



Special points of interest:

- 2010 MVC Annual Meeting Highlights.
- Election Results
- NCD Report
- Message from the President
 - MVC and MVCTS
- Technologist Section Leadership Academy

2010 MVC Annual Meeting in St. Louis

Thank you to all who made the 2010 Joint Meeting in St. Louis with the Central Chapter a success. We had a total of 269 attendees without the vendors.

This could not have been a success without your involvement and the support of our vendors. We had a total of 23 vendors for this meeting. A list of vendors is at right.

We would also like to thank Hedland-Bacon Management for managing the meeting registration for this meeting. Hedland-Bacon is the management company for the Central Chapter, and graciously waived their fee for this meeting. If you see Merle or Gen, please thank them for their contributions.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Recognition of Dr. Robert Caretta and Peggy Squires as outgoing councilors to the MVC Executive Council.



MVC Presidents Message

Thank you to all who attended the 2010 Joint Meeting of the Central Chapter and the Missouri Valley Chapter Society of Nuclear Medicine which was held October 1-3, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch in St. Louis, MO. I would like to extend a special thank you to all who helped make the 2010 MVC Annual Meeting a success. Whether you helped with the program, helped with the meeting itself, or were an attendee, your help and participation was greatly appreciated.

The meeting was quite successful by all accounts. The attendance certificates for the MVCSNM & CCSNM, A Gateway to Education, are now available online. By now, you should have received an email containing your log-in information. Please log in and print your certificates at your earliest convenience.

Congratulations to Michael Graham, MD, PhD who is currently serving as the Immediate Past President of the national SNM and to Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS. Mark received his Fellow status with the SNMTS at the SNM Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD was elected as the 2010-11 SNM President and George Segall, MD is the 2010-11 SNM President Elect. I would like to thank Dr. Graham for all of his hard work and dedication. We wish him well in his future endeavors. I am also grateful to Dr. Yusuf Menda, immediate Past President of the MVC. Thanks Dr. Menda for all your hard work. Another thank you note to Dr. Greenspan not only for his mentoring in the administration of the MCV but also for accepting the President-elect position. I look forward to working with you.

The Missouri Valley Chapter is proud to announce the addition of Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA, DNMT, RT(N) as the new Executive Director of our chapter. Mr. Wallenmeyer brings many years of experience to the position with leadership experience at the local, chapter, and national level of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Mark has served as President of all three and is currently finishing up his year as Immediate Past-President of the SNM-Technologist Section. Mark has a proven track record of direction and leadership and we are looking forward to continuing working with Mr. Wallenmeyer and the expertise he brings to this position. As you can see, the MVC website is currently undergoing some changes which is one of Mark's recent projects. This project is still in its initial stages but we are looking forward to adding other enhancements as time progresses. Our intent is to make the site more user friendly with better navigation capabilities. Any input or feedback you would like to share would be greatly appreciated.

In this month, members of MVC of different faiths, races and nationalities are celebrating different holidays including Christmas, Hanukkah, Ashura, Al Jijra and Kwanzaa. I wish all of you continuing peace, hope and love. May the upcoming holidays be a holy, healthy and happy time for all of you. May we all have a productive new year in 2011.

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News from the Top by NCOR Delegate Nanci Burchell

National News:

When the National Council met in Salt Lake City for the SNM Annual Meeting there were three major concerns brought to the table. They were:

The ongoing Technetium shortage

The shortage of job opportunities for technologists

CMS guidelines requiring a physician or pharmacist to be on-site during radiopharmaceutical preparation

Since the meeting in June the Chalk River facility in Canada has reopened and there is no longer an immediate shortage. However, there remains the problem of the US not having the capability to produce medical grade isotopes. While the University of Missouri at Columbia has a reactor, they do not have the capability to process medical quality isotopes. Adding to the situation is Missouri Senator Kit Bond who has held up legislation that would allow for the development of a domestic supply of medical isotopes. November elections should ease this roadblock. There is also the problem of business lost while the shortage was in effect. Over 52% of nuclear medicine operations report that business has not returned to pre-shortage levels. This problem will need to be addressed at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting.

