



President's Message

Edward A. Eikman, M.D

Politics for Nuclear Medicine

“Clinical PET is Here” proclaimed the banner on the journal. Dr. Ter-Pogossian had taught me about his first PET scanner when I was in medical school; now here it is, about to revolutionize medical care!

The headline, from the January 1991 JNM, was not quite precise. In the

US, it took another decade for clinical PET to really arrive. While stymied in the US, PET spread quite nicely into the clinic in Europe and Japan; we took longer to overcome political barriers.

This 2008 political year should remind us to look after our politics for nuclear medicine practice. Most of the resolutions I made for this year are tinted with politics. If you agree with any of these, you can start any time.

A. Focus on clinicians: the physicians, PA’s, NP’s and all the others who entrust us with their patients.

Answer the question. This is not easy¹. I need help. To begin: clinicians do not tell us what they are thinking, or give us all the information we need. Only the technologist has a reliable chance to interview every patient. Information from the patient and whatever other sources are available to the technologist or physician determine how accurately I can surmise the question. We are looking now into structured requests to get at the question. We will fail if we seem to require more work from the clinicians. Meanwhile, we must do whatever is necessary to answer the question.

Write clear, simple reports².

Better know clinicians. Beyond the obligatory urgent reports, I resolve to make one extra call a week – to a different clinician. After discussing the case, I ask a few questions: are we doing our job for your patients? Are our reports timely and useful? Do our patients report any problems?

Promptly see every clinician who visits the department. This is the one interruption I invite³.

Never place a clinician on hold. Take the information, and call back when ready to respond.

Some departments save open slots every day for add-on’s: not emergencies, but important enough in the mind of the referring clinician for same day examination. This goal eludes us, despite data that availability trumps every other index of service, and despite the compelling economics of the cost of lost referrals. (Every market is competitive. The clinician may choose another path, even when we seem to have a monopoly.)

B. Focus on the patient:

When caring for a patient I may not answer the phone. I will now respond when I can do so without diverting attention from my examination interpretation or other service. The phone forwards to an assistant⁴ who gets the information and a call back number. I have become more efficient and focused. We are investigating working this into text messaging.

Listen to patients.

So far this year, I have introduced myself to one extra patient a day. I meticulously identify the patient, verify numbers on the arm band, make eye and hand contact, and address them by *title and full name*. I borrow an opener from Queen Elizabeth: “Did you travel far to get here?” I can usually place the patient in the universe, in more than one sense, from the answer. Then: “Did we send you printed instructions, and did they help you?” “Was scheduling convenient?” “I see from the requisition that Dr. X is interested in Y. How did this come about?” If appropriate: “Was the test what you expected? How can we do better?”

I am considering, but have not done: selective distribution of stamped envelopes with patient report forms addressed to me.

(cont. page 2)

In This Issue

<i>President’s Message</i>	1
<i>Technologist Section News</i>	6
<i>State Reports</i>	8
<i>48th Annual Meeting Registration</i>	Insert

(President's Message cont.)

When asked on her deathbed, "What is the answer?" Gertrude Stein famously replied "What is the question?"

Quoting Charles Russell MD (SE chapter member) "A clear report might be right, but if it is wrong, we can learn something. An unclear report is always wrong, and we cannot learn anything from it." Quoting Albert Einstein (not SE chapter member) explanations should be "...as simple as possible but no simpler..."

Those who greet the visitor often help by determining the status of examinations in question, and retrieving the relevant examinations and reports for more efficient visits.

See #3, adapt to phone situation.

C. Build the Team: Nuclear Medicine as a clinical specialty is more defined by technologists than by physicians.

Find resources to offer each technologist continuing education commensurate with their interest, on company time. This turns out to be difficult.

Share the satisfaction of doing a good job, recognize contributions of others. Nuclear medicine practice is more of a team effort than other medical practice; accordingly, the SNM more than any other medical organization welcomes technologist participation. We must further build the team, individually and as a group. The technologists in the SE chapter are more visible and involved at the annual meeting. Trends are favorable.

Support professional organizations. No one else understands, and unless informed, no one else cares about our specific issues. I do not feel guilty if I do not do much for every organization: Dues and membership alone helps a lot. For select missions for which I have actual time, energy, and passion, I do more.

