Getting Involved in Your Future

By Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT (N)

As I traveled to chapter meetings and presented the leadership update this past year, the two most common reactions I received were: “Wow, I didn’t know that the society was involved in so many issues for us!” and “How can I get involved?” Technologists also didn’t realize the many benefits of membership offered by this organization.

If you ever wanted to do more with your career or had the slightest desire to lead, then getting involved in the SNMMI-TS is just the ticket to enhance your career and make it even more rewarding. As a member of SNMMI-TS, getting involved is very easy and any level of involvement is appreciated. Your first step is to contact your state or chapter leadership to see what committees or projects they are working on that may interest you. The following link will direct you to the chapter information on the SNMMI website: http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=932. Eventually you may even consider chairing a committee or running for office at the state or chapter level.

Want to acquire additional leadership knowledge and skills? Consider applying for the Leadership Academy! The Leadership Academy is a two-day course, developed and presented by an assemblage of current SNMMI-TS leadership, key members of the SNMMI-TS, and SNMMI staff who have dedicated themselves to the SNMMI-TS. Lectures are complemented with team-building exercises which will enhance networking opportunities. The 2013 Leadership Academy will be held on January 24-27, 2013 in conjunction with the Mid-Winter Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Applications will be available on the SNMMI website in July 2012 with a deadline for submission in mid-September 2012.

Why not jump in with both feet and get involved at the national level? Consider joining one of the 20 committees and task forces available to technologists. The SNMMI-TS president appoints all committee chairs and members. Terms of office are most often one year. Use the following link to review committee listings and descriptions of activities: http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=1420. If interested, send your CV and request to Nikki Wenzel-Lamb, director of leadership, at nwenzel@snmmi.org. Once appointed, you will receive e-mails to schedule conference calls to work on committee projects. Conference calls are scheduled at a date and time agreed upon by most committee members. If you are approached by the incoming president to chair a committee or task force, say “YES!” You will be teamed up with experienced committee members, and a hardworking SNMMI staff liaison to help keep the committee organized and projects moving forward.

By now you are hooked and overwhelmed with passion for your career and the SNMMI-TS and are ready to throw your name into the hat for a position on the national ballot. It’s time to contact the Nominating Committee unless they’ve contacted you first! The immediate past president chairs the Nominating Committee and I will be coming to you asking about the position for which you would like to run. Whatever position you choose, I guarantee, if elected, you will be surrounded by knowledgeable colleagues and SNMMI staff and will experience the most exciting and memorable moments of your entire career. The honor of representing your professional organization in any capacity, seeing it move forward and accomplish its goals for the betterment of its members, is

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Message from the President

By Brenda King, CNMT, FSNMMTS

As the incoming president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS), I am humbled by the enormous task that lies ahead of me. From 1970 to 2012, 42 respected members of our organization have served as SNMTS president. Some had the distinction of being instrumental in creating the Technologist Section, developing its mission, writing its bylaws and laying the very foundation of who we were to become. Others had the vision to give birth to a nuclear medicine credentialing body and promote certification for our profession. And still others had the foresight to elevate and strengthen us through recognition of our advanced levels of expertise in the clinical setting.

During the Annual Meeting in Miami Beach, FL,
I accepted the torch and responsibilities passed to me by the 2011-2012 president, Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N). In my role as SNMMI-TS president, I look forward to working with the members and leadership of the SNMMI-TS to write another successful chapter in the history of our section. So “walk” with me as I share with you a few of my visions and goals for 2012-2013.

Ann Marie and other past presidents will now become “ambassadors” to the SNMMI-TS. Their experience and counsel will be drawn upon to assist the SNMMI-TS in reaching its strategic goals. These ambassadors, along with the National Council of Representatives, will be charged with providing insight on grassroots, chapter, and regional issues.

