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Missouri Valley Chapter
Society of Nuclear Medicine
P.O. Box 1284
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Missouri Valley Chapter Society of Nuclear Medicine

IOWA KANSAS MISSOURI NEBRASKA NORTH DAKOTA SOUTH DAKOTA

SNMTS President-Elect Message

Nanci Burchell BS, CNMT, FSNMTS

Prepare for a change.....

The winds of change are blowing across the SNM Technologist Section. If membership votes positively on the proposed Bylaws changes we will usher in a new governance structure. We will maintain our National Council (of Representatives), but increase the size and responsibility of the Executive Board. We will decrease the number of committees from thirteen standing committees to only three. In the place of the other numerous committees there will be task forces with a narrow focus and streamlined operating procedures. One of the primary goals of the proposed change is to allow our organization to be more nimble. We want to be able to rapidly respond to issues and opportunities, rather than constantly be reacting to situations after the fact. Task forces would allow members interested in a particular issue to focus their attention and limited time on a single task. They would know up front the time commitment involved. They would work on that project until completion. Task force members and the organization would see issues resolved faster and feel a sense of accomplishment with each task completed. As Einstein said, "insanity is doing the same thing in the same way and expecting to get different results each time you repeat the action". We need to find new ways of doing things

so we will get different results. It's time for a change.



National Council Delegate Report

William Hubble, CNMT

Springtime has finally sprung in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The days are getting longer and everything is in bloom. The mild weather is a nice change from the cold and dreary days of winter. Of course, due to the SNM Mid Winter Meeting in Anaheim, California, on February 5 – 8th, 2004, I had a nice break. As some of you know, California is a great place to visit, especially in the winter months. Attendees enjoyed 70 degree days filled with sunshine and beautiful surroundings in the Disneyland Resort. While others at the park were "mickey-mousing" around, if there is such a word, the members of the SNMTS were hard at work.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNMTS) began committee meetings on February 5th, at 8:30am, and concluded with the

Executive Board Meeting at 11:00pm. Committees held individual sessions to discuss important issues pertaining to leadership, finance, academic affairs, advanced practice, bylaws changes, government relations, nominating officers, nuclear cardiology practices, PET/CT education and training, scientific and teaching affairs, publications, socio-economic affairs and strategic planning for the SNMSTS. I attended the leadership committee (I can use all the help I can get), the PET Education - PET/CT Task Force meetings, the academic affairs committee, and the finance committee. The conversations at these committee meetings were interesting and provocative. In an attempt to become a more nimble organization, the number and type of standing committee meetings may be changing in the near future. I will discuss this in more detail in this report to the membership. Finally, committee reports were created for the national council meeting that was to take place the next day. In the evening, at 6:00pm, the executive board meeting was called to order. Under the guidance of the SNMSTS, President, Lyn Mehlberg, BS, CNMT, a number of topics were discussed, debated, and approved for presentation at the national council meeting. After 14.5 total hours of meeting to discuss issues related to the profession of nuclear medicine technology, a few, well deserved nightcaps were consumed, and we called it a day.

The next morning began with a meeting to introduce neophyte national council members (that would be me) about the parliamentary procedures or Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. For those that are not familiar, it is a regulated process for conducting a meeting in an orderly manner. I appreciated the review session and it was nice to be refreshed on parliamentary procedure. If you have

ever witnessed a large group trying to discuss a heated issue, you would appreciate why organizations employ these rules. The National Council Meeting followed this review. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am and concluded at 6:00 pm. Significant resolutions that were passed included:

- a) approval of a confidentiality policy for the SNM-TS leadership (I understand a need for confidentiality, but I voted against this; I am concerned about the need for too much confidentiality in a not-for-profit organization)
- b) endorsement of the ASRT/SNMSTS PET/CT curriculum (I endorsed this document, it will become an important tool for guiding and organizing training programs for technologists to become qualified in PET/CT)
- c) approval of proposed changes in the SNMSTS management fee allocation percentages as described in the allocation Task Force Report (the finance committee chair or co-chair can explain this resolution with more clarity)
- d) recommendations that the membership committee evaluate a proposed dues structure for lifetime membership for technologist sections membership (interesting concept that was discussed, but more information was needed)
- e) recommendation of the implementation of online advertising on the SNM website (we were assured that this would not be pop up advertising)
- f) approval of funding for a gateway style meeting to focus on developing more education offerings in PET/CT (the need for methods and

Missouri Valley Chapter Historical Note

Robert F. Cech, M.D.

