

## Welcome to the New Frontier: Our Collective Futures

As the incoming president of the SNM Technologist Section (SNM TS), I am humbled by the enormous task that is ahead of me. My days as the “lady-in-waiting” are now over. The seemingly long 12 months of preparation for stepping into 2011–2012 president Ann Marie Alessi’s shoes came faster than I had ever imagined. Sitting in on meetings and conference calls that covered myriad issues at times seemed overwhelming. As the months passed by so very quickly, an epiphany happened and the mosaic began to take shape. The “big picture” is and has always been working in the present to build the future of the profession with lessons learned from our past.

My term as president-elect only hinted at the responsibilities that were in store once the baton was passed. I stand ready to represent this section, which was created to serve the needs of the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologists. From 1970 to 2012, 42 respected members of our organization have served as SNM TS president. Some had the distinction of being instrumental in creating the Technologist Section, developing its mission, writing its bylaws, and laying the foundation of who we were to become. Others had the vision of developing the credentialing body, establishing guidelines for education and certification of our profession. And still others had the foresight to elevate and strengthen us through recognition of our advanced levels of expertise in the clinical setting. During the Annual Meeting in Miami Beach, FL, I accepted the torch.

Based on my statements made when seeking this office, I continue to be strongly motivated to explore avenues that will encourage us all to stretch our limits, to look beyond the “traditional” to seek the “extraordinary.” During the next 12 months, the SNM TS leadership plans to seek collaborative partnerships with other professional societies—such as those for imaging informatics, optical imaging, and clinical research—to develop new career pathways for nuclear medicine technologists. We will also work with professional societies around the world to develop global partnerships that will benefit the profession. In addition, we will take steps to increase public awareness of the importance and necessity of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, putting a human face on the imaging modalities.

A strong emphasis will also be placed on the clinical research technologist. The Clinical Trials Network (CTN) is building a solid foundation with SNM TS members who are also members of the Society of Clinical Research Associates. During the 2012 SNM Mid-Winter and Annual Meetings the SNM TS, in collaboration with CTN, offered categorical courses for the research technologist. More courses are planned for the coming year, with excellent content and value in preparing for a career as a research technologist.

Those who prefer working with computers over humans will not be left out. A potential collaboration with the SNM Computer & Instrumentation Council and the Society of Imaging Informatics in Medicine is in the very early stages of discussion.

SNM and SNM TS recognize that we must stay ever vigilant about other imaging modalities as they relate to molecular imaging. Optical imaging is one of those bright and shining stars on the horizon. With a potential collaboration with the SNM Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation and the Optical Imaging Task Force, we as technologists must also educate ourselves on this modality and be prepared to incorporate that knowledge into our ever evolving skill set.

These are times of great change, and change we must in order to survive. We can no longer continue to do the same things and expect a different or better outcome. We must be prepared to roll up our sleeves and do whatever is necessary to equip ourselves for the next step on the ladder.

Remember: Nuclear medicine technologists do not decay, we just re-invent ourselves. We do what is necessary in order to morph to the next best that we can be. I stand ready to serve you.



**Brenda King, CNMT**

*Brenda King, CNMT, FSNM TS  
SNM TS President*