Practice of medicine has changed and so has nuclear medicine.

In the past nuclear medicine reports made reference rarely to exact anatomic locations, instead used terms like “in the region of” etc. With SPECT/CT and PET/CT we are required to be more exact and precise. Now we often make mentions such as “lamina papyracea”, or “Level II A” node. We are attending more number of tumor boards and clinical case conferences. In the past even though the reports we generated changed patient management, rarely our presence was required in case conferences.

The patient’s presentation has changed. Often I hear senior physicians claiming that they made the diagnosis as the patient walked in the room without any tests or imaging. Probably that was true... because the patients presented at a late stage and diagnosis was written allover them....say a patient who has suffered hyperthyroidism due to Graves disease for a couple of years and has developed exophthalmia walks in and the physician did not need a battery of tests to diagnose. Now the patient presentation is early, the demands on the diagnostic imagers are high. Whether right or wrong everyone, patient including, thinks “early diagnosis leads to better prognosis”. It may be so in many instances but may not be so always.

Approach to patient management has changed because there are multiple options to achieve the same outcome. Now every cancer patient gets discussed in a multidisciplinary conference. I hope it has helped the patient...but I know for sure it has added increased burden on imagers. I know it has made my days longer. In the past we occasionally saw an endocrine fellow in the department interested in seeing nuclear images. Now we have a stream of cardiology and oncology fellows rotating through nuclear medicine logging cases.

There has been a different type of change in radiology (big brother of nuclear medicine)...at least in academic radiology. The super specialization has been increasingly organ based and not tool based eg. abdominal, musculo- skeletal, neuro etc and not MRI, U/S or CT. In large academic radiology departments a head and neck, chest, abdomen and pelvis CT (a whole body CT) for a lymphoma patient is read by three radiologists. This approach certainly gives the best interpretation of CT to the patient, but there is a fear of losing the holistic approach. A correct interpretation of the image may not always give a solution to the clinical problem if a holistic approach is not applied. Recently a senior radiologist jokingly asked me this question “Raghu, why not disband nuclear medicine section and let staff join abdomen, neuro and musculo skeletal sections and interpretation be organ dependent rather than tool dependent?” I smiled and said “Good idea. The only issue is metastases and lymphomas do not restrict to any part of the body or organs. More importantly it will be easy for other departments to take away all the turfs from radiology.” Often patient centric arguments go nowhere. But we all understand the turf and turf wars. If we continue to fragment images of the patient and just interpret the images and not have an idea of what is the clinical problem and not address the clinical problem; sooner or later imaging will be part of the clinical practice as it has happened in obstetrics, cardiology and orthopedics. Nuclear medicine knows it too well with nuclear cardiology and I feel we should not go that route again.

So as of now I feel we should not change the way we interpret whole body images like PET, bone scan or Indium WBC scan. But if I believe in the first line of this article, I should be open to change. For that I say “if in future patients themselves do not want a holistic approach and just want one of their organ fixed” then probably I will reconsider.

Toyota- the most successful automobile producer-in its practices and principles views all changes as experiments. Every change that is brought about voluntarily or involuntarily is assessed after a period of time. If desired effects have not taken place the change is voluntarily removed and the practice that was previously established is brought back. It also notes that in a conveyor belt type of production (other name for team effort) changes have ripple effects (upstream and downstream effects). It is important to identify and notify all the parties concerned about the possible effects of introduced change.

Digitization of images, speed, memory size and fast internet connections have landed us in the era of PACS, tele-radiology and outsourcing. File room issues were on the agenda of every clinical

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cal operation meeting a decade ago and now it has been replaced by PACS issue. PACS has brought a lot of good but also plenty of headaches. The issue of outsourcing is a large one and of concern to radiology as well. The short and long term implications are so many and I am neither qualified nor capable of addressing them.

Changes are inevitable. For most of us they bring a sense of uncertainty. Most often there is resistance to any form of changes and one way of making sure that the change brings about desired results is to make sure all the people involved in the process feel that they were party to bringing about that change. But most of us often overlook the new opportunities opened up due to changes. Let us watch carefully and make the best of the opportunities brought by the changes.

