



July, 2002

**Missouri Valley Chapter – Society of Nuclear Medicine
General News Items**

Newsletter General Information:

Welcome again MVC members, Nuclear Medicine professionals and other friends!! It is time again to update you on the current and upcoming happenings within the Missouri Valley Chapter. In this edition we will provide various summaries from the Annual Society of Nuclear Medicine meeting in Los Angeles and other Chapter news. As before in an attempt to keep our professional membership and those involved with Nuclear Medicine in our Chapter informed, we will have this Newsletter available through the Missouri Valley Chapter Website. (<http://www.mvcsnm.org/newsletter.htm>)

As we have stated before, we welcome any news items that you may want to have communicated to the membership. This includes local or regional meetings, special announcements, interesting news items and general information that will make this publication informative and useful. This invitation includes our vendor friends and we hope that you will want to provide any news items that you would like to disseminate.

Please send any comments, suggestions or information for the Newsletter to either Nanci Burchell (NANCIBUR@aol.com) or Phil Bruch (pbruch@unmc.edu).

MVC Officers:

Contact information for these individuals is available on the MVC website. Please feel free to contact these individuals with questions or concerns regarding the Chapter or Society of Nuclear Medicine.

MVC Officers:

John Floyd, M.D. – President
Henry Royal, M.D. - Secretary/Treasurer
James Littlefield, M.D. – President Elect
Mark Wittry, M.D., FACC – Immediate Past President

MVC-Technologist Section Officers:

Carole South-Winter, CNMT – President
Jeff Galen, CNMT – Secretary/Treasurer
Peggy Squires, CNMT - National Council Delegate
Mary Moreau, CNMT – Immediate Past President
Janis Brule, CNMT – President Elect

MVC Councilors:

Keith Fischer, M.D. Subhash Paknikar, M.D.
Phil Bruch, MS, CNMT Kimberly McDaniel, CNMT
David Perry, CNMT Mark Mintun, M.D.

MVC Council Members:

Michael Graham, M.D. Bennett Greenspan, M.D.
James Fletcher, M.D. Henry Royal, M.D.
Mickey Clarke, CNMT Nanci Burchell, CNMT

MVC Executive Director: Nanci Burchell, CNMT

Be sure to vote and send in your MVC ballots when they arrive!!!

Message from the Missouri Valley Chapter - Technologist Section President Carole South-Winter, M.Ed., CNMT, RT

Greetings! Summer is speeding to an end with fall around the corner! School will begin again, routines will be readopted and the Missouri Valley Chapter Annual Meeting will be here before we know it. This has been a very exciting and controversial year in nuclear medicine. A year that finds me filled with many questions and decisions.

We are in the height of the worst technologist shortage in our professions' history. Employers struggle to hire and retain employees, students anxiously bid and negotiate for jobs, whilst educators frantically try to meet the staffing needs of area hospitals and clinics. It is a great time to be a graduate and an educator, but a rough time to be in management without a full staff.

Once again the forefront issue for the Technologist's Section are the entry-level requirements for a nuclear medicine technologist. Should our profession require a baccalaureate level? What are the employers' requirements for entry-level employees? Should we develop a 3-tier system for technologists? Are we ready for advanced practice technologists? These questions and others will be the topic of research and discussion in the following years.

Technology is also driving the changing face of technologists today. With imaging systems designed multi-functionality, such as hybrid PET and CT systems that vendors are now bringing to the market, the position of the technologist's role and the requirements required for this must be re-evaluated and developed. This raises the issue of which technologist specialty (a PET/CNMT or a CT/RT-R) should administer the radiopharmaceutical, acquire the images and process the data? Are we needing to develop hybrid technologists who would be certified in both areas? Will their education reflect this duality in their capabilities? Will their salary reflect this increase knowledge?

In an attempt to grow our own technologist membership in the Missouri Valley Chapter we will be offering a **Back to the Basics** session for VOICE credit on Saturday afternoon. These 30-minute sessions dealing with the areas of radiation biology, radiation safety, physics and instrumentations, unique in-vivo studies, PET and others will be covered. Students, novice technologists and anyone else needing a refresher in these areas are welcome to and attend these sessions.