Find a practical, efficient mechanism to educate for nuclear medicine physicians who need mentored training in CT to read diagnostic CT combined with PET-CT, and for radiologists who need more PET training. *(An exciting announcement on this may be issued after this article goes to press. Contact me for an update.)*

E. Communicate within the SE chapter:

Questions we need more ideas on:

How can we better communicate? Could you stand to get some spam once a month? (I admit, I don't check the SNM communities much. When I have the urge, I find that I have forgotten how to find it. Then there may be nothing new.)

How can we help our training programs? These outstanding programs are our lifeblood. I take pride that I contributed to the initiatives that led to establishing the CNMT credential. The credential is meaningful; to remain so, we must continue to recruit high quality candidates, and carefully prepare them for rewarding practice and for continued evolution of skills. What do the educators need from the chapter?

You define the issues that your chapter should address. My most important job as President is to listen to your concerns, questions and ideas, and help formulate a response. Please share your thoughts and suggestions with me at edward.eikman@moffitt.org. I shall respond.

Edward A. Eikman, MD, President SE Chapter SNM

¹When asked on her deathbed, "What is the answer?" Gertrude Stein famously replied "What is the question?"

²Quoting Charles Russell MD (SE chapter member) "A clear report might be right, but if it is wrong, we can learn something. An unclear report is always wrong, and we cannot learn anything from it." Quoting Albert Einstein (not SE chapter member) explanations should be "...as simple as possible but no simpler..."

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⁴See #3, adapt to phone situation.



Warren G. Sarrell, M.D.

Dr. Sarrell's Contributions Continue

Dr. Warren G. Sarrell, a Charter Member and Past President of our Chapter; and a still active member of our governing Council for more than 30 years, was supposed to be retired from clinical endeavors. But with too much energy to lie still and a true physician's concern for the health of children in his beloved State of Alabama, he decided to continue his healing efforts where it was sorely needed, to improve the dental

health of needy children. Dr. Sarrell has established The Sarrell Regional Dental Center for Public Health in Alabama. This Center provides free dental services to all children of ages 3 through 20 who are covered under Medicaid. The program has become such a success that the Center has been expanded to three cities near his hometown of Anniston, AL. His many friends who attended our annual meeting in Atlanta last October had the pleasure of visiting with Warren and his beautiful wife Lela who dropped in to hear some lectures. We in the S.E. Chapter are extremely fortunate to have the friendship of the Sarrells.

V.J. Sodd, Ph.D.

Dr. Delbeke nominated as President of our Society



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.

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

Dr. Dominique Delbeke's Presidential Platform Statement

I am seeking the office of SNM presidency to continue working on key issues for our specialty.

My goals are to improve patient care by:

- 1) Improving reimbursement
- 2) Addressing regulatory and funding challenges to bringing new biomarkers to bedside by expanding collaborative efforts between FDA, NIH, industry and professional societies

- 3) Developing educational materials and guidelines in collaboration with other societies and facilitating national and international outreach.

I believe reimbursement will be based on establishing practice guidelines and participating in MOC, two areas where I have contributed. Educational programs for SNM members will fill an essential role in meeting new requirements. I also have significant experience with the SNM, serving on the BOD, HOD, and various committees, as well as joint task forces with other societies fostering important relationships. I serve on the ABNM which expands my experience in new requirements for certification, MOC and related educational needs. As BOD member of the SNM Education and Research Foundation, I have worked to improve funding. I have worked on SNM programs developing procedure, training and credentialing guidelines in hybrid imaging, thus providing a pathway for nuclear physicians to interpret the CT portion of hybrid imaging. Sections of these SNM guidelines have been adopted by other organizations (ACR, Germany and EANM).

I will continue to work on SNM programs that will have a positive impact on improving patient care and expanding job opportunities for NM professionals. I would consider it an honor to serve the SNM membership as your next vice-president-elect.

Chapter Honors Dr. James A. Patton



James A. Patton, Ph.D. was presented the Marshall Brucer Award at our October 27, 2007 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. This award recognizes outstanding service to our Chapter and contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. It is named after Marshall Brucer, M.D., our first Chapter President, who was the Chairman, Medical Division, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, and who is considered as the "father" of nuclear

medicine in that he had more influence on the development of this field than any other individual.

Dr Patton, a past President of our Chapter, is Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University. He has co-authored eight textbooks, 76 book chapters and 82 journal articles. He has been an outstanding leader of our Chapter for many years, and continues in guiding our governing Council.