SEC SNM is not immune to changes. In the last few years we have seen significant changes. I am very happy to see that the technologist’s participation has significantly increased. We witnessed it in the last SEC SNM annual meeting in Atlanta. With more participation come more rights and also more responsibilities. I am sure energetic and active group of technologists we have in SEC will handle it well.

The society of nuclear medicine is contemplating to change its name. The delegates and members met during the mid winter meeting and pondered the need and consequences of changing the name. SNM has one of the largest pools of basic scientists, technologists and physicians who are equipped and trained to take the molecular diagnosis and treatment from laboratories in to clinical practice. If one branch of medicine deserves the incorporation of the word “molecular” in its name it is Nuclear Medicine.

Raghu Halkar, M.D.

DR. Y. TARCAN (1929-2005)

“Evolution and not revolution”... He often told me. I thought it was a waste on a laid back person like me. But it was a soothing lullaby whenever, I felt frustrated at the slow pace of change.

“Harmony!!! Halkar, harmony ...that is what a department needs. Anything achieved with loss of harmony cannot last long. A harmonious department will sing the song of success in the end for a long time”. The words still ring in my ears and I still struggle to find the rhythm.

Lunchtime was sacred for him. He made sure as many staff sat together and ate lunch with him and also made sure that we did not talk business during lunch hour. He taught me that we just don’t work with co- workers but with human beings.

True to his teaching we want to keep this brief and he will not agree more. Dr Yavuz Tarcan - better known as Dr T to all his fellows, residents and technologists was a man of few words and when he talked it was direct and to the point.

He was our teacher, but was more a friend. Of the many pains of growing old, losing old friends and inability to make new friends is the most painful.

Raghu Halkar, M.D. and William Fajman, M.D., Emory U. Hospital

BRUCER AWARD PRESENTED TO DR. NAOMI ALAZRAKI

Dr. Naomi Alazraki was the recipient of the 2005 Marshall Brucer Award at our annual meeting at the Atlanta Buckhead Sheraton Hotel on September 16, 2005. This award is the highest honor given by our Chapter. It 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. Alazraki for her outstanding accomplishments and leadership during her many years in the field of nuclear medicine, her contributions to our Chapter, and her commitment to our Society of Nuclear Medicine.

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:

Warren R. Janowitz, M.D.
Baptist Hospital
Dept. Radiology
8900 N. Kendall Dr.
Miami, FL 33176-6595
(305)596-1960 x4474
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The Midwinter business meeting of the SNM was held in February in Tempe, Arizona. It was a busy and exciting time. I participated in the Chapter Presidents Council, Advocacy Development, and the Council on Chapters (physician side). I was honored to be a voting member of the House of Delegates. The HOD meeting was very educational, more specifically, I witnessed the diversification of the parties involved in the decision making process. The proposed decisions made this body do in fact affect the profession on a national level.

Some of the highlights from Committee reports were:

1. **NMTCB** is reporting higher scores across the board in test scores. They are working with the ARRT in cross application of CEU’s.

2. **ARRT**: Each chapter will have autonomy regarding CEU’s but must be able to document presence of the attendee within 10 minutes of the start of each credit and at the conclusion of each lecture. After 10 minutes of the lecture elapsed, credit will not be awarded to the attendee even if he/she sits thru for the rest of the seminar.

3. **Professional Development Task Force** is working with local chapters to find interested members to join the volunteer workforce. Plan to implement Leadership and Mentoring workshops at the June meeting in San Diego.

4. **Bylaws Committee** has proposed to split the Secretary-Historian office into two separate offices.

5. **Entry Level Committee** has committed to a goal of 2015 for implantation of the B.S. entry-level minimum. New core curriculum is available for approval.

6. **Advanced Practice Committee** has announced that the 2-year programs will be starting up in 2007 in a University setting. The first year will be academic and the second year clinical. The committee anticipates the NMP student to be trained in MRI as well as CT for the future hybrid modalities.

7. **National Patient Safety Goals Committee** is working hard to protect our rights as technologists within the scope of our practice and keep abreast of JCAHO’s changing guidelines.

8. **Advocacy Committee** is keeping an eye on the medical management guidelines set by JCAHO and making absolutely sure the Scope of Practice is written within our professional training and credentialing.

