Advanced Practice in Nuclear Medicine:  
Physician survey results

Methodology
In August, 2007 a nine-question survey was distributed to physicians who supervise nuclear medicine technologists in Arkansas to ascertain physician interest in an education program for advanced practice in nuclear medicine. A follow-up survey was conducted in January 2008 of a more limited audience (clinical education sites for the Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences program in Arkansas).

Results
Summary: Six surveys were returned for a response rate of 50%. The central and northwest parts of the state were represented among the respondents, with the majority representing a general nuclear medicine department in a hospital setting.

Fifty percent of the respondents agree that there was need for a Master of Imaging Sciences degree program in Arkansas; an equal number (50%) disagreed that such a program was necessary. A smaller percentage of physicians were interested in participating as a preceptor or lecturer (16.7%) although there was interest (33.4%) interest in hiring graduates from such a program.

The following represents detailed results for each item on the survey.

1. Which of the following best describes your practice setting?
   71.4% Hospital setting, general nuclear medicine
   00.0% Outpatient Imaging Center Rural
   14.4% Outpatient Imaging Center Urban
   00.0% Cardiology Practice
   14.4% PET Imaging Practice
   00.0% Other

2. How many physicians in your group practice are board-certified in nuclear medicine?
   Average: 2.3

3. How many physicians in your group practice are board-certified in cardiology?
   Average: 0.17

4. How long have you been in practice?
   Average: 20 years
5. Do you agree there is a need for a Master of Imaging Sciences degree program that would prepare graduates in advanced practice in nuclear medicine in Arkansas?
   - 16.7% Strongly Agree
   - 33.3% Agree
   - 00.0% Undecided
   - 50.0% Disagree
   - 00.0% Strongly disagree

6. Would you be interested in participating in the education of advanced practice nuclear medicine professionals as a lecturer or instructor?
   - 16.7% Extremely interested
   - 00.0% Mildly interested
   - 00.0% Uncertain
   - 16.7% Mildly disinterested
   - 66.7% Not interested at all

7. Would you be interested in participating in the education of advanced practice nuclear medicine professionals as a preceptor or clinical mentor?
   - 16.7% Extremely interested
   - 00.0% Mildly interested
   - 00.0% Uncertain
   - 16.7% Mildly disinterested
   - 66.7% Not interested at all

8. Would you be interested in hiring a graduate from a program for advanced practice in nuclear medicine?
   - 16.7% Extremely interested
   - 16.7% Mildly interested
   - 16.7% Uncertain
   - 00.0% Mildly disinterested
   - 50.0% Not interested at all

9. In what part of the state is your facility located?
   - 66.7% Northwest Arkansas
   - 00.0% North Central Arkansas
   - 00.0% Northeast Arkansas
   - 33.3% Central Arkansas
   - 00.0% Southwest Arkansas
   - 00.0% Southeast Arkansas