V.J. Sodd, Ph.D.

A Capitol Hill Visit For Nuclear Medicine

Although we saw the capital dome in countless painted sets on news programs and movies, the real thing in 3-D causes a little catch in the throat. We, the Florida delegation for the SNM “day on the hill” program, recognized the high point when we saw the United States Capitol Dome, window-framed from Congressman Young’s office. We had just completed a frantic trek: cram course on issues by pros from ACNP/SNM/ staff at the Washington convention center SNM 2008 annual meeting, bus through mid-day traffic swarm, discharge on the hill – remote enough to obviate any bus-sized suicide-bombing intent – just close enough to find the offices on schedule.

Our assignees, Congressman Young and Senator Nelson were off on their respective legislative duties. We met with senior (appeared to be 16 years old) staff who were tasked to meticulously listen to our petitions, and rehearse the key points for relay to the boss. We left concise position papers to start a file, and back up the oral presentation.

Over 100 other SNM participants completed similar missions that day.

The ACNP/SNM issues, which share support with the ACR, the RSNA, the AAPM, and others, are three:

CARE Legislation

Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. The legislation emphasis is patient protection by ensuring qualified personnel, especially technologists.

CARE bill (H.R.583) was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 19, 2007 by Representative Mike Doyle (D-PA 14th) and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.583 would require personnel performing the technical components of medical imaging and radiation therapy to meet federal education and credentialing standards in order to participate in federal health programs, such as Medicare. Passage of the bill would result in enhanced patient safety and a higher quality of medical imaging and radiation therapy services. In several states, no training at all is required.

Update

This legislation is still in progress, and will be before the congress this spring 2008. It is not too late for you to get your opinion in, for quality personnel in health care.

Contact your Representative to support the House CARE Bill, H.R.583 (click link if you are on a web site, or enter <http://capwiz.com/snm/issues/alert/?alertid=9314126> in your browser.)

Contact your Senators to support the Senate CARE Bill, S.1042 (click link if you are on a web site, or enter <http://capwiz.com/snm/issues/alert/?alertid=9597101> in your browser.

Restore research funding for **Nuclear Medicine research**. The science of our colleagues in government and university laboratories is our lifeblood. They create the knowledge that we and our commercial colleagues use to better care for our patients.

Funding cuts, initiated in 2005, would deplete about 30 million dollars in federal research funding. This would decimate the programs in basic nuclear medicine research that over the past 60 years contributed so much to medical care advances, such as FDG-PET.

Update

On December 26, 2007, the president signed an appropriations bill that partially restored cuts. For fiscal year 2008, the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee report included \$34 million for the DOE Office of Science / Office of Biological and Environmental Research Medical Applications and Measurement Science program, restoring \$20 million explicitly for nuclear medicine research. However, the House version of energy appropriations did not address funding for basic research. In the end, the final bill (after a Senate-House Conference) included \$17.5 million for nuclear medicine funding restoration. This is a recurring issue. Watch for alerts and instructions on how to re-target our support for basic research. To see when you are needed: go to the SNM (snm.org), click through to government relations website, and then click legislative action center. (Or if you are reading this on an active electronic page, you can access a link to go to <http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=6503&RPID=7119>. (Typing this much is hopeless, but you can put it on your favorites list, if you ever get there, for easy return).

Delay further **Medicare imaging cuts**. Each year, CMS payment cuts must be fought, to maintain access for Medicare, and ultimately all patients to medical care. This concern is shared by all of medicine, and our few percent of the picture could easily be overlooked. We must have a presence. The Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2007 # H.R.1293 and # S.1338 are sponsored by Representative Carolyn McCarthy and Senator John Rockefeller respectively, with many bi-partisan co-sponsors. The quality of cost effectiveness analysis behind the cuts is sketchy, so the bills propose moratoria on further cuts while more perceptive analyses can be completed. The web sites cited above show the pathway for you to contribute to this debate.

Conclusions

The careful preparation by the ACNP/SNM governmental affairs staff was reflected in the smooth and effective way over 200 visits were carried out. Credit Hugh Canon and staff at SNM for this. We felt that as the direct representatives of their Florida patients, the congressional staff was intent on learning our perspective, and the personal introduction to the issues brought impact to our views. They had the time and focus to actually learn what was behind our issues.