The Ohio Valley SNM requested the SNMTS support a petition to limit enrollment in NM technology training programs in their area due to a job shortage. While the SNMTS remains mindful that the market for technologists is very tight, the NCOR and the SNMTS Executive Committee voted not to support the petition for the following reasons:

- 1) the SNMTS cannot restrict the fair business practice (fair trade) of any entity
- 2) the SNMTS does not wish to restrict/prohibit any individual from entering the field of Nuclear Medicine

Student advisors and program coordinators are encouraged to remind students undertaking any course of study to thoroughly investigate the potential job market prior to enrollment. Also, the SNMTS is now offering a FREE job bank for members. Job openings are listed and resumes can be posted.

In the recent past several NM practices have been cited by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and state agencies for not having a physician or pharmacist directly available during radiopharmaceutical preparation. The NCOR and SNMTS Executive Committees are aware of the difficulty this presents for on call technologists and are working with our government relations committees to seek relief from this requirement. Stay tuned for further information.

MVC Montage:

Congratulations to our latest MVC fellow, Mark Wallenmeyer. He received this honor at the SNM Annual Meeting held in Salt Lake City in June. He is one of 7 fellows from the MVC. Out of over 8,000 SNMTS members, only 52 technologists have obtained this status. At the 2010 MVCTS Executive Board meeting Peggy Squires was nominated for fellowship status. We eagerly await the decision of the Scholarships, Grants, and Awards Committee.

The Education and Research Foundation (ERF) of the SNM has introduced a new scholarship that directly benefits technologists. This scholarship is in honor of Sue Weiss. Sue was a pediatric nuclear medicine technologist, a past President of the SNMTS, a member of the JRCERT review board, a health physics consultant, and served as Executive Director of the ERF for the past several years. She dedicated her life to the advancement of the profession and to personal professional development. There was a challenge issued to our chapter to donate \$1000 to this new fund. The MVCTS agreed to donate \$500 and to seek to raise the other \$500 from our members. To this end, an Amazon Kindle e-reader was raffled off at the MVC 2010 Annual Meeting. We raised over \$225. Congratulations to our winner, Patrician Tenhundfeld. We appreciate your support of the ERF and anyone still wanting to contribute to this worthy cause can send their donation to our Executive Director, Mark Wallenmeyer.

The MVC has shown an increase in technologist membership over the past year. However, as with many other organizations, the SNM is facing declining membership (primarily physicians) and increasing expenses. The overall budget for 2011 was cut by over one million dollars and seven positions at the national office in Reston were eliminated. As a Chapter we seek ways to increase revenue, reduce expenses, and be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. A copy of our annual financial statement is available upon request.

What is happening at the "National" level?



MVC Executive Director Mark Wallenmeyer receiving his fellow award from SNMTS President Cybil Nielsen.

SNMTS Leadership Academy— by Melody Yarbrough

Imagine this: you and a partner are in charge of a team of five tasked with pitching a tent. Seem simple? Now imagine carrying out that task in a limited time and with your team blind-folded.

This was the scene for one of our many development activities at the 2010 SNMTS Leadership Academy, held October 15-17 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Each year, the goal of the Leadership Academy is to cultivate fundamental leadership techniques and organizational knowledge that participants can utilize both at our home chapters and at the national level. Tracy Brillios, President-Elect, and I were proud to represent the Missouri Valley Chapter this year.

The weekend began with an ice-breaker reception and dinner Friday evening. Participants and SNMTS leadership had the opportunity to get acquainted during a fun-fact challenge, where we had to guess who belonged with each of the fun-fact statements. The evening continued with presentations by SNMTS leaders on how to plan effective meetings and an overview of the different leadership positions available to SNMTS members.

