso@knology.net.

College Reports

St. Vincent's News
 LeRoy H. (Chip) Stecker, III
 Nuclear Medicine Technology Program

St. Vincent's Medical Center's Nuclear Medicine Technology program currently has seven students looking forward to graduating in December. They represent the second class to complete the program under the revised format to include CT education. Following the first iteration, the CT didactic portion was slightly revised and now includes about 70 classroom hours. Students also receive a minimum of 160 hours of clinical education in a dedicated CT department in addition to a minimum of 200 clinical hours in PET/CT. While taking the CT certification exam is not a graduation requirement, students are encouraged to log their studies toward that end. We feel that this extensive knowledge makes our students well-prepared to meet the present and future demands of the field.

We have recently chosen our 13th class of the program. We will be welcoming six new students on September 7 of this year. They are scheduled to graduate in December 2011.

College Reports continued

University of Alabama at Birmingham NMT Program Norman E. Bolus, MPH, CNMT

The University of Alabama at Birmingham NMT Program graduated 15 students in May, 2010: Adam Adkinson, Ryan Cox, Areej Fino, Yvonne Flaherty, Regan Grimm, Nicole Haynes, Amber Lindars, Jenna Lunday, Marion Mitchell, Brittney Orr, Jay Roberson, Adrian Rogers, Tifani Elrod, Krystle Worthington, and Joanne Wright. Regan Grimm received the UAB NMT Program Mallinckrodt Outstanding Student Award for overall outstanding student performance throughout the program both clinically and scholastically.

Yvonne Flaherty received the Michael A. Thompson Outstanding UAB NMT Scholar Student Award for having the highest programmatic GPA and Brittney Orr received the Ann M. Steves Outstanding UAB NMT Clinical Student Award for being the best overall clinical student. Seven of the graduating seniors stayed on to participate in the first CT and MRI concentrations now associated with the NMT Program.

Krystle Worthington who presented a poster at the SECSNM annual meeting last September in Birmingham, Alabama and received 3rd place at the SECSNM meeting presented her poster at the Society of Nuclear Medicine Annual Meeting (SNM AM) in Salt Lake City. She was sponsored by the SECSNM, SECSNM-TS and the Alabama Society of Nuclear Medicine with travel awards which enabled her to go the SNM AM. In addition, Krystle was also honored with being chosen as the undergraduate speaker at the May 2010 afternoon commencement exercises at UAB. Amber Lindars received a Paul Cole Scholarship from the SNM-TS and a junior UAB NMT Program student, Jessica K. Allen, received one of two Mickey Williams Minority Student SNM Scholarships. Several junior students received an Alabama Society of Nuclear Medicine Founder's Scholarship at the annual meeting in April, they were: Jessica Kayla Allen, Jessica Brothers, Precious Hatcher, Brittany McGee and Kernesha Weatherly. Finally, Norman E. Bolus was honored by Cybil Nielsen at the SNM AM as being chosen as the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Educator Award from the SNMTS for work as Educator Committee Chairperson and service to the SNMTS associated with the Educators' Committee among other service to the SNMTS.

Chattanooga State Community College Nuclear Medicine Technology Program Leesa Ross, MA, CNMT, PET, RT(N)

Chattanooga State Community College's Nuclear Medicine Technology Program currently has 11 students scheduled to graduate August 10, 2010. The students are located in Atlanta, GA; as well as Bristol, Chattanooga, Johnson City, Kingsport, and Nashville, TN. The students have been very active this year within the profession, while also taking the time to participate in community service activities. They performed fund raising by selling t-shirts and badge holders, in order for them to attend the Nuclear Medicine Technologist of Tennessee (NMTT) meeting and Student Registry Review Workshop.

At the NMTT meeting Jonathon Grindstaff, RT(R) won 3rd place in the poster competition for his research on the history and benefits of the Care Act. Not only did the students raise enough money to attend the review workshop, they also raised enough funds to visit the Bodies Exhibit and Dialogue in the Dark exhibit in Atlanta, GA. Both exhibits added to the classroom experience on anatomy and understanding modifications individuals must make in their lives when faced with certain challenges—such as loss of sight. In between raising money to support their own needs, they also sponsored a family in need within the community, contributed to the area food bank, and assisted in a Haiti relief effort.