By serving on the various committees that the society has to offer, I have had the opportunity to witness a wide cross section of the society’s membership. I have been amazed to find the high degree of commonality in terms of shared goals and desires between members in such geographically diverse locations such as Georgia, Kentucky, California, and Michigan. We all want to continue to develop skills that will allow us to not simply survive but to succeed in a volatile market place.

To serve on a committee, does not take a lot of time only the desire to participate and get involved in shaping your future. Much of the work is accomplished through e-mail, and conference calls.

As with any organization, membership is critical to our existence. Being active in your profession allows us to make a difference in the marketplace, which drives our livelihood.

I want to extend an invitation to **ALL** state presidents to try to bring along their president elect or other officer to our board meeting Thursday September 14th in Orlando. It is never too late to get involved. Your participation and state reports are an integral part of our overall success. Thank you!

Deborah M. Gibbs, BS, CNMT, NCT, PET, RT(N)

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PRESIDENT ELECT’S MESSAGE

I have weathered many changes during my 30 years in the field of nuclear medicine. Even so, this is an extremely exciting albeit challenging time for our profession. As an educator, it is vital to stay abreast of the changes in the practice as well as the educational needs to address those changes. The rapid expansion of technology is dictating the need for additional and standardized education in our field. My involvement in the Society of Nuclear Medicine is not only a way to give back to the profession but is also a way to have a voice in how these challenges are addressed. It is not only my duty but also my pleasure to represent you and our profession as President-Elect of the Southeastern Chapter.

As a member of the Executive Board for the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technology Section, I participated in several committee meetings prior to the Mid-Winter Meeting in Tempe, Arizona. The Entry-level Task Force discussed the core curriculum which was previously distributed to program directors for their input. The curriculum was approved after consideration by both the Executive Board and National Council of Representatives. The Entry-level Task Force will next develop a proposal for the professional curriculum to present at the annual meeting. The Advanced Practice Task Force reviewed the competencies associated with the masters-level Nuclear Medicine Practitioner (NMP). The next step of this Task Force is to develop the curriculum. NMP programs will possibly be offered as early as the Fall term of 2007 in several Universities. As chair of the Educator’s Committee, I facilitated a meeting to plan for events and continuing education programs directed toward technology students and educators for the annual meeting in San Diego.

Many issues and challenges are being addressed at the national level that will impact the practice of nuclear medicine technology.
As a chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and as individuals we need to rise to meet these challenges and have a voice in the direction our profession is taking. If you are interested in any of these topics and would like more information or would like to become more involved in these issues, please contact me by email: Kathy.thompson@bchs.edu.

Kathy Thompson, MS, CNMT

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES MID-WINTER MEETING REPORT

There are a lot of things happening on the national level of the SNM/SNMTS. This will be a brief report summarizing some of the things I feel are most important to technologists in the SEC that were discussed at the SNMTS NCR and the SNM HOD Midwinter meeting.

In both his NCR and HOD reports, the President of the SNM, Dr. Peter Conti stressed the need to move more towards molecular imaging. The SNM will need to rename or at least re-brand itself to focus more on molecular imaging. Industry has already done this, and the SNM needs to show that we are the leaders in this field. He encouraged the Technologist Section to broaden our membership base and educational opportunities to technicians who are not CNMT or ARRT(N) but are working in labs with nuclear medicine physicians doing research in the fields of molecular and optical imaging. These technicians are currently not represented by any professional organization.

The DOE has cut 14 million dollars out of the budget for nuclear medicine research. This is a huge blow to the field. This money supported the research for many of the tools currently used in general practice, such as SPECT, PET, FDG, Molybdenum generators and many others. Much of the current research for nuclear medicine, molecular imaging and optical imaging is currently going unfunded.

At the SNMTS National Council of Representatives, David Perry was re-elected as the Speaker of the House. The President Val Cronin and President-elect Scott Holbrook each gave a report about their active schedules representing the SNMTS all across the world. A brief review of the results from a survey the Data Analysis Committee did in 2005 was given. A random sample of 4000 NMTs were sent the survey. They received 2300 responses. This survey showed the average age of NMTs is over 35 years of age with men appearing to be older than women. There are currently more women entering the field than men. 85% of NMTs are Caucasian. 75% of the respondents believed that their education was adequate to perform their duties as NMTs.