In May 2011, the Bureau of Labor Statics stated that there are over 21,000 nuclear and molecular imaging technologists employed in the United States. Only 12,000 of those technologists are members of the SNMMI-TS. There is POWER in membership; therefore, by 2015, the goal of the SNMMI-TS leadership is to reduce the number of nonmember technologists by 50 percent!

During the next 12 months, we will work with professional societies around the world to develop global partnerships that will benefit the profession. Additionally, we will take steps to increase public awareness regarding the importance and necessity of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. The SNMMI-TS leadership also plans to seek collaborative partnerships with other professional societies, including those that focus on clinical research, imaging informatics and optical imaging with the goal of developing new career pathways for nuclear medicine technologists.

A strong emphasis will be placed on the clinical research technologist. The Clinical Trials Network (CTN) is building a solid foundation with SNMMI-TS members who are also members of the Society of Clinical Research Associates. During the 2012 SNM Mid-Winter and Annual Meetings, the SNMMI-TS, in collaboration with CTN, offered categorical courses for research technologists. Additional courses will be offered in the coming year to assist interested technologists in preparing for a career as a research technologist.

For those of you that prefer computers over humans, you will not be left out. A potential collaboration with the SNMMI’s Computer & Instrumentation Council and the Society of Imaging Informatics is in the very early stages of discussion.

SNMMI and SNMMI-TS recognize the importance of remaining vigilant about opportunities in other imaging modalities as they relate to molecular imaging. Optical imaging is one of those bright and shining stars on the horizon. With a potential collaboration with SNMMI’S Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation and the Optical Imaging Task Force, we will seek to equip nuclear medicine technologists with the additional education they will need to incorporate this new technology into their skill set.

We all recognize that these are times of great change, but change is required to survive and grow within our profession. We cannot continue to do the same things and expect a different or better outcome. Remember: Nuclear medicine technologists do not decay, we just re-invent ourselves. When I ran for this office I promised to explore new avenues that would encourage us to stretch our limits, look beyond the traditional and seek the extraordinary. This year promises to be an exciting and innovative year and I welcome your active participation. Please contact me at brenda_king@sbcglobal.net with your ideas, comments and suggestions.

Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N). In my role as SNMMI-TS president, I look forward to working with the members and leadership of the SNMMI-TS to write another successful chapter in the history of our section. So “walk” with me as I share with you a few of my visions and goals for 2012-2013.

SNMMI-TS Welcomes 2012-2013 Elected Leaders

The SNMMI-TS Nominating Committee, chaired by Kathy Hunt, MS, CNMT, announced the results of the 2012-2013 national elections at the SNM Annual Meeting in June. The newly elected officers are:

- President-Elect: D. Scott Holbrook, BS, CNMT, FSNMTS
- Secretary: Sara Johnson, MBA, CNMT, NCT
- Finance Committee: Kathy Krisak, CNMT, FSNMTS
- Delegate-at-Large: Frank Patrick, CNMT

Continuing in her leadership role, Brenda King, CNMT, FSNMTS, will serve as 2012-2013 SNMMI-TS president. SNMTS past-president Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), will be the chair for the 2013-2014 SNMMI-TS Nominating Committee. The following positions will be elected during the 2013 national elections: President-Elect, Secretary, Finance Committee and two Delegates-at-Large positions. The first call for nominations for the 2013 national elections will be distributed and posted on the SNMMI website by September 1, 2012.

All of those elected have been very active within the SNMMI-TS and bring a wealth of experience to the organization. The SNMMI-TS leadership would like to congratulate all of the newly elected officers and wish them success in their positions within the SNMMI-TS.
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something you will never forget. I know I won’t!

At chapter meetings, I was surprised to find that the benefits offered to society members were not well known. Most of you are aware of the tangible benefits in continuing education (CE) offerings for a discount-
ed registration rate at venues like the Annual, Mid-Winter and chapter meetings. There are numerous online educational opportunities such as CT, MR and research modules offered through the SNMMI Learning Center along with The Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology (JNMT) CE articles, case reviews, and specialty council programs. Did you know that you can manage all CE information online and automatically have your credits transfer to the ARRT and NMTCB by participating in the VOICE Credit Sharing Program?