How were we singled out for this critical, fascinating task? We simply volunteered when asked. The ACNP/SNM staff sought help from anyone and everyone in the profession. Other SE chapter members participated as well, visiting their own politicians. The SNM staff made it easy to look proficient and informed. It was a privilege to serve, and any one of us from our membership would have been welcomed to share this privilege. Look for similar opportunities. Use the SNM Government Affairs web pages to keep up, and respond by email or in person when asked.

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By Carol Bonanno BA, CNMT and Edward A. Eikman, MD, President, SE Chapter.

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 June 1, 2006 to:

James R. Galt, Ph.D.
Nomination Chairman
Emory U. Hospital
1364 Clifton Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30322
jgalt@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 1, 2008 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 For Leadership

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:

James R. Galt, Ph.D.
Nomination Chairman
Emory U. Hospital
1364 Clifton Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30322
jgalt@emory.edu

Chapter Office Nominations:

National Office Nominations:

Technologist Section News

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



President's Message

Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT

I am very proud to be serving as the President of the Technologist Section for the Southeastern Chapter. The Southeastern Chapter is a strong chapter that continues to grow. We are unique from other chapters in that each of the states within the southeast has organized their own inde-

pendent nuclear medicine societies. Between Aaron Scott (President-Elect) and me, we have set a goal to attend as many of the state meetings this year as possible and we look forward to meeting you. I will be visiting South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida this spring and Kentucky in the fall. Aaron has already visited Mississippi and plans to attend the Georgia meeting in the spring. We are still trying to fit North Carolina and Alabama on our calendars.

The Southeastern Chapter is currently looking for a new Executive Director. If you know of anyone who is interested in taking on this huge responsibility, please contact us. We appreciate the work that Dr. Vince Sodd has done for us and wish him well. We are also grateful that he has agreed to stay on to mentor the new Executive Director to ensure a smooth transition.

I recently represented the SEC Technologist Section at the SNM Midwinter Meeting. There are many things going on in our profession and it's the perfect time to become involved. Probably the top three priorities are: advocacy, education and mentoring new leaders. There is considerable work being done in each of these areas. The SNM-TS is working very hard to ensure that PET/CT and SPECT/CT is performed by individuals who have received the proper training and education. A new curriculum for entry level technologists will be coming out this year that includes PET/CT, SPECT/CT and other emerging technologies. In addition, we hope to begin the first Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate program this fall! There is a lot of work to be done and the SNM-TS is investing resources in training new leaders through a Leadership Academy.

The SEC annual meeting planning is underway and we are on track for an outstanding program. The program chairs this year have worked tirelessly. In addition to the main program, we will also be offering two technologist workshops: Nuclear Cardiology and PET/CT. Educators are also welcome to attend an educator's forum to address issues directly related to educators.

For more information on any of these topics or if you would like to become more involved in our society, please contact me: cnielsen0001@kctcs.edu. Looking forward to seeing you in Clearwater!

Report from the President-Elect

I would like to express my gratitude for being elected the new President-Elect for the Southeastern Chapter SNM-TS. I would like to thank Cybil Nielsen for mentoring me and getting me prepared to take on my current and future responsibilities as a regional officer. I have had the privilege of attending two meetings after assuming my responsibilities. Those meetings were the Mississippi State Meeting in Jackson, MS and the Mid-Winter Meeting held in Newport Beach, CA. At the Mississippi meeting, the guest speakers were of exceptional caliber. Many topics were covered to include Cardiac Nuclear Medicine and its future and Radio-Immunotherapy. The staff members were very committed to producing a high-quality meeting.

At the Mid-Winter Meeting one of the major discussions was the growing concern about US Pharmacopeia (USP) General Chapter <797> Pharmaceutical Compounding – Sterile Preparations. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is deeply concerned with the potential negative impact this will make on both our patients and the healthcare industry. To bring facilities into compliance will require significant expenses for new equipment and increase the cost of

radiopharmaceuticals. This was my first attendance to a Mid-Winter meeting and I must say it will not be my last!

I plan to attend as many state meetings as possible to observe the virtuous techniques the other chapters have to offer. Not only will I have the opportunity of attending the Alabama State Meeting in April, the board members were gracious enough to let me be a part of their program. This job has been very exciting and very rewarding and I look forward to what is next in store for me.