For those of you attending the welcoming session on Friday evening, we will be conducting our version of Jeopardy, Who Wants to be a Millionaire and Fear Factor (kidding!). We are planning on having 4-groups compete against each other for prizes. Each group must consist of 1-student, 1-physician, 1-educator, 1-newly certified technologist (less than 2 years) and one seasoned technologist (more than 2 years). I have had several volunteers already but could use a few more to complete our teams. This will be a fun event for both participants and audience members (remember we need to phone a friend and have the ability to poll the audience!!). If you are interested in helping out with this new event, please send me an email at carole.south-winter@southeasttech.com.

Thanks for a great year and the opportunity to serve you; I look forward to a fantastic meeting....see you in October!!

Respectfully submitted, Carole South-Winter Med, CNMT, RT; MVC-TS President

A MISSOURI VALLEY CHAPTER HISTORICAL NOTE

For some years now, there have been some members of this Society who believe that this field of medicine has a forte of gathering information about people's ills with radionuclides, which contributes to biochemistry and physiology. This has been considered a more specific conversion of detected rays into information about function and structure, or an image involving the molecular level. This is in keeping with the recent interest in calling this field Molecular Nuclear Medicine.

On April 19-21, 2002 at the Hyatt Hotel in the Union Station in St. Louis, Mo., the 7th Oncology Conference of the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center was presented. The program involved specific radiopharmaceuticals in diagnosis and treatment of cancer. This appropriately was concerned with the concept of information at the molecular level. Amongst the presentations were Michael Welch's "Discussion of PET imaging of breast cancer with fluorine-labelled estrogens and progestins and the detection of hypoxia in tissues.", and Wynn Volkert's "Use of Bombesin, the analog of gastrin-releasing peptides to accumulate in and detect prostate, pancreatic, lung and breast cancers" – Molecular nuclear medicine lives on.

Respectfully submitted: R.F. Cech, M.D. Historian

Society of Nuclear Medicine National News
National Council Delegate Report – Technologist Section
Peggy Squires, CNMT

National Council Delegate Report; National Council Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2002; 11:00am to 4:00pm

Society of Nuclear Medicine – Technologist Section

Greetings to my colleagues within the Missouri Valley Chapter. Once again the agenda for the National Council Meeting was packed with a myriad of topics, reflecting the increasing scope of services that Nuclear Medicine Technologists provide. Some of the issues covered during the meeting included; the organization of Technologist Section leadership (expect by-laws changes next March), input to the Tech Section leadership for communication with representatives of other organizations, (such as ICANL and ASRT), and discussion of how to ensure that technologists are appropriately trained for new technologies. Enclosed are items that I hope you find interesting and informative, please visit the Society of Nuclear Medicine website (www.snm.org) or the Missouri Valley Chapter website (www.mvcsnm.org) for more in-depth information.

SNM President's Report: Alan Maurer, M.D., the current president and incoming president, Michael Gelfand, M.D. gave a joint report. Education continues to be a focus for the Society, the PET learning center based in Reston, VA has been very successful in providing training for both physicians and technologists, visit the SNM website (www.snm.org) for additional information and session dates.

The SNM has petitioned the NRC on the Part 35 rewrite to separate diagnostic from therapeutic guidelines to reduce the regulatory burden on those departments not providing therapy.

Dr. Maurer announced that the SNM name change would be announced at the opening plenary session. For all of you that missed it, the new logo is "SNM" with the words "Society of Nuclear Medicine" beneath and the tagline of "Advancing Molecular Imaging", take a look on the website!!

ICANL Standard for NMT's: The Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Laboratories has changed their Standard, stating "All imaging personnel will be nuclear medicine technologists" and maintain "An appropriate credential in nuclear medicine technology (RT(N), CNMT and/or State license)." The deadline for credentialing is July 1, 2005.

Free Membership for NMT Students: Francis Keech, incoming SNM-TS President reported that the program offering "one year free" SNM membership to nuclear medicine fellows, radiology residents and technologist students has been successfully launched. Unfortunately, on the technologist side, there were only able to sign up approximately 15% of the students in Nuclear Medicine Technology programs. Please spread the word to students that you have contact with of this terrific opportunity.

Election Results: Congratulations are in order for the following Missouri Valley Chapter members recently voted into position within the SNM-TS: Liesje Dotson is a member of the Nominating Committee and Mary Moreau, Executive Board At-Large member. David Perry has accepted an appointment as Chairperson for the Publications Committee. Once again, the MVC-TS is well represented at the national level.

