

# SNMITS Names Scholarship Recipients; Announces New Awards

The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNMITS) announced the names of the first recipients of 2 newly created scholarships and also announced 2 additional scholarships that will be awarded at the SNM 2005 Annual Meeting in Toronto.

On February 25, SNMITS officers reported that Said Diabes Figueroa, MS, CNMT, RT(N), of Columbia, MO, a 2nd-year doctoral student in the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute at the University of Missouri–Columbia, had been named as the recipient of the first Professional Development Scholarship. Figueroa, who has a bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico, earned his nuclear medicine technology certificate and master's degree in nuclear



**Said Diabes Figueroa**

engineering/medical physics from the University of Missouri–Columbia. His doctoral research will involve imaging and dosimetry related to new radiation-based therapeutic agents for treating cancer. The Professional Development Scholarship provides \$5,000 to assist nuclear medicine technologists in pursuit of a master's or doctoral degree. Members of an SNMITS scholarship committee selected Figueroa for the scholarship based on his statement of career goals, recommendations, academic performance, and other factors.

On the same day, the SNMITS announced that Shree Taylor, an undergraduate student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences at Little Rock, is the first recipient of the Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarship. The scholarship provides \$5,000 to a minority student entering or enrolled in a molecular/nuclear medicine technologist program. The scholarship is named in honor of Mickey Williams, who was 1990–1991 SNMITS president. Taylor, of



**Shree Taylor**

Dumas, AK, was also awarded one of 30 SNMITS Paul Cole Scholarships for 2005, a \$1,000 award that provides support for nuclear medicine technology students. Cole, a champion of student education, died in 1986 while serving as SNMITS president. "SNMITS's need-based scholarship program will benefit deserving students across

the nation in pursuing their dreams of becoming nuclear medicine technologists through cash awards that recognize the circumstances and hardships of students as well as their accomplishments," said SNMITS President Nanci A. Burchell, CNMT, FSNMITS.

Members of an SNMITS scholarship committee selected Taylor for the scholarship from a group of individuals in entry-level associate's or bachelor's degree nuclear medicine sciences programs who represented wide-ranging cultural and economic backgrounds. The award was also based on a personal essay that detailed applicants' career goals and reasons for entering the molecular/nuclear medicine technology field.

Both the Professional Development Scholarship and the Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarship are funded by the Corporate Friends of the Professional Development and Education Fund: Alliance Imaging, Biogen Idec, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Capintec, GE Healthcare, and MDS Nordion. The Education and Research Foundation (ERF) for the SNM funds the Paul Cole Scholarships.

## New Scholarships Added

On February 23, the SNMITS announced the creation of 2 new annual awards funded by the ERF: the Outstanding Educator Award and the Outstanding Technologist Award. Winners of the 2005 awards will be presented with \$750 and plaques at the 2005 SNM Annual Meeting.

The Outstanding Educator Award recognizes an SNMITS member who has significantly contributed to providing knowledge that advances and promotes the field of nuclear medicine technology through outstanding work in education. The award is not limited to educators as traditionally defined. Eligible candidates may include industry and clinical professionals. Candidates will be considered on the basis of educational contributions to the field of nuclear medicine, such as:

- Positive educational influence on the careers of other nuclear medicine technologists;
- Development of effective methods/materials for teaching, training, and/or dissemination of information;
- Outstanding service as a mentor;
- Sharing of educational techniques and technology with colleagues;

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He added that many patients who previously might have gone outside the country for nuclear medicine diagnostic and therapeutic procedures now opt to remain in Bangladesh. Experts from Japan, Singapore, and India also attended the symposium, which was held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

*Society of Nuclear Medicine,  
Bangladesh*

## Stokes, Lithium Pioneer, Dies

Peter E. Stokes, MD, a Cornell Medical College endocrinologist

and psychiatrist and a pioneer in the use of lithium to treat manic depression, died January 22 at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City. In addition to his work in psychiatry, Stokes also trained in neuroendocrinology and nuclear medicine.

In 1965, at the Payne Whitney Clinic in Manhattan, Stokes and colleagues began their work on the effects of lithium salts in controlling bipolar disease and manic depression, publishing positive results in *The Lancet* in 1971, a year after U.S. Food and Drug Administration

approval. He also published early studies on neurotransmitters, brain deoxyglucose uptake in animal models, and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors in the treatment of depression.

Stokes was born in Haddonfield, NJ, attended Trinity College, and earned his medical degree from Cornell in 1952. He was appointed an instructor in medicine at Cornell Medical College in 1957 and remained there for his entire career, retiring as an emeritus professor of medicine and psychiatry in 1998.

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- Publication of education-focused articles; and
- Conduct of education-focused research.

The Outstanding Technologist Award seeks to acknowledge an SNM member who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to the field and who has exhibited commitment to advancing nuclear medicine technology in his or her workplace and through involvement with the Society. Nominees must be involved with the Society at the local, regional, and/or national level and have at least 5 years of experience in nuclear medicine technology. Some of the characteristics that define an outstanding technologists may include:

- Contributing significantly to the profession as a leader;
- Receiving local, national, or international recognition;
- Enhancing the image of nuclear medicine technologists in the workplace, for the Society, and/or elsewhere;
- Mentoring others to make an impact on the field;
- Conducting and publishing original research; and
- Exemplifying excellence in patient care.

Applications for both awards are now being accepted and must be received at SNM headquarters by April 15 to be considered for 2005. For more information and application materials, see [www.snm.org/grants](http://www.snm.org/grants). ❀