Aaron T. Scott, BS, CNMT

National Council Delegate Report of the SNM's Annual Meeting

Sunny and chilly Newport Beach, California was home of this year's SNM Midwinter Symposium. The educational sessions included information about the USP-797 sterile compounding, new instrumentation and radiopharmaceuticals for molecular imaging, cardiovascular imaging, accreditation, effects of the DRA, new aspects of PET, radionuclide therapy, and gastric emptying. Thank you Danny Basso, SNM Program Chair, for organizing a great Midwinter Symposium education track.

Five new technologist award categories were approved to cover travel expenses for technologists' first-time oral presentations at the annual meeting, completion of a bachelor's degree, enrollment in an advanced practitioner program, student travel, and clinical advancement to gain the appropriate education additional modalities (such as CT, MR, etc.). Details are on www.snm.org under Grants, Awards, and Scholarships.

The Master's program for advanced nuclear medicine degree will have a name very soon. The potential name is Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate. Also, the competencies and curriculum for this new degree are scheduled to be approved this year. As the name becomes official watch for information on our website.

The SNM has formed a leadership academy to mentor members into leadership roles. The selection process will include chapter involvement.

The SNM is developing an "English/Spanish Guide to Nuclear Medicine Procedures: for patients. This book should go to press this month.

Also the SNM has released a new free online publication called SNM SmartBrief that brings a summary of the most important and timely news stories affecting nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. News arrives daily and links to the full story article are provided. For information email Lynn Barnes at lbarnes@snm.org.

The CARE bill was to be voted on February 14th by the Senate subcommittee it sits in, but three societies including the ACC sent a letter on at the 11th hour and contested it. The Bill is now to be voted on February 27th.

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held June 14-18 in New Orleans, LA. Registration is now open and inexpensive hotels are still available. Please book your hotel rooms early to get the best rates.

Next year's Midwinter Meeting will be in our own backyard in Clearwater, Florida at the Hilton Clearwater February 5-8, 2009. I encourage everyone to try and attend and to also sit in on the governance meetings to give input so your voice can be heard.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Council Delegate.

Cindi Luckett-Gilbert, MHA, CNMT, PET, RT(N)

Report from the Advocacy Chair

By the time this prints we will know whether the CARE Bill has passed the Senate subcommittee and its schedule for the House subcommittee. The Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (AQMIRT), of which the SNM is a co-founder, is a coalition of organizations banded together to get the CARE Bill passed. This organization performed three very successful virtual marches on the Hill to gain attention to getting this bill passed.

Two important regulatory issues are making an impact on our profession and changing the face of practice of nuclear medicine technology. The first of these is the USP-797 which is a chapter from the US Pharmacopeia. This chapter defines sterile practice standards for compounding radiopharmaceuticals. It basically states nuclear medicine hot labs must be as clean and sterile as labs in your hospital including the addition of a HEPA filter, laminar flow hood to compound radiopharmaceuticals, low residue chux pads, no lab coats because they shed lint, no make-up while compounding and much, much more. All technologists must be educated and checked for competency annually regarding sterile techniques. Since so many organizations are interpreting this chapter differently, understanding the exact ramifications is difficult. The SNM is providing information through lectures; some were held at the recent Midwinter Meeting in California, some will be held at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, and some will be available online in the near future.

The second regulatory issue is the Medication Management from The Joint Commission (TJC). Again, this is giant topic of which many professional organizations are interpreting many different ways. This Joint Commission national patient safety goal is enforcing the review and reconciliation of any medication a patient is taking to any radiopharmaceutical or contrast the patient receives. Most hospitals are already on board with this concept. The confusion comes with the "first dose review" and who performs it. Some organizations state that a radiologist in your facility must personally initial/sign off on each patient prior to a patient receiving any radiopharmaceutical or contrast, both of which are now considered medications. The order from the referring doctor is not enough; a radiologist/pharmacist at your hospital must review everything first. Other organizations state since radiologist made protocols are utilized in each department, the technologists compare the list of medications against the protocol and if a patient falls out of the protocol the radiologist is consulted. In essence, the radiologist or pharmacist does not have to sign off on every single case. As this gets clarified, as with the USP-797, information from your Southeastern Chapter will be published on our website www.secsnm.org.

I am looking for individuals from each state to be experts I can use as resources for issues affecting nuclear medicine in your state. This includes licensure/certification, pharmaceutical administration, USP 797, Joint Commission surveys, etc. If you feel this is you, contact me at isotoper@msn.com.

