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Newsletter

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Missouri Valley Chapter
Society of Nuclear Medicine
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Missouri Valley Chapter Society of Nuclear Medicine

IOWA KANSAS MISSOURI NEBRASKA NORTH DAKOTA SOUTH DAKOTA

President's Message

James L. Littlefield, M.D.

Fall has arrived in the Missouri Valley and with fall comes the turning of the leaves as well as the annual meeting of the MVC. We had a successful meeting, both financially and scientifically and with the usual collegiality of our members. With the fall meeting came the transfer of the gavel from Dr. John Floyd, of Cedar Rapids, IOWA, to me, as the new and recurring Chapter President. Certainly I must recognize and thank Dr. Floyd for his leadership and guidance of the Chapter over the last two years. The Chapter was quite successful in maintaining its membership and in the two meetings held under his aegis. Also to be acknowledged is Dr. Floyd's role as Chapter paparazzi, for it was with his right index finger and his sturdy Nikon camera that he has help to record the Chapter's meetings and events. Perhaps he might continue in that role in the future.

I should also like to acknowledge those members of the Chapter who were kind enough to present talks at the Chapter meeting. These were excellent presentations. We are fortunate to have such a talented group to be able to present their work and summarize that of others in order to keep us abreast of the ever changing, continually evolving field of Nuclear Medicine. Dr. **Mike Welch** of the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, here in St. Louis, as well as Drs. **Mark Minton** and **Sanjeev Bhalla**, also of that institution, gave talks on PET radiopharmaceuticals, PET brain imaging and CT in Oncologic Imaging, respectively. Dr. **James Fletcher**, late of SLU and now of IUPUI, quite an acronym, and Dr. **Medhat Osman**, of St. Louis

University spoke to the issue of PET in oncology. Dr. **Mike Graham**, of the U. of Iowa presented a topical topic of PET in Head and Neck Cancer. Saturday afternoon there were well received presentations by **Bill Hubble**, **Monica White** and **Martin Schmitt** and **Scott Stringer**, all talking about the brave new world of PET and its interface with CT imaging. **Daniel Szatkowski** presented a discussion of the revised Part 35, as we call it, and Dr. **Cahid Civelek**, also of St. Louis University, spoke to the topic of Management of Primary Hyperparathyroidism. It is through the generosity and excellence of preparation that we maintain the high quality and high registration numbers for our annual chapter meeting. Also, again thanks to the commercial vendors for their strong support, both financially and as enthusiastic representatives for our community.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of David Perry, our new Executive Director, and Nanci Burchell, our past E.D., both of whom contributed mightily to the success of the Chapter in general, and to the fall meeting in particular. As you know, Nanci resigned because she is now President-elect of the Tech Section, a singular honor, and she will bring her intelligence and charm and hard work to that office. David, besides being Webmaster, is doing an excellent job as E.D. in keeping the ball rolling towards the next meeting. I regretfully failed to bring to your attention at the Fall Meeting the death this past year of Bob Buntaine who, along with his wife, was our Executive Director in the '90s and was an important part of the Missouri Valley Chapter for many years. He will be missed.

Best regards for the holidays and in the New Year.

James L. Littlefield, M.D.

Technologist Section President's Message

Mark Wallenmeyer, CNMT, RT (N)

Greeting to all members of the Missouri Valley Chapter, Society of Nuclear Medicine. My name is Mark Wallenmeyer and I have the honor of serving you this year as the President of the Technologist Section of the Missouri Valley Chapter, Society of Nuclear Medicine. Let me tell you a little about myself. I am currently an Instructor and Clinical Coordinator of the Nuclear Medicine Program through the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas. You might ask then, how am I President of the Missouri Valley Chapter, since my job is in Little Rock? The answer is that I live in Springfield, Missouri and work from home. Previously, I worked at a local hospital for almost 11 years. During that time, I gained clinical experience and helped to teach students about Nuclear Medicine. I enjoyed this experience so much, that I decided to take a position with UAMS and have not regretted it at all.

There are many issues facing the Nuclear Medicine community today. One important issue is national certification, in the form of the CARE Act. Many states now have licensure, yet many do not. Issues in the area of certification of technologists, operating PET/CT cameras. Dual certification seems to have been pushed to the forefront of the technologist section. With new PET centers, Imaging Centers and Cardiac Centers opening, the NMTCB has developed new exams for specialized training. The Cardiac exam has already been implemented and the PET exam will be available in 2004.

Items that I would like to focus on during my term essentially center around education. I thoroughly enjoy talking about Nuclear Medicine to people and educating them on just what our modality is, what we do and how safe it is. Education for our technologists is a big issue as well.