Saturday was completely filled with information, challenges, and fun. The SNMTS brought in Adventure Associates to facilitate the program. Through discussion and team activities, our leader taught concepts like the importance of giving good feedback and teamwork. Participants had to be willing to step outside of our comfort zones, as we never remained sitting for very long throughout the day.

Many useful insights came from taking the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator personality inventory. By answering a series of questions prior to the Academy, we were able to spend our time there understanding the results. Each participant learned our leadership style, problem-solving approach, potential pitfalls, and much more.

Overall, the weekend was fast-paced and jam-packed with useful information for both our professional careers and our service in SNMTS leadership. I encourage you to consider attending the Leadership Academy if you have participated at the Missouri Valley Chapter level and want to advance to national



“Nothing in life is to be feared, only understood. Now is the time to understand more so that we can fear less.”

- Marie Curie

Executive Directors Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Missouri Valley Chapter for their trust in allowing me to be your executive director. As you all know, I have served the MVC in many different capacities. I started out at the local level in southwest Missouri and served as the President of the local subchapter. I then moved on to the chapter level and got involved serving on committees and culminating in serving as your Chapter President. While at the chapter level, I started getting involved at the national level, which culminated in serving the MVC chapter as the National President of the SNMTS.

One of the things that we always talked about at the national leadership is to step back and let new leaders come in. That is exactly what I planned to do and what I have done. I do still serve on some committees at the national level, but will eventually be stepping away from the national scene. Oh I will still go to the meetings and governance, but I just won't play an active role there. I have brought back the experiences that I have gained and hope to serve you as your Executive Director. In doing so, I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

I have been in this position for a year now and it has been a great one. We have great leadership both on the Physician/Scientist side as well as the Technologist side. We have worked well together and share ideas and suggestions with all.

We have changed our website appearance and hopefully, this will bring some new opportunities. The MVC has gone to an electronic balloting system for our annual elections. This is saving the MVC money in these hard economic times, as well as going green as much as possible. We also now have a presence on Facebook which is a good way for members to network and get updates.

I look forward to the next year and have an open door policy. Please feel free to contact me at any time. My contact information is on the website: www.mvcsnm.org

-Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS





Election Results

In an effort to reduce costs and be as eco-friendly as possible, the Missouri Valley Chapter used an electronic balloting process for the 2010 elections. We are happy to announce that election process went off without a hitch. Voters were notified early about the change via e-mail from the executive director of the MVC.

On the physician/scientist side, a total of 198 ballots were sent out based on the membership numbers obtained from the SNM central office 2 weeks prior to the opening of the election. Of these 198 ballots sent out, 41 of these voted through the election website. That is a response rate of 21%. One of, if not the highest voter response we have ever had.

On the technologist side, a total of 617 ballots were sent out based on the same membership numbers obtained from the SNM central office 2 weeks prior to the opening of the election. Of these 617 ballots sent out, 141 of these voted through the election website. That is a response rate of 23%. Again, one of, if not the highest voter response we have ever had.

In all, 815 ballots were sent out and 182 were returned for an overall response rate of 22.3%. Congratulations to our 2010-2013 councilors:

Physician Scientist:	Akash Sharma
Technologist:	Peggy Squires

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Mark Your Calendars

The 2011 Missouri Valley Chapter Annual Meeting will be held on:

October 14-16, 2011

At the County Club Hotel at Lake Ozark, Missouri.

Planning for our 2011 annual meeting is underway and is going well. The 2011 MVC Annual Meeting will be held October 14-16 at the Country Club Hotel in Lake Ozark, Missouri.

The Program Committee will be working hard immediately after the first of the year to put together a successful program of continuing education talks. We will be looking at the evaluations and suggestions of topics from our past meeting. If you have a suggestion, and did not mention it in your evaluation of the 2010 meeting, please feel free to send to exdir@mvcsnm.org and it will be passed on to the program committee.