Another member benefit that is not so tangible and can easily be forgotten is our advocacy and government relations efforts. Addressing issues in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging on Capitol Hill is not an easy feat but our Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs (HPRA) staff and our consulting lobbying firm, Arent Fox, stay on top of issues such as the CARE bill and American Medical Isotope Production Act of 2011. They also monitor and respond to actions of other organizations such as the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Joint Commission, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to name a few. The HPRA monthly newsletter serves as an all-inclusive report of issues our HPRA department is working on.

I’m sure you’ve heard me talk this year about our State Technologist Advocacy Group (TAG Team) which consists of dedicated members in each state who are involved at the local level. Their duties are to identify changes in state laws/regulations concerning the practice of nuclear medicine, address any concerns or questions submitted by SNMMI-TS members from their state, and keep aware of all other news or policy changes that might affect technologists. The following link offers more information about this group: http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=11052. By the way, did you know that two percent of your membership dues are used to support our advocacy efforts?

Focus on the Fellow, Royal Davis, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS

By Laura A. Wall, MBA, CNMT, NCT, RT(N)

As a kid, Royal Davis, CNMT, RT(N), FSNMTS, dreamed of growing up to be a professional baseball player. Fortunately, baseball’s loss became nuclear medicine’s gain when Royal enrolled at the Saint Barnabas School of Radiologic and Nuclear Medicine Technology in Livingston, NJ. After graduation he worked briefly at Saint Barnabas Medical Center before moving to Children’s Hospital in Boston, MA, in 1979. Royal spent the next 32 years at Children’s Hospital as technical director of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Concurrent with his time at Children’s Hospital, he also worked as an adjunct clinical instructor (1984-2003) and educational coordinator (1993-2000) for the nuclear medicine program at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences in Boston, MA. In June 2011, Royal decided to leave management behind and work again as a staff technologist. Employed at Metrowest Medical Center in Framingham, MA, he enjoys being able to work directly with patients and practicing adult cardiovascular nuclear medicine technology.

With the support of Patrick Conte, MD, and Violet Custer, CNMT, at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Royal first became active in the SNMTS in 1978 at the SNM 25th Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Currently he is involved with the SNMMI Cardiovascular and Pediatric Imaging councils as well as the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology. Previously, Royal was a member of the SNMTS Program Committee. To those wondering how or why to get involved, he says, “Being involved with the SNMMI-TS—no matter in what capacity—is very rewarding and fulfilling.”

The activity that Royal is most proud of is working as a technolo-

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**SNMMI-TS Highlights of 2011-2012**

By Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT (N) SNMMI-TS Immediate Past President

As the 2012 SNM Annual Meeting in Miami came to a close, so did my tenure as the SNMTS president and I have to admit that it is a bittersweet feeling. At the SNM business meeting, the name change was approved making me the last president of the SNMTS, and Brenda King, CNMT, FSNMTS, the first president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS).

Spending this past year as SNMTS president has been an honor and privilege for me. I’ve met some amazing people and worked with many dedicated members and staff. This organization truly has our membership’s best interest in mind and is an asset to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. I am excited to report to you some of our most impressive success from the past year.

The New Professionals task force quickly identified ways to meet the needs of our members who are within the first 5-10 years of their career. The task force created a quarterly new professionals newsletter—*The Collimator: Getting Through to New Professionals*—that addresses issues and topics unique to this group. The SNMTS also hosted a New Professionals Reception at the 2012 Annual Meeting designed to provide a forum for new professionals to network with the SNMTS leadership as well as other colleagues in the field.