From the November, 2003 *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (pp.362) we learn that the Society of Nuclear Medicine president, Henry Royal has a prediction for the future of Nuclear Medicine, which blazes the trail of imaging at the molecular level. This is the so-called "fusion imaging" or the combination of anatomy by CAT scan, setting the limits of observation with some other technique such as PET scan describing the physiology taking place within the confines of the anatomy. This also involves a type of fusion of the fields of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine (more information for the attending physician.)

Actually, some Nuclear Medicine practice has taken this approach for some time, often with the application of two separate instruments. The present concept of fusion involves the combined outputs of a single instrument. Molecular imaging is one of the goals of the Society and its chapters.

means for current technologists to acquire PET/CT skills is a hot topic)

- g) approval of SNMSTS Fellow status for Lisa Hazen, CNMT, Brenda King, CNMT and Kathy Murphy, CNMT, NCT, MS (congratulations to these individuals for their important contributions to the SNM!)
- h) and Bylaws changes recommended in the SNMSTS reorganization plan (I

approved these changes to be voted on by the general membership. My approval was based on recommendations of the Bylaws committee and an excellent presentation by Ann Marie Alessi, CNMT, Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee. I think that the general membership should take a good look at the proposed changes before approving these Bylaws changes. The catalyst for these changes were to make our organization a more efficient and effective operation in the future. Some are significant and others are no-brainers.)

The major changes include:

- a) changes in the duties, responsibilities, privileges, and structure of the national council of representatives
- b) creation of a speaker of the national council of representatives (similar to a speaker of the house)
- c) nomination, composition, and selection of the members of the executive board
- d) changes in duties and responsibilities of the members of the executive board
- e) changes in the standing committees of the national council of representatives
- f) the only standing committees will be the bylaws, finance, and nominating committees (other committees can continue, but will no longer be considered standing committees)

After, discussing, debating, approving and disapproving resolutions, the meeting was adjourned. A reception was held which included refreshments. Many of the participants of the council meeting took advantage of the rest of

the evening to dine in the Disneyland Park.

On Saturday, February 6th, the educational symposium began with interesting topics on Clinical PET: Oncology and Neurology, Nuclear Cardiology, Radiopharmaceutical Therapy in Cancer, and Nuclear Medicine for the Technologists – Current Practice and Future Trends. The offerings were interesting and demonstrated the need for continued education in our profession.

The Mid Winter Meeting concluded for me with the SNM House of Delegates that was held from 8:00am to 12 noon, on Sunday. In summary, I really enjoyed this meeting! I had the opportunity to meet interesting nuclear medicine professionals from all over the country. I left California with a better appreciation of our organization and our profession.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that the Society of Nuclear Medicine's 51st Annual Meeting is in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 19-23, 2004. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the Missouri Valley Chapter. I can be reached at (314) 977-8594, or email me at hubblewl@slu.edu. I appreciate your support and look forward to representing the MVCTS at every opportunity.



Executive Director's Report

David Perry, CNMT, FSNMSTS

Spring is here and this old man's fancy is turning to...our next annual meeting. Boring, you think? Not hardly. I have always looked forward to the Missouri Valley Chapter meetings as a time to learn, to socialize with friends from around the chapter, and to conduct some of the important business of the chapter face-to-face. With Nanci assuming her role as President-Elect of the SNMSTS, and my helping out with the Executive Director duties, I find myself with even more to look forward to in our next meeting. Through this new role, I have become deeply involved with planning various aspects of the meeting. Let's take a look at what we have so far.