As many of you are aware, the SNMTS made the recommendation that by the year 2015, the entry level of NMTs be raised to a BS level position. Bill Hubble has been spearheading the Entry Level Taskforce and he gave a brief report. The goal of the SNMTS is to help the one and two year certificate programs implement the BS entry level. They came up with the phrase, “Phase up not out”.

Martha Pickett followed with a report from the Advanced Practice Committee. They have been working very hard to develop a standardized curriculum for the Nuclear Medicine Practitioner program. The program will consist of one year of academic studies followed by one year of clinical. There are three schools that should be ready to start this program in 2007. The NMP programs will focus on all aspects of nuclear medicine rather than concentrating on one specialty.

Clearly this is not all that was discussed at the Midwinter meeting, but hopefully you can get a feel of what’s happening on the national level.

Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT, FSNMTS

SEVERAL CHANGES FOR TECHNOLOGIST CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

SNM Technologists who are attending SNM sponsored Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education (VOICE events) i.e. Southeastern Chapter annual meeting, SNM annual meeting. The SNM recommends you keep your paper certificate as event proof of attendance for 3 years. If you are a member of the SNM then the SNM will track your credits for 5 years with online access. See www.snm.org and go to Education to VOICE for more details.

You must be seated for a lecture before the first 10 minutes ends or your cannot get credit for attending a lecture.

The SNM Technologists who are certified through the NMTCB need to know the following:

• All SNM sponsored VOICE programs are accepted credits.
• January 1, 2006 starts the mandatory CE requirements.
• The NMTCB works with an even/odd certificate years.
• In 2006, odd-year Certificants will be required to collect 12 continuing education hours (CEH) to report on their 2007 certification renewal.
• In 2006-2007, even year Certificants will be required to collect 24 CEH to report on their 2008 certification renewal.
• In 2007-2008, odd year Certificants will be required to collect 24 CEH to report on their 2009 certification renewal.
• Certificants have a one time opportunity to change their reporting year.
• Go to www.nmtcb.org and click on home page article Review the CE Policy online.

The SNM Technologists who are registered technologists through the ARRT need to know the following:

• All SNM sponsored VOICE programs are ARRT category A credits.

The ARRT announced several upcoming changes to its CE regulations:

• Radiologic technologists will not receive CE credit for basic CPR classes completed after Jan. 1, 2007. The ARRT explained that basic CPR is a job responsibility, not a continuing education activity.
• Radiologic technologists will not receive CE credit for activities completed to meet JCAHO and OSHA requirements after Jan. 1, 2007. The ARRT explained that JCAHO and OSHA annual reviews are institution-specific and a job requirement, and thus do not meet the ARRT’s definition of a CE activity.
• Category B credit will not be accepted for CE activities completed after Jan. 1, 2008. Category B credit, also known as non-evaluated credit, is awarded to CE activities that have not been approved by a mechanism recognized by the ARRT. In announcing the change, the ARRT explained that Category A credits are available widely enough to warrant the phasing out of Category B credits.
• The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists has revised
its regulations concerning how credit is calculated for Directed Reading articles and other self-learning CE activities. Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, the amount of Category A credit awarded to a self-learning CE activity, such as a Directed Reading article, will be based only upon the time it takes an individual to complete the activity. The credit amount will not include the time it takes to complete the post-test.

- For more information please visit the ARRT website www.arrt.org/web/content.jsp?include=/new/ceclarification.htm

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**NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY SCHOOLS**

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM, BIRMINGHAM, AL**

Ten students in the class of 2005 have graduated and twelve students in the class of 2006 are in the first term of clinic. This is the inaugural year for the School of Health Related Professions Honors Program, a program designed to develop the future leaders in the allied health disciplines. Each student in the Honors Program is required to participate in a research project that culminates in a presentation at a professional meeting or in a publication in a professional journal. Erin Ferguson of Dothan, Alabama is the first NMT student to participate.

*Ann Steves, Program Director*

**BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE COCONUT CREEK, FL**

Broward Community College has a Nuclear Medicine Associate of Science Degree Program (2 years) and a Certificate Program (1 year). The first students came in 1995. The Certificate Program is the second year of the A.S. Degree Program. Last year fourteen (6 A.S. Degree and 8 Certificate) students graduated in June 2005. The students secured employment in South Florida.