New this year, the SNMTS created the graduation transition program, providing discounted membership ($52) to free-trial students after graduation. The SNMTS also hosted focus groups for students at chapter meetings this spring to find out what students are looking for, what their perception is of SNM and how SNM can get them more involved early in their careers. The excellent feedback received from these sessions will be utilized to develop more student-specific resources.

In November 2011, the SNMTS debuted the first Chapter Roadshow, “Imaging Effectively through Uncertainty.” This important initiative provided a vehicle to communicate with members who are not able to attend the national meetings and gave them crucial education regarding radiation safety. Roadshows were held in Albany, NY, Tyler, TX, Des Moines, IA, Charleston, WV, and Charlotte, NC. I would like to thank all who made donations and contributed their time to make these roadshows a success.

The State Technologist Advocacy Group (TAG Team) was formed and is responsible for tracking and reporting on a variety of state activities including monitoring licensing issues and legislative and regulatory initiatives. Through a dedicated TAG website, members can contact their TAG representative with questions and keep our Advocacy Committee informed of issues throughout the country.

Over the past year, the SNMTS has truly embraced the concept of outreach and has participated in domestic and international collaborative programs with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Committee and the Section for Magnetic Resonance Technologists.

The Professional Development and Education Fund (PDEF) was re-launched in September 2011 to celebrate its 10-year anniversary. The PDEF has evolved and grown into a strong fundraising arm for the SNMTS. PDEF programs contribute to innovative research and a more knowledgeable, advanced technologist workforce and are an opportunity for the SNMTS to grow and expand its professional development offerings. By giving to the PDEF you are providing learning opportunities for technologists.

It has truly been a pleasure serving as president of the SNMTS. I am so proud to represent such an amazing profession. Thank you to the “Nuclear Force” (SNMTS Executive Board, committee chairs, and National Council of Representatives) and to the SNM leadership and SNM staff for the hard work, time, and effort that you put into the success of the SNMTS and the field of nuclear medicine—our members have benefited because of you! I wish our incoming president, Brenda King, a successful term and I pledge my continued support to her and to my beloved SNMTS, now the SNMMI-TS.

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**NMTCB Call for Directors**

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) is seeking applicants to serve on its board of directors. This is an excellent opportunity to become involved in one of the more challenging and important areas of your profession—establishing standards of professional competency.

Interested certified nuclear medicine technologists may request an application form and may direct any questions to David Perry, NMTCB executive director, at (800) 659-3953 or board@nmtcb.org. Applications and information about the requirements, roles and responsibilities are also available on the NMTCB website at www.nmtcb.org under the Resources tab.

Completed applications received by August 15, 2012, will be reviewed at the fall NMTCB board of directors meeting. The four-year term for the newly elected director begins on January 1, 2013.
The SNM 2012 Annual Meeting was held June 9-13 in dazzling, Miami Beach, FL. Prior to the arrival of the general membership (4,284 professional attendees), the SNMTS National Council of Representatives (NCOR) met and discussed many relevant topics in our field. Our leadership, comprised of the Executive Board, chapter leadership, and committee chairs, provided updated reports on the past year’s activities while developing plans for the coming year.

Each year, Saturday offers a full-day of focused educational opportunities for an additional fee. The categorical sessions include current hot topics as well as a three-day NCT review and mock exam session. Sunday through Wednesday provided an extensive array of continuing education sessions in PET, PET/CT, neurology, and safety, to name but a few.

Did you stop by the exhibit hall? Over 150 exhibitors, whose support help make this and many regional meetings successful, demonstrated the latest in the industry while updating us on new research for imaging agents or tools.

Sunday morning’s plenary session’s theme was global collaboration, echoed with messages from the SNM and SNMTS presidents and global society leaders. Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), opened the SNMTS plenary session that afternoon and introduced the guest speaker, author and cancer survivor Betsy de Parry, who shared her insight into the experience of illness and suggested specific steps to help us improve the lives of patients.