As previously announced, the meeting will be held on October 8-10, 2004, with the education program starting Saturday morning and continuing through Sunday noon. This year's venue is the Tan-Tar-A Resort Golf Club & Spa, one of the premier destinations in the Lake of the Ozarks area. We have negotiated with the resort for a special room rate of \$99 per night for single, double, triple or quadruple occupancy. This is the same rate we had at the Sheraton Westport in St. Louis, but I assure you Tan-Tar-A has much more to offer. In fact, this weekend will be an ideal opportunity to bring the family for a mid-fall getaway. Tan-Tar-A advertises itself as "*A wilderness haven removed from the hustle and bustle of the outside world. A place where you can find endless excitement or unwind in complete relaxation. There is something for everyone at Tan-Tar-A. The fun begins with our newest additions, Timber Falls Indoor Waterpark and Bear's Den Arcade. Two outdoor pools, one indoor*

pool, a fully equipped spa and health club, 27 holes of championship golf, horseback riding a bowling alley and so much more make Tan-Tar-A a true resort for all seasons.” For those hunting a bargain, the Osage Beach Premium Outlet Mall is nearby with over 110 top brand stores. So, bring the family. You can rest assured they won’t be bored while you attend the educational sessions.

Speaking of education, our program is filling rapidly. Though speaker names and the titles of the talks cannot be published until they have received CME approval, we can tell you we plan to have excellent speakers on new therapeutic agents, quality assurance, instrumentation, accreditation issues, digital image display, archival and retrieval, other general and cardiovascular nuclear medicine imaging topics, and, of course, a couple of new topics in PET. We plan to accept abstracts from physicians, technologists and students for presentation, as well. Just a reminder that several of last year’s abstract presenters won cash awards for their effort.

We also plan to have speakers from the Society of Nuclear Medicine and may just be able to pull off a surprise or two. So, make your plans now to attend the Missouri Valley Chapter Annual Meeting. You will not be disappointed.



Life, however, is not all about the annual meeting. We are taking care of other business of the chapter as well. One highlight, of which the Executive

Council is extremely proud, is that we received our Chapter Charter from the Society of Nuclear Medicine on February 7, 2004. This designation is the culmination of great effort to organize the MVC to better serve our membership and to be in direct alignment with Society of Nuclear Medicine. Along the way, we have streamlined our Bylaws and have gained IRS designation as a 501 (c) (3) organization, neither of which were simple tasks. A special “thank you” goes to Nanci Burchell. It was through her extraordinary efforts that we were able to accomplish this lofty goal.

Lastly, I wanted to mention the MVC web site (www.mvcsnm.org). Having been online for several years now, I have decided to give it a new look. Aside from a new visual display, much effort has gone into re-organizing the pages in a more logical fashion. I have deleted some of the more dated material and have added some new features. By the time this article appears, the new site should be online. I hope you will visit it and let me know what you think. I also hope you will tell me if there is something you wish would appear on our site or, conversely, something you really wish would disappear.

For those of you who work at the subchapter level, please remember that the MVC has some server space available for subchapter web sites. I would be happy to help coordinate publication of your information on our server. This would be a great opportunity to be online for the first time. Or, for those who have already developed sites, dump those monthly fees or complicated URL’s. Join the MVC web family. Along with our web services, the MVC has email addresses (with spam protection) available for officers of subchapters, and a number of other conveniences.

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@mvcsnm.org).

The Missouri Valley Chapter continues to be a vital part of the nuclear medicine community. Our chapter has been home to a number of national nuclear medicine leaders, including the current SNM President, Henry Royal, and the current SNMTS President-Elect, Nanci Burchell. Following our rich tradition, we must continue to develop the leaders of tomorrow. If you would like to become more actively involved in the chapter, or if you have questions or comments about the chapter or our services, please email me at exdir@mvcnsm.org or call 314-362-1597.



Happy Memorial Day!

Lobbying for CARE

Richard Siska, BSNM, CNMT, RT(R)(N)

Report on the 6th Annual *R.T. in D.C.* March 7 – 9, 2004

In 1981, Congress passed the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act. This Act was designed to set minimum standards for credentialing and education of Radiologic Technologists. However, since the states were not in danger of being penalized if they failed to comply, few adhered to the law. Now, 23 years later, only 36 states have official licensure for Radiologic Technologists, 29 states have instituted licensure for Radiation Therapy, and 22 states have enacted licensure for Nuclear Medicine technology. The CARE bill (H.R. 1214), and its RADcare companion (S.1197), have been introduced to fill in

the gaps left by the 1981 Act. Each of these bills calls for uniform minimum standards throughout the U.S. If enacted, a state does not adhere to the law will be denied Medicare and/or Medicaid reimbursement for those radiologic procedures performed by unlicensed personnel.