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

State Reports

Attention Educators

Mark your calendars for Thursday Sept. 25, 2008. This is the date for the next SECSNM Educator's Forum which will be held from 1-5pm at the same location as the 2008 SECSNM annual meeting. More information regarding topics will be posted on the website soon. If you have any questions, or any suggestions, please contact Stephanie Land at: sland0002@kctcs.edu

Bluegrass Community & Technical College

Here in February, the 9 second-year students at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Lexington KY, are beginning to look towards graduation in May 2008. Between now and then, these students will display case-study posters at the KY Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists meeting Saturday, March 1. If past years are an indication, we will be making a trip to Cincinnati OH, to see a medical cyclotron run to produce F-18 FDG in April. Graduation is not only exciting but also a little worrisome because of the scarcity of jobs for the soon-to-be new graduates. We are trying to be hopeful although half of the 10 graduates from 2007 are not yet working in NMT.

This will be the first graduating class that will have to apply for temporary certificates to work in Kentucky after graduation based on the new state certification requirements for NMTs. Those of us who have already passed the boards will get to apply for Radiation Operator Certification around the middle of March. We have worked and waited for this for a long time.

The 8 first-year students are well into their second 10-week clinical assignments. The new has worn off, and the routine of the departments is starting to become a part of their routine experience. This is always an exciting time because the pieces of the nuclear medicine puzzle are beginning to come together for them, and their skills are starting to solidify.

Congratulations and best wishes to all new graduates in 2008.

Charles H Coulston, MEd, CNMT, RT(N)(R)
Program Coordinator, Nuclear Medicine Technology

Chattanooga State Technical Community College

It is another productive year at Chattanooga State. In January, Dusty York, Clinical Coordinator, started the first group of students in the online PET course. The course is three credits and provides an opportunity for technologists currently working in PET to broaden their didactic knowledge of the field.

In April, our 17 students will be attending the annual Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine meeting in Memphis, TN. The students have participated in fund raising events to pay for the trip and in the very near future will be selling t-shirts to complete their financial goal. Three of the Chattanooga State students will be submitting abstracts in a competition to present at the meeting and three other students will enter the poster competition.

The Chattanooga State program is a 12 months in duration; therefore the current students started in August 2007 and will graduate in August 2008. The students live within a 350 mile radius from Chattanooga and are able to perform clinic rotations in their home area. They attend didactic courses in Chattanooga every other week.

In our efforts to lead by example to our students, all of the nuclear medicine technology instructors at Chattanooga State have become PET certified. It is one of our main goals to encourage students to become active in our profession, as well as always remain current in the field.

Leesa Ross, MA, CNMT, PET, RT(N)

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences

The FHCHS program had a very successful 2007. Fifteen students completed the program in July. All of them passed the NMTCB exam on their first attempt. Nine of them passed with distinction. In June, two of the students presented papers at SNM Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

2008 is also of to a great start. There are seventeen students scheduled to complete the program in August. Two members of the class of 2008 submitted posters for the SECSNM Fall Meeting in Atlanta.

The program recently completed the re-accreditation self-study for the JRCNMT. We anticipate a site visit later this year.

Jefferson Community and Technical College

The Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) Nuclear Medicine Technology program's class of 2008 is gearing up for graduation this May. We will graduate 11 students from our 21-month Associate Degree program this year. We will also have 2 students graduate in July from our 12-month accelerated program for registered radiologic technologists. We have a very talented group of students and wish them the best of luck and success as they embark on their way to exciting careers as nuclear medicine technologists.

The students in our class of 2009 are participating in fundraising activities in order to raise money to attend the SNM annual meeting to be held in New Orleans this summer. They have created a web site www.alphabeta-gamma-ky.com and are selling shirts to raise money. Be sure to check them out – see picture. Our NMT student organization, AlphaBetaGamma, also elected new officers in January 2008. The new officers are: Terry Thomas, President; Kirk Reynolds, Secretary/Historian and Jennifer Adams, Treasurer

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

Finally, we look forward to the challenging task of selecting our incoming class for the Fall of 2008. 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 2008.



Class of 2009 wearing shirts they designed and are selling to raise money to attend the SNM annual meeting in New Orleans, June 2008

Methodist University Hospital School of NMT - Memphis

Congratulations to our 2007 graduates **Avery Behrle**, **Leslie Kniffen**, and **Gwen Lartevi**. They were truly an outstanding class and we wish them the very best.