The plenary session also provided an opportunity for SNMTS to honor some of its outstanding members in front of a majority of Annual Meeting attendees. Alessi welcomed six new fellows, recognized the 2012 Outstanding Technologist, Elizabeth Hackett, RT(N) (CT), PET, as well as several SNMTS leaders, educators, students and contributing members. The Technologist Section business meeting on Monday brought more awards, including the winners of the technologist and student oral presentations and poster sessions. Congratulations and thanks to everyone for taking time to volunteer your special skills to enhance the SNMTS.

Monday morning, two-thirds of the voting members present at the business meeting voted to revise the name of our beloved society, from SNM to Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. At the technologist business meeting that afternoon, Alessi, the last president of the SNMTS passed the baton to Brenda King, CNMT, FSNMTS, the first president of the SNMMI-TS! Why the name change? As stated in an article by Frederic H. Fahey, DSc, SNMMI’s 2012-2013 president, and Kathy Hunt, MS, CNMT, in the May issue of The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, “The name ‘Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging’ retains our identity while opening our arms to new possibilities as well as to scientists, technologists, clinicians, and laboratory professionals whose primary focus is nonnuclear molecular imaging. It recognizes our growing diversity in imaging, nuclear and nonnuclear, molecular and non-molecular. It also recognizes the therapeutic, medicinal aspects of our specialty by retaining the words ‘nuclear medicine.’”

Of course, after all the business had been completed, it was time to party! The theme of this year’s technologist’s party was “Tanks, Tees and TECHS!” complete with boardwalk games. The party is always fun with the opportunity to visit with friends both old and new.

Thank you to all the committees that worked to make this year’s meeting another blockbuster. Make your plans now to attend the 2013 meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, June 8-12, 2013.
The assessment of cardiovascular disease should be a standard component of care for all patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).¹ Learn about cardiac stress testing in patients with CKD.

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Update on CoP 482.53(b)(1): Direct Supervision of Radiopharmaceuticals Preparation

By Lynne Roy, MBA, CNMT, FSNMTS

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed Conditions of Participation (CoPs) for inpatient services and Conditions for Coverage (CfCs)—under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS)—for outpatient services. All health care organizations must meet these regulations in order to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

CoP 482.53(b)(1) states that in-house preparation of radiopharmaceuticals is by, or under, the direct supervision of an appropriately trained registered pharmacist or doctor of medicine or osteopathy. There is no definition of supervision levels in the CoP. Supervision levels are only defined in the MPFS. Direct supervision, per the MPFS, means that the physician or non-physician practitioner must be present in the hospital or on the campus of the provider-based department of the hospital and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure.

Some inspectors, using the definition of direct supervision found in the MPFS, have cited hospitals for not being in compliance with CoP 482.53(b)(1). These nuclear medicine departments were unable to provide documentation that when radiopharmaceuticals were prepared after hours and on weekends, there was a physician immediately available to directly supervise the preparation. Other hospitals, upon learning of these citations, have revised their policies to be in accordance with CoP 482.53(b)(1). This effectively eliminated their ability to offer patients access to emergency nuclear medicine procedures after hours if a commercial radiopharmacy was not able to provide “stat” doses.

Both the CoPs and CfCs are regulated through Congress. This means legislation must be introduced and passed in order to change language in these regulations. For those of you who have been watching the progress of the CARE bill for the past 13 years you know that this is not an easy task.

The Obama administration, in an effort to curb federal spending, issued an executive order asking all federal agencies to review regulations that were redundant, outdated, or particularly burdensome to providers. To that end, the Department of Health and Human Services asked CMS to review the CoP for the first time, changes in rulemak-

img were made possible outside of the legislative process. The federal register issued a comment period whereby interested stakeholders could provide remarks concerning proposed changes to the CoPs that would decrease unnecessary hospital regulations.