The 2006 Nuclear Medicine Class has fourteen students (8 A.S. Degree & 6 Certificate) and they will be making PowerPoint presentations of their term papers at the FNMT Meeting in Tampa and at two meetings in South Florida. Each student must do a twenty minute presentation on a Nuclear Medicine topic to include background information, radiopharmaceuticals, instrumentation and case studies. The second year students will be attending the Academy of Molecular Imaging Annual Conference in Orlando; March 25-29, 2006. All second year students have taken advantage of the one year free membership offered by the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

*Lorenzo Harrison, Program Director*

**FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ORLANDO, FL**

The FHCHS program had a very successful 2005. Eighteen students completed the program in July. All of them have gone on to find employment locally and around the country. In June, three of the students presented papers at SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto.

2006 is also of to a great start. The college has nearly completed construction on the $11 million Campus Center. This new building will house new classrooms, laboratories, and offices for the nuclear medicine program as well as the other imaging and therapy programs. The building is scheduled to be finished in April.

*Joseph Hawkins, Program Director*

**MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, MIAMI, FL**

Miami Dade College started a Nuclear Medicine Technology program in 2003 with a track for an Associate in Science degree and College Credit Certificate. The certificate track is intended for Radiologic Technologists who are interested in cross-training in Nuclear Medicine. The first Class of Nuclear Medicine Technology students began in the fall semester 2003 and fourteen students completed the program in December 2004. Student capacity is 15 students per year. The application deadline is February 15th and the start date is the summer semester. The program has eleven clinical sites in Miami Dade County.

*Greg Ferrenchak, Program Director*

**ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAVANNAH, GA**

There currently exists a national shortage of all allied health care professionals. This is especially true for nuclear medicine technologist. For several years local health care systems have had to augment their full time nuclear medicine technology staff with temporary staff supplied by employment agencies. The cost to employ these temporary employees has placed a strain on local health care system budgets.

Local area health care systems approached Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU) where there is a current shortage that has plagued the state of Georgia and specifically the city of Savannah. Because the university is committed to higher education and supporting the community, the newly created Nuclear Medicine Track in the Department of Radiologic Sciences was established.

The Department of Radiologic Sciences conducted a national search from November, 2003-July, 2004. The Program Coordinator/Director began work at Armstrong Atlantic State University on August 11, 2004. There will be initially, one faculty member. Over time and after development of clinical sites additional faculty will be added as needed to appropriately grow the program.

From September, 2004- November, 2004 nine clinical sites were established in local and regional health care institutions. These sites include: Beaufort Memorial Hospital, East Coast Radiopharmacy, Hilton Head Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph’s Candler Health System (to include both Candler and St. Joseph’s Campuses), South Coast Imaging Center, Southeast Regional Health System, Memorial Health University Medical Center, and Trident PET of Savannah.

Courses for the Nuclear Medicine Track have been created by the Program Coordinator and approved by the Curriculum Committee and the AASU faculty.

Ten students were selected from a most impressive applicant pool. The notification letters were mailed. All of the selected students responded favorably and began the Nuclear Medicine program in June 2005.

*Rochelle Bornett Lee, Program Director*

**COOSA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, ROME, GA**

We had 8 graduates with the class of 2005 with 100% credentialing technologists and 100% employment!

The class of 2006 (13 students) is working on abstracts for the Georgia Society meeting in April at St. Simmons. The students are also selling nuclear medicine logo t-shirts to help finance the trip!

Our students all must be radiologic technologists before entering the program. Some are already experienced in CT. If not the
students will be offered a clinical CT rotation if needed during the last quarter to compliment the PET rotation.

Karen Fluharty, Program Director

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA, AUGUSTA, GA

Medical College of Georgia student NMTs have enjoyed a busy and exciting start to the new school year. Junior and certificate students from Atlanta, Athens, and Columbus joined their Augusta counterparts at a week long orientation in August. They plunged head first into their new profession! Currently, these students are choosing topics for group research projects and look forward to competing in the student competition at the GSNTM meeting in St. Simons Island in April. Senior students have just completed courses in CT and Advanced Cardiology, and are enjoying PET and PET/CT clinical rotations and look forward to a May graduation. Many have secured PRN employment already, and the future is bright!