Revisions to SNM-TS VOICE Guidelines: The Continuing Education Committee recommended the following revisions to the VOICE Guidelines:

- a) Change the application fee for Chapter/Regional/Academic group programs of one day or less from \$25. to \$35.
- b) Change the application fee for Commercial Company programs from \$100. to \$125.
- c) Change the acceptance timeframe for VOICE applications from the day of the meeting to 2 weeks before the first day of the meeting.
- d) Add Web-based programs to the list of program types.

The proposed changes were adopted by the SNM-TS National Council. Please take note if you are involved with submitting applications for VOICE credit activities, see the SNM website for VOICE application guidelines and forms.

(NCD Report Continued on the next page)

Entry Level Requirements: The controversial topic of bringing the entry level for NMT to the bachelors level by 2010 was tabled at the Mid-winter meeting for further discussion and research. Data collection includes constructing a comprehensive database of all the accredited NMT programs in the US, as well as polling Nuclear Medicine physicians on their opinion of the NMT training and education. Discussion was scheduled to take place during the June meeting at a forum including educators and other stake holders, approximately 50 educators were expected to take part in this interesting debate.

PET/CT Technologist Certification: In the works for discussion in 2002 – 2003 is certification of technologists operating the new hybrid PET/CT imaging systems. This issue becomes very complex as it involves both NMT and RT certifications at both national and state levels. SNM-TS leadership will be involved in developing guidelines along with representatives from all certifying bodies at a Task Force created by the ASRT, the goal being to provide competent patient care.

For further information or if there are topics that you are interested in that I did not cover, please contact me at psquires@metroheart.com or call (314) 997-6001 ext. 202.

NCD Report Submitted by: Peggy Squires, CNMT MVC-TS National Council Delegate

Message from the Missouri Valley Chapter - President John Floyd, M.D., FACR

Pinch Hitting for Dr. Floyd... By David Perry, CNMT

With our President currently exploring the wilds of Alaska, I have volunteered to fill you in on some of the happenings of the Chapter.

The planning for the MVC Annual Meeting, set for October 11-13 in Kansas City, is nearly finalized. A special event this year will be a "quiz bowl" on Friday evening designed to challenge students, technologists, and physicians alike. Planning also continues for a very special social event set for Saturday evening. I am certain this will once again prove to be an excellent educational and social event for the members of our Chapter. Look for program and registration information soon.

Membership numbers remain more or less steady, despite shortages of both technologists and physicians in the nuclear medicine field. With many programs set to receive new trainees in the next few months, I would like to remind everyone that Nuclear Medicine Residents and Technologist Students are eligible to receive one free year of SNM membership, simply by completing an application. Information on this program is available from the SNM office or on their website, www.snm.org.

It is time to elect new officers for the Executive Council of the MVC. The Council serves as the primary decision making body for the MVC and holds its meetings twice a year, once in conjunction with the MVC Annual Meeting, and once during the SNM Annual Meeting. Physicians, scientists, and technologist voting members are both welcome and encouraged to run for these positions. Please indicate your interest soon to Nanci at nancibur@aol.com.

The MVC is in the process of applying for 501(c)(3) tax designation with the IRS. This will help to keep us in alignment with the SNM, who recently completed a similar process. This new designation will offer several benefits to the Chapter but will require some work on our part. In addition to completing the application process, it will be necessary to revise our bylaws. Dr. Floyd has appointed several people to a Bylaws Committee. Their job will be to suggest revisions to be presented to the Council and, ultimately, the membership. Look for a draft of proposed changes on www.mvcsnm.org in late August, and discussion about bylaws at the Annual Meeting.

The MVC will have a busy few months culminating in an excellent Annual Meeting in October. Hope to see you all there.

Visit the Missouri Valley Chapter Website
www.mvcsnm.org

Missouri Valley Chapter Executive Director Report

Nanci Burchell, CNMT

MVC News Items:

The MVC Executive Council met at the Annual SNM meeting. The most important outcomes to come out of this meeting were the bylaws changes due to the changes at the SNM level, changing of MVC from a 501(c)6 to a 501(c)3 tax status, and responsibilities of the Executive Director. There will be an increase in MVC dues (\$2) for this fiscal year on your next SNM statement. The MVC Chapter needs to elect four new Councilors to the MVC Executive Council. Ballots will go out 60 days prior to the annual meeting and will need to be returned 30 days prior to the meeting.

