

SNMTS—Growing, Achieving, Advancing

The Technologist Section (SNMTS) has reached a number of milestones within the past year on which we will build in years to come. One of the most significant was developing a strategic plan for the next several years that articulates our goals, how we will reach them, and how we will know when we do.

The goals SNMTS achieved in 2008 were notable. One of our biggest successes was the increase in our membership. At the end of fiscal year 2008, SNMTS had 9,687 technologist members and 1,550 free trial technologist students, for a total of 11,232—a net increase of 386 (4%) over the previous fiscal year—with an overall retention rate of more than 90%. That growth rate is holding for the current year, even in the midst of the national economic crisis: as of May 2009, the section had increased membership 4% over May 2008.

SNMTS launched its latest member benefit, the Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education (VOICE) credit-sharing program, in May 2008. SNMTS partnered with the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) to create this service, which provides credit reporting for technologists by sending credit data directly to the NMTCB. As of January, more than 2,500 individuals had signed up to take advantage of this new benefit. SNMTS is now working to extend this benefit to members of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). SNMTS and ARRT leadership began discussions in late November 2008 and hope to begin transitioning information later this summer.

During the 2009 Midwinter Meeting, SNMTS leadership met with representatives from ARRT, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, the NMTCB, the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology, the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories, and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors to discuss nuclear medicine technologist and CT certifications. SNMTS plans to hold similar liaison meetings each year, either at the Midwinter Meeting or the Annual Meeting, to keep the lines of communication open among the various partner organizations. This is an important time in nuclear medicine, as the field evolves and expands with new developments in molecular imaging.

A significant task for SNMTS over the past year has been the development of a new strategic plan. A task force, created in September, has been working diligently for the past 10 mo to create a plan to position SNMTS as the leader in nuclear medicine technology, molecular imaging, and therapy. The

process began with a survey of SNMTS leadership and members. During the Midwinter Meeting, a full-day strategic planning session, facilitated by a consultant, resulted in the creation of a new mission and vision for the technologist section:



Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT

MISSION: SNMTS is dedicated to the advancement of molecular and nuclear medicine technologists by providing education, advocating for the profession and supporting research to achieve clinical excellence and optimal patient outcomes.

VISION: To be recognized as the leader in molecular imaging and therapy. To be dedicated to the advancement of the profession through adoption of emerging technologies.

The final strategic plan will be reviewed and voted on during the SNM Annual Meeting.

Looking forward, SNMTS will become more involved in the SNM Clinical Trials Network. The network is a collaborative effort designed to address the widely recognized need for validated imaging biomarkers to be used in streamlining the development and registration of investigational therapeutics. The network will create multicenter investigational new drug applications for imaging agents that can be used in clinical trials of investigational therapeutics to assess response to treatment or to stratify patients for enrollment in clinical trials. It is essential that SNMTS be intimately involved in this program, as technologists are on the “front line” when it comes to patient care.

As we continue to develop new programs and mentor new leaders, we continue to look to those who have come before to guide us through these unexpected times. Although we are pleased with our success to date, we know that there is much still to be done. We look forward to working with the current leaders as we begin to develop new ideas. We are hopeful that the leaders of tomorrow will be ready—and willing—to take on these exciting new challenges.

Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT
SNMTS President