Advanced Practice in Nuclear Medicine:
Technologist survey results

Methodology
An eight-question survey was mailed to nuclear medicine technologists in Arkansas to ascertain technologist interest in pursuing a master’s degree in Imaging Sciences with an emphasis on advanced practice in nuclear medicine. Names and addresses were supplied by the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Radiation Control, and represented all nuclear medicine technologists licensed in the state of Arkansas. Surveys were sent to 170 technologists with reminder notices sent to those who had not responded by the deadline. Technologists were allowed to return the surveys by fax or by mail in a postage paid return envelope. The survey was conducted in August and September, 2007.

Results
Summary: Fifty-three surveys were returned for a response rate of 31.2%. All sections of the state were represented among the respondents as were all types of facilities where nuclear medicine technologists and potentially advanced practice professionals might work.

Interest in enrolling in a Master of Imaging Sciences degree program was high among respondents to the survey. When asked about interest in enrolling in a Master of Imaging Sciences degree program, 47.1% indicated they were definitely interested or interested. If interested, 40% would like to enroll in the next two years, and another 38% would consider enrolling in the next two to five years. The principle reasons for pursuing the proposed degree was for personal satisfaction (49%) and a positive impact on potential income (42%).

Qualified applicants will most likely have to posses a bachelor’s degree, have graduated from an accredited (undergraduate) program in nuclear medicine technology, and have a minimum of two years of experience. Survey results indicated there was a very well qualified applicant pool for the proposed degree. Ninety-six percent of the respondents have a bachelor’s degree, 98% have graduated from an accredited program, and the average number of years of experience was 8.8 years with a median of 6 years.

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

1. Would you be interested in enrolling in a Master of Imaging Sciences degree program that would prepare graduates in advanced practice in nuclear medicine?  
   24.5% Definitely interested  
   22.7% Interested  
   32.1% Maybe  
   9.4% Not interested  
   11.3% Definitely not interested
2. If interested in the proposed UAMS program, how soon would you want to enroll?
   - Within the next two years: 40%
   - In two to five years: 38%
   - In five to seven years: 2%
   - Not applicable: 20%

3. Do you have a bachelor's or higher level degree?
   - Yes: 96.2%
   - No: 3.8%

4. Have you graduated from an accredited program in nuclear medicine technology?
   - Yes: 98.1%
   - No: 1.9%

5. How many years of experience do you have in nuclear medicine?
   - Average number of years: 8.8
   - Median: 6 years
   - Mode: 4 years
   - Range: 1-30 years

6. What would motivate you the most to pursue this graduate program? (multiple responses by some respondents)
   - Personal satisfaction: 49.1%
   - Professional status: 18.9%
   - Job security: 15.1%
   - Potential income: 41.5%
   - Other: market demand; need; better patient care; advancing the profession; professional growth; greater challenge; the obvious next step: 13.2%

7. In what type of facility do you currently work? (multiple responses by some respondents)
   - Hospital setting, general nuclear medicine: 47.2%
   - Outpatient Imaging Center Rural: 1.9%
   - Outpatient Imaging Center Urban: 5.7%
   - Cardiology Practice: 26.4%
   - PET Imaging Practice: 13.2%
   - Other: academic; education; traveler; research; PRN: 13.2%

8. In what part of the state do you currently work?
   - Northwest Arkansas: 12.5%
   - North Central Arkansas: 4.2%
   - Northeast Arkansas: 14.5%
   - Central Arkansas: 62.5%
   - Southwest Arkansas: 4.2%
   - Southeast Arkansas: 2.1%