On Sunday March 7th the sixth annual *R.T. in D.C.* opened with reception at the Washington Court Hotel. By early Monday morning more than 100 technologists from varying fields in Radiology had converged on D.C. The fun was just starting as we prepared to learn everything we needed to know about lobbying in one day.

The full agenda included presentations ranging from “Forming That Special Long-Term Relationship with your Elected Officials”, to “Role Playing”. We learned every technique imaginable to present our cases the next day. The stages were set and the leadership of the ASRT and the SNMTS were pulling out all the stops for the most productive *R.T. in D.C.* yet. Lyn Mehlberg, President of the SNMTS, and Christina Lung, ASRT lobbyist, were on hand to show encouragement and remind us that the Alliance, a group of over 500,000 health professionals across the nation, supports our cause.

On Tuesday, March 9th we “seized” the capitol for a day, visiting more than 300 congressional offices. I was flanked by members from the MSRT and their President, Anne Rutz, PhD. Anne had set up appointments with every Representative and Senator from Missouri. We decided to divide and conquer, armed with the knowledge we acquired the day before. We explained how the CARE/RADcare bills cost the Federal government no money, how they would provide continuity of care across the U.S., increasing quality and decreasing risk of improper diagnosis and treatment, and how they would actually save money at the state level. We explained to our legislators that an average of 1.7 radiological procedures are performed for every man, woman and child in the U.S. annually. One

poignant story stood out as told by Donita Shipman, RT(R)(M)(QM), from Sedalia, MO. Her experience involved a 12 year old girl who needed a bronchoscopy and a lung biopsy. Ms. Shipman took a repeat chest x-ray of the little girl because the originals were not available. She recounted, “I told the mother I had to undress her daughter and put a gown on, and she told me, ‘the nurse didn’t do that to her before.’” To everyone’s surprise the chest x-ray came back negative. “I found out that when the girl had the x-ray exam at her physician’s office, she had been wearing her favorite Little Mermaid sweatshirt with puff paint on it. The nurse taking the x-ray did not have enough education to undress the child and put a gown on her to avoid artifacts, and she took the x-ray four or five times. It is important not to radiate children when they don’t need it. We could have saved this child’s family money and unnecessary anguish had a qualified person taken the first x-ray,” Ms. Shipman stated.

Although our meetings had a positive ring, we must all still pursue our licensure. It is not just a professional issue for technologists, but a quality of care issue for our patients. Now, on the heels of *R.T. in D.C.*, it is us, the constituents that hold the power. Each one of us must be our own lobbyist and we must go out there, contact our legislators, and continue the fight.

For a list of your legislators visit www.congress.org or visit the Government Relation section of the SNMTS website, www.snm.org.

Richard represents Missouri as a “SHPL” (State Health Policy Liaison), a group of folks identified by the SNMTS Government Relations Committee to help with the grass roots organization of technologists for the support of the CARE Act in the House of Representatives and the RADcare Act in the Senate.

April 2004

MVC Missouri Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 1284
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Subscriber Name

MVC Calendar of Events

June 19-23, 2004

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

51st Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine

Interact with experts in the field! Discover recent advances in nuclear medicine!

Earn Continuing Education Credits!

Join for the celebration of 50 years of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

June 20, 2004

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Philadelphia Marriott

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Missouri Valley Chapter Executive Council Meeting

The MVC Executive Council will meet to conduct the business of the Chapter.

Agenda items include: 2004 Annual Meeting, 2005 Annual Meeting location, Nominations for Councilor, and more.

October 8-10, 2004

Tan-Tar-A Resort Golf Club & Spa

Annual Meeting, Missouri Valley Chapter Society of Nuclear Medicine

This year's Annual Meeting promises to be memorable. Set in a family friendly atmosphere with golf, Waterpark, shopping, and so much more, this is a great opportunity for a mid-fall weekend getaway. For details, check out

www.mvcsnm.org/meeting or contact Dave Perry at exdir@mvcsnm.org