

MISSOURI VALLEY CHAPTER SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

NEWSLETTER

MVC Newsletter *Volume 2* *September 1999*

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President's Message - Dr. Henry Royal

Our world keeps changing at a more and more rapid pace. Profound changes are taking place in our national organization. At the June meeting of the SNM, the House of Delegates approved a strategic plan which redefines the role of the Society as a much more inclusive organization. Under the new strategic plan, the SNM will position itself as the preeminent source of information for everyone and anyone who does nuclear medicine studies. This redefinition of the role of the Society has been largely brought about by our own Dr. Jim Fletcher. Change is always unsettling, but in the years to come I expect that we all will be very grateful that Jim had the courage to lead us in this new direction.

The Physicians Outreach Program, a national effort to educate other physicians specialty groups, such as family practitioners, about nuclear medicine continues to gain momentum and support. A handbook on nuclear medicine procedures is being prepared for residents in training to enable them to better

utilize our studies. Reginald Dusing (VA Medical Center KC) has played a key role in the success of this program. There is still a need for more participation by physicians and technologists in this outreach program. Please watch for the list of meetings in our area and be willing to donate a few hours of your time to help as needed. Contact Nanci Burchell for further information.

Locally, our own Chapter is also changing. Our new Executive Director, Nanci Burchell, has been very busy with several new initiatives. She has produced a summary of motions passed at previous Council and MVC business meetings. This is a useful record of decisions that have been made and approved by the Council and Chapter. In addition, she has collected Bylaws from all the other SNM Chapters. These Bylaws will be compared to our Chapter's in order to identify changes that we should/could make. I am chairing the Bylaws Committee and hope to recommend potential changes to our Bylaws at the fall meeting. Nanci has also initiated sending out a welcome letter to all new members of our Chapter.

The financial status of the Chapter has improved since the institution of cost-saving interventions. We plan to institute a prospective budgeting plan that will help further stabilize the Chapter's financial status.

A ballot for the Chapter has been approved. We will be voting to fill the following Chapter positions: 1) President-Elect 2) Secretary/Treasurer and 3) two Councilors.

On the technologist side we will be voting for a 1) President-Elect 2) Secretary/Treasurer and 3) National Council Delegate.

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elections. Any questions regarding the balloting process should be addressed to Nanci Burchell for the Chapter elections and Debbie Perry for the Technologist Section elections.

The fall meeting of the Missouri Valley Chapter will be a joint meeting with the Central Chapter. This meeting will be held at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois on September 18-19, 1999. The focus of this meeting will be oncology, computers and imaging techniques, and technology assessment. I hope you will be able to attend.

TECHNOLOGIST

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PEGGY SQUIRES, CNMT

Hello to Technologists in the Missouri Valley Chapter! Hope that everyone is enjoying their summertime. Whether vacations are planned or not, summer seems a little more relaxed than the rest of the year. Just want to update you on a few issues.

A "MVC Speakers List" has been compiled. It's a list of MVC members (both physicians and technologists) who are willing to present lectures at local subchapter meetings. The list was prepared in response to requests by subchapter officers searching to provide TS members stimulating continuing educational programs. Please contact me for a copy of the list or if you have a presentation and would like to be included on the list.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine - Technologist Section held its 2nd annual "Summer School" series. This popular program consolidates some of the best offerings presented at the Annual meeting of the SNM held in June. It is held in the first part of August annually and is a two day intensive weekend program that allows one to receive 9-12 CEH. This program is in response to technologists need for continuing education credits offered at a time they would be able to get away and at an affordable price.

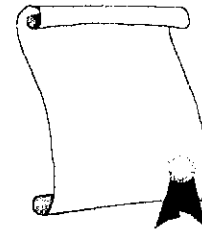
Looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual MVC Fall Meeting. This year it will be a conjoint meeting with the Central Chapter on September 18 -19. In addition to a stimulating educational program, the meeting provides opportunities to renew old friendships and create new ones with your colleges. The **Technologist Section business meeting will be held immediately following the education sessions on Saturday afternoon.** We will do our best to keep it short and sweet, so please make plans to attend.

I have recently changed jobs. Please take note of my new address and telephone number. If I can be of service, don't hesitate to call.

Peggy Squires, CNMT
201 Dunn Road
St. Louis, MO 63031

Voice mail: 314-997-6001
Ext. 202

E-mail:
psquires@metro-heart.com



A Brief Historical Note - Dr. Robert Cech

In the June 1999 JNM, there is included the presentation of the Fermi Award to Dr. Michael Phelps of Los Angeles. He received this award in April of 1999 for the "invention of P.E.T. and seminal contributions in its use in research and patient care in neurological disorders, cardiovascular disease and cancer". This took place at the US Department of State with presentation by the Energy Secretary, Bill Richardson. Dr. Phelps could be considered a transplant to Los Angeles from St. Louis and the MVC.

At the 46th annual session of the SNM in LA in June, Dr. Phelps delivered the initial Monday plenary session, the Henry Wagner Lecture-ship. He cited what might be considered one of the fortes of Nuclear Medicine studies, the demonstration of P.E.T. scanning for disease localization and the coupling of radionuclides with pharmacology. These were "seminal" events.

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MVC-TS NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE REPORT - DAVID PERRY, CNMT

Hey technologists! What do you get for belonging to the Society of Nuclear Medicine? Well, let me give you an update on just some of the things you get besides the "Blue Journal".

First, did you know that the NRC has been reviewing their 10 CFR rules? They are even considering new rules that would potentially allow a person with a small amount of radiation safety training to administer radiopharmaceuticals. The SNM and its Technologist Section, in concert with the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP), sent representatives to several hearings during the past year in order to testify as to the potential dangers they might face in their pursuit. Largely due to these efforts, it appears that the NRC is going to back away from that "slippery slope".