Many of us are aware that the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board will start requiring continuing education in the year 2005. I personally believe that this is a step in the right direction. Our field changes all the time and we need to keep on top of the changes or we will be left behind. I encourage all of the technologists in the Missouri Valley Chapter to get involved with your local subchapters. Many of these subchapters put on local continuing education events.

I would also like to encourage everyone to visit the Missouri Valley Website at www.mvcnsm.org, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine Website at www.snm.org. There is a wealth of information on these websites and the SNM website provides links to many useful sites as well as all the other chapters within the Society. I should also point out that the Missouri Valley site is an excellent way to communicate with other members. There is a list serve available to use that you can get automatic updates as to what is happening in the MVC. There is also web space available for subchapters to design and post their own meeting information and events.

I would like to congratulate Liesje Dotson. She was elected to the position of President-Elect of the Missouri Valley Chapter Technologist Section. Liesje has been active in our Chapter in the past and I'm sure will serve our Chapter well in the future.

I look forward to serving you and the Chapter to the best of my abilities over the next year. I would like to visit some of the local sub-chapters to get to know some of the members that I do not know. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns that I can bring to the table at the Missouri Valley meetings. I can be reached by e-mail at spfdmark1@mchsi.com or by phone at 417-864-7601 or 417-868-8538.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and do not hesitate to call me with concerns.

Mark

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:

- James Littlefield, M.D. – President
- Keith Fischer, M.D. - Secretary/Treasurer
- Bennett Greenspan, M.D. – President Elect
- John Floyd, M.D. –Past President

MVC-Technologist Section Officers:

- Mark Wallenmeyer, CNMT, RT(N) – President
- Marcia West, CNMT – Secretary/Treasurer
- William Hubble, CNMT - National Council Delegate
- Liesje Dotson, CNMT – President Elect
- Janis Brule, CNMT –Past President

MVC Elected Councilors:

- Karen Holdeman, M.D.
- Jeffrey Galen, M.Ed., CNMT
- Lois Padellford, MS, CNMT
- Sally Schwarz, R.Ph., B.C.N.P.
- David Perry, CNMT, FSNMTS
- Yusuf Menda, M.D.

MVC Appointed Councilors:

- Michael Graham, M.D.(Audio-Visual Chair)
- Phil Bruch, MS, CNMT (Publications Chair)

MVC Historian:

- Robert Cech, M.D.

MVC Executive Director:

- Dave Perry, CNMT, FSNMTS

Please send any comments, suggestions or information for the Newsletter to either Phil Bruch (pbruch@unmc.edu) or Dave Perry (exdir@mvcnsm.org).

Holiday Greetings from the Editor!

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays!! Time to provide you with some updated information from the Missouri Valley Chapter. In this edition we will update you on the recent development from the MVC Executive Council meeting at the annual MVC meeting in St. Louis. 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>

Phil

Don't See Something?

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.

The MVC Newsletter is published three times a year, Spring, Summer, and Fall and is distributed to all registered members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine Missouri Valley Chapter. It is also available online at

www.mvcsnm.org/newsletter.htm

National Council Delegate Report

William Hubble, CNMT

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone within the Missouri Valley Chapter Technologist Section (MVC-TS) of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. My name is Bill Hubble and I am the new National Council Delegate (NCD) for the MVC-TS. I have been a certified nuclear technologist since 1983. I have been involved in many of the local, regional and national activities under the direction of the SNM-TS. My interest in the profession has always been strong, but my ability to volunteer time and energy to the SNM-TS has varied. As an active father of two very healthy girls and a member of the working class, I have had to set priorities and goals, both professional and personal. My experiences as a technologist, supervisor, manager, administrator, consultant, educator, committee member and officer, prior to entering this office, should serve me well when dealing with the various issues of the day. So when people say walk a mile in my shoes, I can say that I most likely have. What I cannot do is walk everyday in your shoes; so, I will need the support of the members of the MVC-TS to inform me about the issues that are important to you. If you would like to contact me I can be reached at (314) 977-8594, or email me at hubblewl@slu.edu. I will do my best to represent the MVC-TS at the national level and bring back information to our membership on the issues as they arise. In closing, I would like to thank those that voted. I would also like to take a moment to thank my personal friend and colleague, Peggy Squires, for the outstanding job that she did for the MVC-TS as our National Council Delegate for the past two years.

Missouri Valley Chapter Meeting

On September 12-14, 2003 the MVC held a very successful meeting titled "Gateway to Molecular Imaging" at the Sheraton Westport, St. Louis, Missouri.

