

## Sharpening Our Focus on Quality and Education

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For 45 years, the SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) has been leading the development of the profession, meeting the needs of nuclear medicine technologists, and advancing the quality of patient care. In this time, the SNMMI-TS has grown to include more than 9,000 members—and as president for the coming year, my goal is to ensure that this trend continues. The coming year will be critical for both the profession and the section. For the profession, a strong focus for the whole society is to sharpen our focus on quality. My highest priority for the section is to listen to members and prospective members; I want to hear what members want and need from the SNMMI-TS and encourage active and positive participation in implementing the resulting new programs.

As the national health care agenda is increasingly focused on evidence-based medicine, the nuclear medicine community continues to face external pressures, including continued scrutiny on patient radiation exposure, perceptions of overutilization of testing, decreases in reimbursement, and loss of technologist jobs (attributed, in part, to the nation's economy). The SNMMI-TS, with its long history of focusing on high-quality patient care, is well equipped to lead the nuclear medicine technologist profession in dealing with these issues.

In the past year, under the guidance of April Mann, MBA, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), the Technologist Section has created a new quality initiative to: (1) develop and implement processes to raise awareness within the health care community of the value and benefits that nuclear medicine procedures provide in patient care and treatment; and (2) ensure that technologists have the appropriate training, competence, and credentials to perform these procedures in the new hybrid multimodality environment. These new

processes and programs will begin rolling out in the year to come.

One need that has been reiterated many times by Technologist Section members is for continuing education (CE) opportunities. SNMMI-TS members have access to a wide variety of free and low-cost CE programs—including a new, free webinar series that will provide technologist members with the opportunity to obtain 1 free VOICE credit per quarter while focusing on timely issues affecting their work. Members also have access to free journal CEs from both *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. It is my intention to provide more such opportunities in the coming year.

As one of the first Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associates, another of my priorities for the coming year is to support graduate-level education focused on nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. With a projected shortage of physicians by 2020 and a decrease in the number of nuclear medicine physicians, this new approach to imaging practice makes sense—especially in view of the evolving changes in the American health care system. It is time to map a strategy for moving forward.

Over the past year, I have been lucky to work with 2014–2015 President April Mann and am very grateful for her guidance. In the coming year, I will be joined by Sara G. Johnson, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), NCT, SNMMI-TS, on the new SNMMI-TS leadership team. I am looking forward to an interesting and productive year.



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