

To the SNMMI-TS: Congratulations on 50 Years of Dedicated Service to SNMMI and Your Patients

Vasken Dilsizian, MD, SNMMI President

On behalf of the senior leadership of the Society, I would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to the nuclear medicine technologists for their historic 50th anniversary celebrations as dedicated members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging–Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS). We are grateful for your passionate commitment to and enthusiasm for the field of nuclear medicine. To improve the human condition through imaging and image-guided therapy is the heart of SNMMI’s mission. The honorable profession that you have chosen, partnering with nuclear medicine physicians to deliver the highest quality of images and care to our patients, is perhaps the highest calling of all. Your compassionate care changes the lives of patients every day, and we are grateful for all of your efforts.

On this festive occasion, I would like to recognize the seminal contributions of nuclear medicine technologists to the advancement of science and direct care of patients. When reviewing historical discoveries, it becomes clear that many of the remarkable achievements in the field were the result of close collaboration between nuclear medicine physicians and technologists. For example, the imaging parameters for the rectilinear scanner, the technical details of tracer injection, and the imaging of stress myocardial perfusion with ^{43}K were developed through close collaboration between chief nuclear medicine technologists and nuclear medicine physicians.



The SNMMI-Technologist Section is celebrating its 50th year in 2020.



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The strength and merit of our scientific publications are laudable, but we must recognize and give credit to the other pivotal components of our professions that may significantly influence health care delivery. We must pay attention to our patients’ perspectives, education, and fears in the context of understanding their concerns about longevity and health. With this in mind, our nuclear medicine technologists have played a pivotal role as the “face” of our profession, having direct access to our patients during the busy clinic day.

Through 50 years of collaboration we have charted new paths, reached across disciplines, built consensus, and overcome roadblocks to deliver the best of care to our patients. We have appreciated the importance of exploiting the radiotracer principles for understanding human physiology and biochemistry and, thereby, improving the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Recent advances in molecular-targeted radiopharmaceutical therapy will undoubtedly further transform our field by extending healthy lives, an achievement of which we can all be proud.

Congratulations to the SNMMI-TS for achieving this major milestone! Together, we have come far. But, as in most of our endeavors, we have a long way to go. I am confident that our journey will become more noble and altruistic in the years to come.