The MCG NMT program is proud to report that it’s faculty have been highly involved in research and professional development at the National Level. Atlanta faculty, Krishnan Prabakaran, MS, CNMT, NCT received the second place award in nuclear cardiology for his presentation at the Toronto SNM meeting. Greg Passmore, PhD, CNMT received a $10,000 research grant from the PDEF of the SNM for investigation of depleted uranium in radioactive emission shielding. Mimi Owen, MHE, RT(N) has been actively involved in the Education Committee of the SNMTS and is instrumental in the ongoing compilation of competencies for the new advanced practice clinician, the Nuclear Medicine Practitioner (NMP).

We’re pleased to have David Simons, MS, CNMT, RT(N) as our new clinical education specialist in Augusta. David has a strong background in research and statistics and we look forward to his support in systematic analysis of the effectiveness of student clinical practicum and competency mastery.

Please contact us if you have interest in furthering your education to the baccalaureate level, and watch for information on the developing NMP program which we hope will become available in fall 2007.

Mimi Owen, Program Director

BLUEGRASS COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE, LEXINGTON, KY

The NMT program at Bluegrass Community & Technical College (formerly Lexington Community College) seems to be in a very good situation this year. There was an excellent candidate pool for the 11 clinical openings for the first-year class. There was a lot of interest and enthusiasm through the first semester of clinical assignments, and the technologists were very pleased with the first-year students. The majority of the second-year students are working hard to finish the list of ARRT competencies. Most will be done well before graduation is here....some will be working on them the last week of classes. Three of the 9 students who will graduate in May have semi-commitments to local jobs. That may be all that are going to be able to stay in Lexington. One has a job prospect at home a couple of hours from Lexington, and a couple of students are looking at surrounding communities. Several of the second-year students have been in the advanced imaging courses for cross-sectional anatomy and MRI. The CT course didn’t have enough enrollment to remain on the college schedule. Best wishes to all the new graduates both for certification exams and jobs.

Charles Coulston, Program Director

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE, LOUISVILLE, KY

Jefferson Community and Technical College offers a 2-year Associate Degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology. Our second year students are getting anxious as they will be graduating this Spring. Congratulations to our graduation candidates: Tammy Bird, Wendy Brodhead, Jennifer Cantrell, Katie Copeland, Linda Durham, Brandon Fuller, Michael Hollins, Aaron Moneypenny, Chrissy Papp, Angie Seyberth, and Omar Stanton. Three already have jobs in Nuclear Medicine and some have plans to return to school to complete their bachelor’s degree.

While the 2nd year students are preparing for graduation, the 1st year students are still becoming acquainted with Nuclear Medicine. They are in the process of raising funds for a field trip to the Southeastern Chapter meeting this fall.

Our program is very competitive and becoming more so every day. We have a plethora of applicants and the twelve students who are awarded admission each year are truly the best of the best!

Cybil Nielsen, Program Director

PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, GREENSVILLE, NC

Pitt Community College has a totally distance program with students from several states including CA, AL, MA, SC, FL, IL, and NC. The first time pass rate on the boards for the distance program was 98%.

For the campus program, we have maintained a 100% pass rate on the boards for the last five years. We have also hired Susan Moore as our first Clinical Coordinator. Last but not least, I am starting a program in PET. It is scheduled to start Fall 2006. It will be offered totally at a distance and in the classroom. A certificate will be offered for students who already have clinical experience and only need some courses. A diploma will be offered for students who need clinical. Admission into the program will require RT(N) or CNMT. I will be hiring for this position for the summer.

Scott Clinfelter, Program Director

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, COLUMBIA, SC

Hello from Midlands Technical College! Our students are beginning their second semester with full enthusiasm. They are preparing their exhibits and essays for the South Carolina convention in Greenville on March 10-12. If your department is looking for Nuclear Medicine Technologists, please connect with the students at the meeting.


Currently the NMT Program is undergoing a JRCNMT Self-Study. Thank You in advance to our clinical affi liates for helping through this time with the paperwork.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine has awarded two of our students with the Paul Cole Scholarship! The recipients are Nealy Cook and Melissa Dutton. Please join me in congratulating these ladies.