Also, did you know that there is a law entitled the "Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981" which established minimum standards for state certification and licensure of personnel who administer ionizing radiation in medical and dental radiologic procedures? Under this Act, the federal government provided the states with a model statute for the licensing of radiologic personnel. The intent of the Act was to minimize unnecessary exposure to potentially hazardous radiation. It states, in part, that "persons who administer radiologic procedures, including procedures at Federal facilities, should be required to demonstrate competence by reason of education, training, and experience".

Further, did you know that today, 18 years later, only one of the states in the MVC has enacted the prescribed licensing statutes? (Bravo Iowa!) The SNM, primarily through the Technologist Section, has joined the ASRT as founding members of the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. Other members of the alliance include the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists, the ARRT, the Association of Vascular and Interventional Radiographers, the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, the NMTCB, the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology, the Section for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, and the Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators. In all, more than 200,000 professionals who provide quality medical imaging and radiation therapy services to American patients are represented, and their aim is to encourage Congressional approval of the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance Act of 1999. This Act will help to ensure that the public will be cared for by properly educated and certified personnel, by "putting teeth" into the 1981 legislation. Lack of educational standards for operators of medical imaging and radiation therapy equipment poses a hazard to the public. Federal standards will ensure a minimum level of education, knowledge and skill. Ultimately, they will improve the quality of patient care.

In her initial address to the National Council, Cynthia Wharton (incoming President of the SNMTS) established as an immediate and primary objective of the Technologist Section, the study of four major issues that are near and dear to us all:

- A potential shortage of Nuclear Medical Technologists

- Recognition of the "professional status" of the nuclear medical technologist
- Low salaries for practicing NMT's as compared to other careers for which a NMT may be suited
- The declining impetus for people to enter service-related fields due to the current socio-economic climate

The SNMTS takes these issues so seriously that funding was approved for the formation of a special task force to study these issues and develop a "road map" to assure continued viability of the profession. This task force will provide a report in less than six months.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and the Technologist Section are **Volunteer Organizations**. Their goal is to serve their membership in a professional, responsible, and reliable fashion. They act as a voice to those who know little or nothing of how our services affect the diagnosis and treatment of countless patients every day. I have only briefly described three of the hundreds of programs the SNMTS is currently pursuing. Please take it on faith when I say that, as members, our dues are returned to us a thousand-fold in the form of benefits and services we receive.

Of course, like so many volunteer service organizations, non-members get to enjoy the fruits of other's labors without having contributed to the effort. I would like to close by encouraging you to share this information with your friends and co-workers who might not be members of the Society. Let them see some of the benefits of belonging to the only local, regional, and national organization that supports and promotes their chosen profession and livelihood. Ask them to visit the SNM website. Visit it

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and national organization that supports and promotes their chosen profession and livelihood. Ask them to visit the SNM website. Visit it yourself. Suggest that your patients visit it as well. The address is www.snm.org and it is new and different and has something for anyone who has an interest in nuclear medicine.

Finally, I mentioned that the SNMTS is a volunteer organization. Its officers and committee members are just plain folks. I am a radiology manager here in St. Louis, Nancy is a pediatric technologist in Kansas City, Bill helps run a nuclear medicine school, Debbie works in clinical research for new radiopharmaceuticals, Peggy works in a cardiology clinic. What we all have in common is love for nuclear medicine as a discipline and a deep seated desire to contribute to its future. Self preservation isn't bad either. If you would like more information about any of these or other issues, you can contact me at my e-mail address: snmmvcncd@aol.com. Thank you for allowing me to serve as you National Council Delegate for the past year and I hope to see you in Chicago.

A special note, congratulations to Mickey Clarke from St. Louis who was recently recognized by the SNMTS for her significant contributions to the field of Nuclear Medicine. On June 9th, she was honored with Fellowship status in the SNMTS.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE:

September 17-19, 1999
Chicago Marriott Oak Brook
MVC/Central Chapter Conjoint Meeting (register on line at www.ccsnm.org)

September 18-19, 1999
SNM Board of Directors Meeting
Alexandria, VA

Nuclear Medicine Week October 3-9, 1999

February 9-15, 2000
SNM Midwinter Meeting
New Orleans, LA

June 4-8, 2000
SNM 47th Annual Meeting
St. Louis, MO

SNM NEWS OF NOTE

At the annual meeting of the SNM a strategic plan was approved. In the coming months the SNMTS will also be reviewing and revising their strategic plan for the year 2000 and beyond.

The Scientific Program Committee met and reviewed the annual meeting. A recommendation has been made to start the meeting on Saturday so that more substantive activity takes place on the weekend.

A strategic alliance between the SNM and the ACNP was approved by the both Boards. Under this new arrangement the Executive Director of the SNM would become the chief officer of both organizations. Final details are yet to be worked out.

INTRODUCING OUR INCOMING OFFICERS:

Mark D. Wittry, MD
Incoming MVC President
314-577-8047 (p)
314-963-7274 (f)
wittry@nucomed.slu.edu

William L. Hubble, MA, CNMT
Incoming MVCTS President
314-977-8594 (p)
314-577-8503 (f)

Results of the elections, both MVC and MVCTS will be announced at the luncheon on Saturday, September 18.

A special opportunity to learn how to make the transition from follower to leader will take place at the Conjoint meeting on Sunday. An "Emerging Leaders" session will be held. Learn more about the SNM as an organization, learn skills necessary to be a good leader, learn how to develop an agenda, apply basic parliamentary procedure, preside over a meeting, understand financial and legal requirements of a volunteer organization, and set personal goals for growth.