Roy Foppiano, Melanie Robinson and John Stowers began their training in August and are currently working on papers and posters for the April Tennessee State NM Meeting in addition to all their other clinical and didactic assignments.

Applications are coming in for the 2009 class and interviews will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Nancy Clifton - Program Director

Midlands Technical College

We graduated 13 students from the Program in August of 2007. 100% of the class passed the NMTCB; 3 passed with "highest distinction", (1 with a score of 99%....**wow!**), 2 passed with "distinction". Congratulations to them all! We are in the mid-program cycle with this year's class who are a great group with much ambition and dedication.

The NMT Program at Midlands Tech was awarded "continued accreditation" from the JRCNMT in November 2007. The award is effective for a period of 4 years.

We have applied for and received our "Academic Radioactive Materials License" from the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control, Bureau of Radioactive Materials Licensing. The license allows us to possess sealed sources for dose calibrator QC and limited quantities of Tc99m and other radionuclides for performing QC testing and lab experiments. Also, we have ordered and are awaiting delivery of our "hot lab" equipment, which includes; 2 dose calibrators, 3 GM counters, a thyroid probe/ uptake system with well counter and MCA, an additional L-shield and other miscellaneous equipment.

We welcomed Mauren Kreiner, our clinical coordinator, back from maternity leave in November. Congratulations go out to her and husband Jim on the birth of Ella Caroline Kreiner!!!

Ray Wiegner, BSRT(R)(N), NMT Program Director

St. Vincent's Medical Center Program

With the upcoming May graduation of our 9th class, which has 7 students, we will have graduated over 50 nuclear medicine technologists from our program! We have recently begun our 10th class of the program. The class currently has five students. It will be the final class conducted under the current format. Beginning with the class to start in September, the program will increase from 12 to 15 months in length to accommodate didactic and clinical CT instruction. In addition, with that class we will only begin a new program in September of each year.

We have recently welcomed a new member to our nuclear medicine faculty. Mignonne Couturier has nearly 20 years of clinical nuclear medicine experience. She will fill in as a PRN clinical instructor while our full-time clinical instructor, Michelle Boyd, is on maternity leave later this spring.

LeRoy H. 'Chip' Stecker, III, Program Director
904-308-8484

Georgia Technologist Society

The GSNMT would like to thank its officers and council for their continued support and hard work. Their dedication allows us to consistently offer our state exciting meeting topics and innovative itineraries. We are currently accepting nominations for president-elect, secretary, and historian.

The 2007 meeting was attended by over 170 nuclear medicine professionals last May who enjoyed the Emerald Pointe Resort, Lake Lanier Islands, GA. After hours, attendees and vendors enjoyed a mock casino night with prize drawings, music, and hours of fun.

We are currently planning our 2008 meeting to be held at the King and Prince Resort, St. Simons Island, Ga, April 25-27th. We have a diverse line-up of speakers and will be offering 13 VOICE credits to attendees. The business luncheon on Saturday will consist of updates, voting, and by-law review. Students from programs across the state will be presenting their posters and will be awarded cash prizes for the poster and abstract submissions. As usual, we will be holding our annual golf tournament on Saturday. Please check out www.gsnmt.org for program updates and registration information.

Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist News:

2007 marked the 30th Anniversary of the TSNMT. To celebrate, a Founders Ceremony was held at the annual meeting May 4-6 in Nashville to honor six of its original founder. The meeting was an overall huge success with 228 total attendees. This year's meeting will be held April 11-13 in Memphis, TN. For registration details, more information, and TSNMT updates, check the TSNMT website: www.tsnmt.org.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center Program

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center is a 3 + 1 certificate/degree program. Students may enter with a Bachelor's Degree or enter from one of the school's affiliates (Belmont University, Austin Peay University, or Middle Tennessee State University receiving a certificate from the program and a degree from their home school when they successfully complete the program and all requirements.

On August 27, 2007 the school had its 28th commencement with the graduation of eight students. The students hailed from the states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas.

The students attended the state meeting in Nashville May 4, 2007. Beth Baggett won 2nd place for her oral presentation (one of five students statewide making an oral presentation selected from 54 abstract submissions) and Kaitlin Thomas won 3rd place for her poster (selected from 50 entries).