The NMTCB and ARRT - Nuclear Medicine have just reported
to us that our Nuclear Medicine Class of 2005 had a 100% pass rate on both exams. Congratulations graduates!

We are currently looking for a new Clinical Coordinator for our program. We are accepting applications for the vacant position. Qualifications include: minimum of 2 years of clinical nuclear medicine experience, must be NMTCB or ARRT(N) credentialed, bachelor’s degree preferred, PET experience preferred, and teaching experience preferred. For more information please contact me at hatchert@midlandstech.edu. Thank you to all the members of the society and the many companies who support our school, students and faculty! We appreciate you all! Submitted by Terry Hatcher, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC 803-822-3483.

**Terry Hatcher, Program Director**

**BAPTIST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, MEMPHIS, TN**

We want to say congratulations to our Class of 2005! This group of nine students continues to excel after graduation including two graduates passing the NMTCB with “Highest Distinction” and two passing with “Distinction”. All of the nine graduates have secured jobs in the metro Memphis area. Congratulations graduates - we are proud of you!

We have eight senior students who are excitedly anticipating their graduation on April 20, 2006. They are busy finishing up their course work and working on their research project. Our junior class has started their first trimester in clinical. Each of the nine students is excited to finally be working with patients and applying their new skills.

Kathy Thompson, Program Chair, has had a busy schedule. Due to a prolonged illness of our Dean, Kathy has been named Interim Dean of the Allied Health Division at Baptist College. In addition to her dual administrative roles at the College, she is currently a member of the Executive Board and the National Council of Representatives of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Other duties and assignments with the Society include serving as Chair of the SNMTS Educators Committee and participating in the Advanced Practice Task Force and Advocacy Committee. In addition to those duties, she is also the President-elect of the Southeastern Chapter. We appreciate her active involvement!

Currently, we are in the process of completing our re-accreditation self-study for the JRC-NM. We anticipate our site visit to be conducted in 2006.

**Donna Mars, Clinical Coordinator**

**CHATTANOOGA STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CHATTANOOGA, TN**

The Chattanooga State Technical Community College NMT Program Class of 2006 started in August 2005 with 18 students from within a 300 mile radius throughout the southeast. The students are placed in areas as far away as Bowling Green, KY; Opelika, AL; and Johnson City, TN. Several students from Louisiana joined the group this year and are transitioning well to the area.

The students plan on attending the Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine meeting in April, as well as submitting posters and papers for the student competition. The students may also participate in the Georgia State meeting, since we have several students from the Atlanta area.

Faculty news: Dusty York, BS, CNMT, ARRT (N) just returning from maternity leave after having a baby boy, Easton, in September and Leesa Ross, MA, CNMT, ARRT (N) being elected to the Board of Directors of the NMTCB for a 4 year term beginning January 2006.

**Leesa Ross, Program Director**

**METHODIST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, MEMPHIS, TN**

Members of the Methodist University Hospital [Memphis] School of Nuclear Medicine Technology 2006 class are Julie Black, Melissa Gray, Heather Grohmann, Nikki Robinson, Martina Vaughn, James Woepse. Class members are actively working on their poster projects for the April TSNMT meeting in Chattanooga and looking forward to meeting their counterparts from across Tennessee during the student seminar.

Congratulations to the 2005 class on their NMTCB board results. It was an OUTSTANDING year for all. The new CNMTs are: Milton Adams, Salena Couch, Taylor Hopkins, Tara Norman, Rachel Ross, and Jon Sullivan.

As summer approaches preparations continue for the incoming 2007 class.

**Nancy Clifton, Program Director**

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MEDICAL CENTER, KNOXVILLE, TN**

In July of 2005, the NMT program at UTMC graduated its 21st class of Nuclear Medicine Technologists. All passed the NMTCB certification exam on their first attempt, with four out of six receiving “pass with distinction” honors. In August 2005, seven new students began their year long training. John Reagan, Sammy Wilson, Lori Lawson, Dale Newman, James Avenell, Amanda McCoy and Kris Yarnell make up the current class. Each has chosen their project topic to be presented at the annual TSNMT education meeting in April 2006. The program has recently completed its JRC-NMT reaccreditation self-study and is readying itself for a site visit in 2006.