The objectives of the meeting were focused on exploring the latest developments and expanding knowledge in nuclear medicine. The meeting included topics on PET, PET/CT, and PET radiopharmaceuticals. It also included lectures on the management of patients with neuroendocrine tumors, reviews of 10CFR Parts 35, and parathyroid scintigraphy. On Saturday afternoon the program broke into two tracks. The technologist track included lectures on CT and PET/CT. It appears that PET is the hottest thing going! No radioactive pun intended. Overall, the meeting was deemed a success and was well attended. Kudos to David Perry and the organizers on a job well done!

The MVC business meeting was held during lunch on Saturday. Mark Wallenmeyer was inducted as President of the MVC-TS. Liesje Dotson was inducted as President-Elect of the MVC-TS and Marcia West was inducted as the new Secretary Treasurer of the MVC-TS. Congratulations to all of the new officers! I would like to thank Jan Brule, Past President of the MVC-TS and Jeff Galen, Past Secretary Treasurer of the MVC-TS. The new president of the MVC is James Littlefield M.D. and the president-elect is Bennett Greenspan M.D.

More information about the Missouri Valley Chapter Society of Nuclear Medicine can be found on our website at www.mvcsnm.org.

SNM-TS Gateway Meeting V

We are all aware of the technologist shortage, and this year a focus on this topic took place at the fifth gateway meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 11th and 12th. This meeting was entitled "Workforce in Nuclear Medicine Technology and the role of the SNM-TS". The group that was assembled was made up of educators, administrators, physicians, and industry leaders. Topics were discussed pertaining to workforce issues and a consensus of information will be made public to the membership in the next several months. The goals of the

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meeting involved an emphasis on improving data collection and analysis, examining future educational models, improving the quality of students/graduates and the existing workforce, increasing knowledge and awareness of the nuclear medicine profession (outreach), exploring funding resources for education, and the recruitment/retention of the NMT workforce. If you are interested in assisting our organization in working toward the completion of these goals, please contact Nanci Burchell, SNM-TS President-Elect, at nburchell@cmh.edu. Volunteers are always needed!

NMTCB PET Specialty Exam

On Tuesday, October 14, 2003, the NMTCB, www.nmtcb.org, announced the availability of the PET Specialty Exam. The first administration of the NMTCB PET Specialty exam will be offered in 2004. Specific information regarding the exact date, content specifications and eligibility requirements will be announced after the Spring 2004 NMTCB Board meeting. The exam has been under development for the last 2 years, and was designed with certified and/or registered nuclear medicine technologists (CNMT and/or ARRT-N) in mind. Therefore, only certified and/or registered nuclear medicine technologists who have met specific pre-requisites will be eligible for the first administration of the PET Specialty exam in 2004.

An augmented version of the PET Specialty exam is under development, and will be offered sometime in 2005. Registered radiographers and/or radiation therapists (RT-R, RT-T) will then be eligible to take the PET exam after meeting specific pre-requisites. The augmented exam will be based on an updated content outline that includes information on topics that are pertinent to the practice of PET, but are not part of the entry-level exams for radiography or radiation therapy, such as safe handling of unsealed radioactive sources, radiopharmaceutical preparation, regulations, etc. The NMTCB is proud to be a part of the

ongoing collaboration between the professional organizations affected by the advent of fusion imaging. This spirit of cooperation will enhance the careers of technologists who wish to venture into this exciting area, and will ultimately result in the performance of high quality procedures for patients undergoing fusion imaging.

ARRT CT Specialty Exam

The SNMITS in conjunction with the ARRT is proud to announce that beginning in 2005, an augmented ARRT CT certification will be open to individuals who hold nuclear medicine technology credentials through ARRT or the Nuclear Medicine Certification Board (NMTCB). Recently, the ARRT Board of Directors passed a resolution allowing nuclear medicine technologists, certified by either the NMTCB or the ARRT, to be eligible to sit for the ARRT specialty exam in CT after completing specific prerequisites. Additional information can be found at the ARRT website www.art.org or the SNM website at www.snm.org.

Personnel at the SNM offices

I would like to take a moment to recognize the quality individuals that we have at the SNM offices in Reston, Virginia. I have had the pleasure of getting to know them a little better since my induction as an executive board member. Personally, I am very impressed with the office itself, the PET training center, and the staff at the SNM. Virginia Pappas, Executive Director of the SNM & ACNP, has assembled a staff that is dedicated to the successful operation of the SNM. Virginia is actually completing her 25th year with the SNM! I am sure that they would be happy to hear from the membership about any comments or suggestions that you may have about the organization. The SNM website is available at www.snm.org and the phone number is (703) 708-9000.

Mid-Winter Meeting

The SNM Mid-Winter Educational Symposium will be held at the Disneyland Hotel, in Anaheim, California on February 7-8, 2004. For

Special Announcement

The University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, plan to hold a Board Review Session for all Nuclear Medicine Students on April 16th and 17th in Omaha, Nebraska. This board review session has been presented at Chapter meetings as well as at National Meetings of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. This session is open to all and will encompass a review session and a mock exam.