The 2007 class had a successful year and we congratulate them for their hard work. The class was very close and I am sure they miss each other and the staff and faculty miss them and wish them much success and happiness.

The 2008 class is composed of eight students from the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The class is busy getting ready for the state meeting to be held in Memphis, Tennessee this year April 11 – 13. They are scheduled to graduate August 25, 2008.

Rita L. Warren, CNMT, RT(N)(R), M.Ed. MPA, Program Clinical Coordinator

Winners from the SECSNM 2007 Poster Competition



1st Place

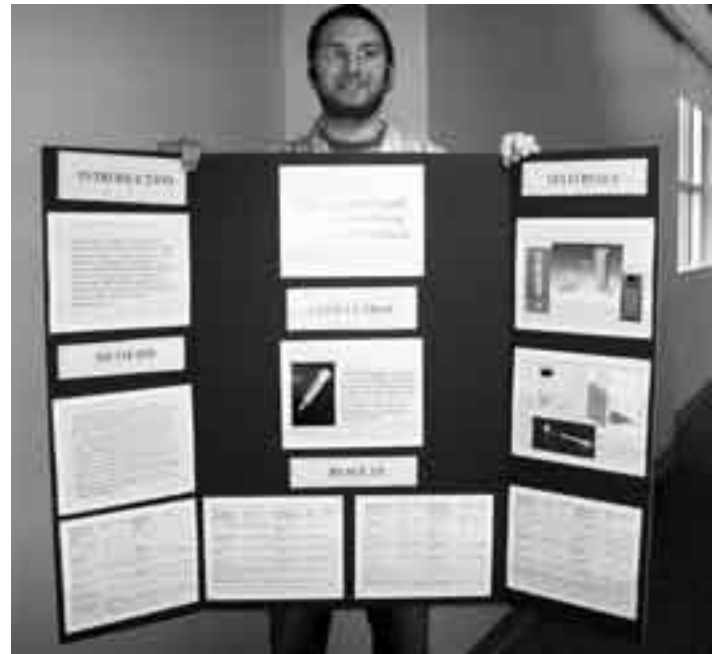
Kurt Thomas

Medical College of Georgia

The Possible Causes of Poor Tagging Efficiency in Tc-99m

RBC Kits

Kelli Knox, Kenda Miller

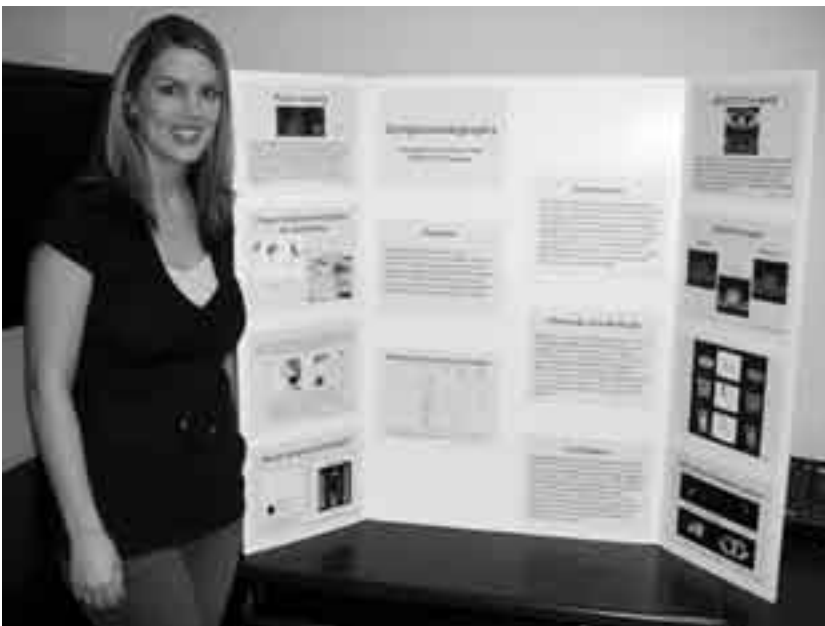


2nd Place

Michael Temple

Baptist College of Health Sciences

Dose Retention and Absorption of Four Technetium Products



3rd Place

Lori Johnson

Baptist College of Health Sciences

*Lymphoscintigraphy: Comparison of Planar and
SPECT/CT Imaging*

SNM

Advancing Molecular Imaging and Therapy

Southeastern Chapter

Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc.

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