National News Items:

On the SNM-TS side of things, there were 278 attendees at the mid-winter educational portion of the meeting in Scottsdale and half of the participants were technologists. Next year, the mid-winter meeting of the SNM will be in Hollywood, Florida beginning Jan. 22, 2003. The 2003 SNM Annual meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA beginning June 21 and ending June 25. This will mark the 50th anniversary of the SNM and the 25th anniversary of the NMTCB. Look for more details later. Two technologists were elected from the MVC to serve at the national level. Mary Moreau, CNMT will be a member at large of the SNMTS Executive Committee and Leisje Dotson will be a member of the nominating committee. In addition, Dr. Henry Royal is now President-Elect of the SNM. Congratulations to all.

There was much discussion regarding the initiative to bring the entry level for NMT's to the bachelors level by 2010. Look for continued discussion of this initiative in the coming months. The Gateway Committee (a SNM-TS think tank) will be continuing discussion of the topic of advanced practice for nuclear medicine technologists. New VOICE guidelines were approved. The major change is in the fee structure and credit submission deadlines. Application for credit must be in to the national office two weeks prior to the meeting. Previously application for credit would be accepted up to the day of the actual continuing education event. The National Council approved an allocation of \$10,000 to hire a fundraising consultant for the SNM-TS Professional Development and Education Fund. Membership has increased by approximately 7% over last year. The Society is now offering free membership to Fellow and NMT's. Fellows have, for the most part, been retained as members the next year. There is however a problem with technologist retention. One of the explanations was lack of follow up or mentoring of these new members. Free membership of NMT students and Fellows will continue into 2003.

Two technologists were added to the ranks of fellows. They were Valerie Cronin and April Mann. For those of you unfamiliar with fellowship status it is a way of recognizing technologists who have made outstanding contributions to nuclear medical technology in the areas of education, professional endeavors, and to the Society as a whole. Each year at our MVC Annual meeting we nominate a technologist who we feel is deserving of this honor. Application is made to the SNM-TS. When a candidate is found worthy of this status, they are conferred this honor at the Annual SNM-TS meeting. The technologist is then able to add the initials "FSNMTS" to their credentials. The Missouri Valley Chapter has a proud heritage of producing national leaders who make significant contributions to our profession.

The JNMT is in need of articles. Persons interested in writing an article or case study should contact Beth Harkness. They would be happy to accept any and all contributions.

The SNM has a new Executive Director, Ms. Virginia Pappas. Ms. Pappas has served as Associate Executive Director and worked with the SNM for many years. We are happy to have her on board as Executive Director for the Society.

The PET learning center at the Reston office has been an overwhelming success. Educational sessions for both physicians and technologists are conducted there. For additional information or scheduled classes see the SNM web site at www.snm.org.

Please note there has been a tag line added to the SNM name. It was unveiled at the plenary session during the annual meeting. It is: **SNM - Society of Nuclear Medicine - Advancing Molecular Imaging**. Look for this logo to begin to appear on the JNM cover and other literature.

2002 Missouri Valley Chapter FALL MEETING

“Molecular Medicine in the Millennium”

October 11-13, 2002

Sheraton Four Points Hotel

The annual fall meeting of the Missouri Valley Chapter has been scheduled for October 11th-13th, Friday through Sunday, in Kansas City, MO. The meeting will be at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. This is one block off the Country Club Plaza (fine dining and shopping) and just a few blocks from the Westport area (where the younger generation 'gets down and boogies'). The reserved room rate will be \$89.00 for single or double occupancy. The meeting's central location within the Chapter will surely attract technologists and physicians from the four corners of the six state Chapter. The program will include the usual panoply of topics and speakers and will likely include PET imaging, tumor receptor imaging, nuclear cardiology, newly released therapy agents, and some review sessions. We also hope to have some papers submitted by technology students and nuclear medicine residents for presentation.

Local Arrangements: Nanci Burchell, CNMT, MVC Executive Administrator

Reginald Dusing, M.D., Kansas City, MO

Program Chairman: James Littlefield, M.D. St. Louis, MO

Sheraton Four Points Hotel

One East 45th Street

Kansas City, MO 64111

816-753-7400 (Direct phone number to the hotel)

Please be sure to register as a member of the MVC-SNM group. Reservations can be made at this time by calling the hotel directly. This will insure that you receive the group rate.