For more information on this Board Review Session, please contact the Missouri Valley Chapter Technologist Section President, Mark Wallenmeyer at spfdmark1@mchi.com or 417-864-7601.

more information please visit www.snm.org or contact Shawneece Hennighan at (703) 708-9000 ext.1229 or email her at shennighan@snm.org.

Executive Director's Report

David Perry, CNMT, FSNMITS

The Missouri Valley Chapter has always strived to provide informative and timely education to its members by virtue of our Annual Meeting. To do so has always been one of several important services we provide to the membership and the nuclear medicine community in general. This year, we exceeded our own expectations. The meeting was held September 8-10, 2003 at the Sheraton Westport in St. Louis.

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Our attendance was excellent, with 30 physician/scientists, 6 resident physicians, 99 technologists, 4 technologist students, 7 non-member speakers, and 38 representatives from supporting industries. Thanks to several of our industry partners, attendees enjoyed many “extras” on top of the excellent educational sessions. In addition to numerous prize drawings throughout the weekend, some vendors sponsored “An Evening At Westport” at Ozzie Smith’s Restaurant. This well attended social function included sports entertainment, dinner, and a local band, as well as plenty of opportunity to visit with fellow “nukes enthusiasts”. A special thanks to our supporting vendors including:

- Philips Medical Systems
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging
- IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corp.
- Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt Medical
- Amersham Health
- Insight Healthcare
- Numed, Inc.
- Cardinal Health
- GE Medical Systems
- Eastern Isotopes, Inc.
- PETNET Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Siemens Medical Solutions USA
- Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc.
- Glaxo Smith Kline Oncology

Also, special thanks to Peggy Squires, Janis Brule, Debbie Christensen, and Tracy Nelson, members who volunteered their time and talents to see that all of the “behind-the-scenes” duties progressed as smoothly as possible. We also wish to thank IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corp. and Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt Medical for their generous support of two of our speakers, Philips Medical Systems for the use of their digital projection equipment, and Amersham Health and Insight Healthcare for their donations in support of our meeting activities.

We are looking forward to next year’s Annual Meeting. Dr. Greenspan will be the Program Director and is already hard at work planning even better

sessions. The 2004 Annual Meeting will be at the Lake of the Ozarks in southwest Missouri, and will be held at one of three very popular resort properties. We had hoped to be able to name the resort but have not signed the final contract so I won’t “jump the gun”. The dates for the meeting will be October 8-10, 2004. The timing for this meeting should provide attendees with a very colorful display of fall foliage at this beautiful lake location. Attractions in the area include a huge outlet store shopping center, a brand new indoor water park, lake attractions, and some of the best golf in the Midwest. Lake of the Ozarks is definitely a premier family destination with activities for everyone at a cost equal to or less than our recent venues, so mark your calendar and plan that fall getaway now. Look for more details soon on the chapter website at www.mvcsnm.org/meetings.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that the chapter has received the 501 (c) (3) tax status designation from the Internal Revenue Service. Look for more about this and what it means to us on the website soon.

Missouri Valley Chapter Historical Note

Robert F. Cech, M.D.

Some time ago a step toward specific molecular analysis (gastrin releasing peptide) in tumor studies was achieved by Dr. Wynn Volkert and his group from Columbia, Missouri studying the chemistry of radio-tagged Bombesin analogs. More recently, a group from the Netherlands, joining investigators from the Mallinckrodt Institute in St. Louis, Missouri, published findings using Bombesin in rat tumors (gastric releasing factor) as a potential pre-clinical diagnostic and therapeutic treatment of human subjects.

This was reported in the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* of December, 2002.

A Call to Serve

The Missouri Valley Chapter is looking for leaders. Members of the nuclear medicine community who are interested in sharing their knowledge and talents, and just a little bit of time, to help shape the future of nuclear medicine within the chapter, across the country, and throughout the world.

The next chapter election is scheduled for summer 2004, at which time we will be electing two new Councilors. One will be a physician or scientist who must be a “Full Member” of the SNM. The other is a technologist whose primary pre-requisite is to hold “Technologist Voting Member” or “Associate Member” status with the SNM. This voting privilege is just a few dollars more than standard “Technologist Member” status and affords voting rights at the chapter and national levels.

The MVC-TS will be holding elections for a new President-Elect. This is a very important position within the chapter and it also opens many doors for those with interest at the national level.

This chapter is blessed with participants at the local, regional and national level. Those interested in keeping this strong tradition of leadership alive may submit their candidacy online at http://www.mvcsnm.org/candidate_info_form.htm

November 2003

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