In addition to preparing students for the advances in the field, especially as it relates to hybrid imaging, the faculty within the NMT program have been busy obtaining CT clinical competencies; in order to prepare themselves for the future of nuclear medicine imaging. The new group of students which enter the NMT Program at Chattanooga State in August 2010 will follow the new JRCNMT Standards, as well as any changes the NMTCB and ARRT have made within their requirements.

Need to contact us?

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College Reports continued

Baptist College of Health Sciences Donna Mars, M.Ed, CNMT, NCT Assistant Professor/ Clinical Coordinator

The Nuclear Medicine Class of 2010 participated in the Student Seminar during the Nuclear Medicine Technologist of Tennessee Annual meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Jessica Jones, a BCHS senior, placed third in the oral presentation competition. Her paper was entitled *Myocardial Perfusion Imaging as the Primary Diagnostic Imaging Tool for Coronary Artery Disease*. Duong Nguyen, also a BCHS senior, received honorable mention by placing first in the clinical nuclear medicine category on his scientific poster entitled *Incidental Finding while Differentiating Hip Infection from Aseptic Loosening*.

In April, six nuclear medicine students were awarded the Bachelors of Health Sciences degree during commencement ceremonies for Baptist College of Health Sciences. Five of the nuclear medicine students wore honor cords recognizing their outstanding academic performance. During the ceremony, several of the nuclear medicine students from the Class of 2010 were recognized for their academic achievements. Kendall McDaniel and Keri Williams wore special honor cords which recognized their recent induction into the Alpha Eta Honor Society. Saphia Jaffery was selected by the Allied Health faculty to carry the Allied Health gonfalon during the commencement ceremony. This honor is given to an Allied Health student who has demonstrated excellent academic performance and outstanding leadership at the college.

Once the diplomas were awarded, the honors continued for the Nuclear Medicine Class of 2010 when graduation awards were presented. Three of the six graduation awards went to students majoring in nuclear medicine. Ms. Jaffery received the Board of Directors Award, recognizing her outstanding academic achievement and potential for leadership in healthcare. Ms. McDaniel received the Sarah Ainsworth Award which honored the graduate with the highest grade point average in the sciences while enrolled at the College. The John Rockett Award, which honors a nuclear medicine graduate who has demonstrated outstanding performance in research methodology and a commitment to excellence in clinical practice, was awarded to Jessica Jones.

The abilities of the Class of 2010 were also reflected in the NMTCB scores. The first-attempt pass rate for the class was 100%. The high standard of the class was proven to be true by the NMTCB scores. Three students passed the NMTCB with highest distinction while two passed with distinction! Congratulations Class of 2010!

Finally, congratulations to Kathy Hunt, Program Chair of Nuclear Medicine at Baptist College of Health Sciences. During the SNM annual meeting in Utah, Kathy was sworn in as SNMTS president. With Kathy's outstanding leadership skills and commitment to the nuclear medicine profession, I know she will do an excellent job in this position.

Medical College of Georgia Nuclear Medicine Technology Program Mimi Owen, CNMT

Congratulations to the 2010 graduating class of the Medical College of Georgia NMT program. Several have secured employment even in this difficult job market, but we still have some excellent grads who are looking. These NMTs are ACLS certified and have much PET/CT experience. Contact Mimi Owen at mowen@mcg.edu for referrals.

We are proud of Junior student Katrina Sheets who won first place at the SNM meeting in Salt Lake City for her poster "**Sentinel lymph node detection in melanoma of head and neck versus of extremities**". Katrina worked with Dr. Raghu Halkar and his residents at Emory to conduct this interesting research.

And lastly, we at MCG are thrilled to announce our collaboration with University of Arkansas Medical College, University of Missouri, and St. Louis University in the NICE Consortium. Faculty at MCG will be conducting online courses and overseeing clinical rotations for students enrolled in the Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate program.



*Plan to attend the
2010 Annual Meeting
of the
Southeastern Chapter Society of
Nuclear Medicine*

October 28 - 31, 2010

Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Durham, North Carolina