

## Raising Awareness of the Need for Domestic Isotope Supply

In the past several years, the isotope shortage has plagued the nuclear medicine community, and it is still one of the most pressing issues facing nuclear medicine technologists today. A major initiative that continues to serve as a focus for SNMTS is the development of an awareness campaign focused on ensuring the domestic supply of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$ . Without a domestic supply of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$ , potential shortages will only worsen, which is why it is imperative that we take action now. As we, the nuclear medicine community, strive to find alternative solutions, SNM has made finding a permanent domestic supply of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$  a top priority.

On November 6, the U.S. House of Representatives took a significant step forward by approving H.R. 3276—the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009. This bill allocates \$163 million toward investment in the domestic supply of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$ . The bill will also seek to phase out the export of highly enriched uranium for the production of medical isotopes, which is a matter of national security. Over the next several months, SNMTS will continue to roll out its awareness campaign and work with key advocates in the fight for Senate approval of the bill.

To achieve this goal, SNMTS seeks to encourage discussion from both nuclear medicine professionals and others who work in areas that impact health care in the

United States regarding the domestic isotope supply and the positive effect on patient care. SNM will continue to work with industry stakeholders and other medical organizations to build support for the passage of this timely and critical piece of legislation.

Although finding a domestic supply of medical isotopes is a high priority, SNMTS is also working on practical steps that nuclear medicine technologists can take to utilize the current supply of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$  to its fullest. Scheduling patients according to when the radiopharmacy receives its greatest supply of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$  is one short-term solution. Utilizing alternative radiopharmaceuticals in place of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$  is another.

For more information and for additional recommendations on utilizing the current supply of  $^{99}\text{Mo}$ , visit the SNM Web site at [www.snm.org](http://www.snm.org) and click on Government Relations—Domestic Isotope Availability.

*Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT*  
SNMTS President



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## SNM Enjoys Smooth Operations

Despite a shaky economy, I am happy to report that SNM membership remains strong. Thanks to the support of our membership, we have been able to make some changes at SNM headquarters that have improved our overall operations.

One of the benefits of technology is its ability to instantly connect people with the information they need. In this day and age, online learning tools—such as webinars—are becoming commonplace because of their flexibility, which provides busy professionals with the benefits of continuing education live or in the comfort and convenience of their homes or offices. SNM recognizes the importance of continuing education and has leveraged technology to allow our members to take advantage of these opportunities—even without being physically present.

In addition to taking place live, some of these webinars are available “on demand” on our Web site for future reference, which is a feature that allows members to fit education into their busy schedules. Over the next year, SNM’s planned monthly series of webinars includes

offerings from the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, the PET Center of Excellence, and the Clinical Trials Network. The SNM Learning Center regularly offers several webinars through which attendees can earn credits. SNM’s Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs department provides webinars on the basics of coding and hot topics in nuclear medicine coding and reimbursement.

Another way in which SNM has embraced the power of technology has been through upgrading to the latest version of iMIS, the information management system we use that enables us to better serve our members. Over the past year, SNM has launched a multiphase initiative to upgrade its IT systems and infrastructure in order to continually deliver improved services to our members. As part of the scope, SNM has identified and implemented



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