**Glenn Hathaway, Program Director**

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**STATE SOCIETY REPORTS**

**South Carolina Society**

South Carolina Technologist experienced a bountiful year. Our website has become an important media for information dissemination and it includes our newsletters, meeting information, links, legislative issues, pictures, board of director contact information, scholarships, and links to the SC and SNM.

We had a successful annual meeting that was held in Greenville, SC in March with attendees from Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina.

Our President’s Fall Seminar, offering 4 CEs will be held in October in Columbia, SC. This is free to SC members.

South Carolina technologist students in a JRC accredited program will always have gratis registration at our Annual Meetings. Our scholarship winner this year is Neely Cook.

We continue to address the state licensure issue pertaining to nuclear medicine technologists operating PET/CT equipment and how the state bill categorize those nuclear medicine technologists who successfully passed the CT registry. DHEC is South Carolina’s governing body as an agreement state, but SCQRSA, South Carolina Radiation Quality Standards Association, issues the licences
and makes decisions regarding such. Since our licensure bill was passed, we have had continued issues with radiologic technologists being cross trained to nuclear medicine. SCQRSA, policed through DHEC, mandates all ionizing radiation technologists to maintain a licensure in order to practice in South Carolina. However, within the policing definition of the bill, nuclear medicine was left out. So, law states a nuclear medicine technologist must hold a license but it is stated no where who will inspect those licenses and fine institutions when necessary. This is the body we are currently working with to insure our nuclear needs.

Karen Lauffer, President, South Carolina Society

Georgia Society

“This was the BEST Georgia State meeting ever.” The social events; winery, golf tournament and casino night, were a hit. “I felt so welcome and I got to meet a lot of new technologists.”

The Annual Georgia NMT was held in Brass Town Valley Resort in Young Harris, Georgia on May 14th & 15th, 2005. We had a total of 100 technologists and 12 vendors in support of our profession. Our lectures included topics from CT physics, Cardiac PE, Treatment Planning, the “Daunting” Future of our Profession, New Advancements in Nuclear Cardiology, and Cyclotron Production.

We said “Good-bye” to our dear friend and president Jean Mayheu, who has moved t he Buckeye State. We will miss her efforts and sincerity. We introduced our new website: www.gsnmt.org which we hope all our members will take advantage of for upcoming news and meetings. Our new President, Aaron Scott, CNMT, who is presently employed by Emory Health Care, will undoubtedly be an attribute to our officer panel. He has a lot of bright ideas cooking that will be unleashed at the 2006 Annual Meeting at the King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort in St. Simons, GA, April 21-23.

I personally want to thank everyone who was a huge help in the success of this meeting; Jeannie & George Yoder, Sheryl Wilhite, Connie Haney, Jeanette Cook, Jean Mayheu, Mimi & Glenn Owen and OUR VENDORS!!!

Deborah M. Gibbs, BS, CNMT, NCT, President Georgia Society

Tennessee Society

The 28th annual meeting of the TSNMT was held April 1-3, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee. Approximately 150 technologists attended the 3 day conference earning 10 CEs on such topics as Veterinary Nuclear Medicine. Did you know you inject a snake in the heart for a nuclear scan? Celebrating the fact that Tennessee produced the first radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine, t-shirts were available for ordering that bore the TSNMT logo and “Birthplace of Nuclear Medicine.”

Elected officers for the upcoming year were: Dusty York - President-elect, Leilani Eastman- Secretary, and Susan Swafford-Treasurer. Bonny Pendleton is the current President.

The 2006 meeting will be held in Chattanooga at the Chattanooga Marriott and Convention Center April 28-30, 2006.

Alabama Society

The Alabama Society NMT had an exciting year. On April 29-May 1, 2005 we had our 32nd annual ASNMT meeting in historic Mobile, Alabama. 8 CEs were offered to participants. The weekend events included dinner and tickets to the Mobile Explorium which housed the Dead Sea Scrolls for a brief US exhibition.

Danny Basso from the SNM installed our new officers; Normal Bolus-President, Jim Palmer- President-elect, Kirwan Price-Treasurer, and Aleshka Kerley- Secretary.

The ASNMT will have another Update Symposium on October 6, 2006 at the University of Alabama with 2 CEs offered. The 33rd annual ASNMT meeting will be in June 16-18, 2006 in Birmingham.

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