SNMMI immediately asked for and was granted a meeting with CMS. An explanation of the issue, the negative impact on patients, and the increased costs to hospitals who changed practice to comply with CoP 482.53(b)(1) was provided. In addition, the training that nuclear medicine technologists receive in the preparation and administration of radiopharmaceuticals was discussed in detail. The definition and the role of the authorized user were explained. The SNMMI asked CMS to remove the word “direct” from CoP 482.53(b)(1).

CMS was appreciative of the time that was taken to educate them regarding the impact of CoP 482.53(b)(1) on patients, and the role and responsibilities of a nuclear medicine technologist, as well as that they operate safely under the general supervision of the authorized user through his delegated authority. That was the good news. The bad news was that this particular change would not be included in the final rule because it was not included in the proposed rule. CMS (and all federal agencies) must publish proposed rules and give the public an opportunity to comment. After these two steps, the agency is able to issue a final rule.

After the meeting, SNMMI sent a letter that summarized the discussion with CMS along with the request to remove the word direct from CoP 482.53(b)(1). SNMMI recently met again with CMS to state our position and ask that CMS act on our requested change. Based on the discussion during the second meeting, it was SNMMI’s understanding that a second proposed rule to remove additional burdensome regulations would likely be published this fall and that our request may be listed as one of the proposed changes. If it is, it will be imperative that all nuclear medicine stakeholders submit comments supporting the change to CoP 482.53(b)(1). Keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned for a call to action!

Although admittedly passionate about ensuring the recognition and utilization of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in improved patient care, Royal also is quick to mention the importance of his family. He has been married to wife, Elizabeth, for 40 years in 2012. Royal and his wife have two daughters, Marion and Megan, and three grandsons, who occupy most of their free time and money, according to Royal. When time permits, he also enjoys fishing and golf and is an avid New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox fan. For all of his hard work, Royal was awarded Fellow status in 2010 at the SNM Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. When asked why he wanted to become a Fellow, Royal says, “I can’t think of a more professional and wonderful group of individuals to be associated with. To me personally and professionally, becoming a Fellow was one of the most satisfying events in my career.”
Recently, SNMMI joined the Choosing Wisely campaign that was initiated by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation. Choosing Wisely is part of a multi-modality, multi-year effort to help medical professionals become better stewards of finite health care resources. An added bonus to the imaging arts would be the reduction in radiation exposure. Although directed towards physicians, technologists also share responsibility in supporting the overall goal of patient-centered quality health care. This is especially true in nuclear cardiology where multiple radiopharmaceuticals, stress options and approved protocols allow us to tailor procedures to each patient’s unique situation. What can technologists do to support this effort?

Dose Optimization

Over the years, the doses we administer to patients have trended upward. Back in the day, our camera systems dictated we use higher doses for improved counting statistics. With improved sensitivity in today’s NaI detectors, we should be trending toward lower doses. We need to find the optimum dose taking into consideration the procedure we are doing, the equipment we are using, and of course, the condition of our patient.

Using a dose that is too high delivers unnecessary exposure and may not improve image quality. In retrospect, a dose that is too small may yield poor data. Take a look at the package insert for the radiopharmaceutical you are using and note what dosage the manufacturer recommends. Are your department’s protocols in line with those recommendations? If the recommendations are in the form of a range, do you tend to use the upper end plus 10 percent? Consider using the lower end plus (or even minus) 10 percent. It may cost you a few extra minutes in scan time, but the benefit is exposure reduction to both you and your patient. Another option is weight–based dosing. A 350 pound patient may need the upper limit of the dose range, but there is no added advantage to giving the 102 pound patient that same dose. The American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) and SNMMI guidelines recommend an adult dose of 0.31mCi/kg based on a 70 kg standard adult. Weight-based dose charts are available online or you can create one specific to your department.

New solid state cameras and software improvements give us the opportunity to reduce acquisition times or radiopharmaceutical doses by 50 percent without compromising image quality or quantitative accuracy. Patients who may not be able to tolerate traditional SPECT imaging may benefit from reduced scan times; however, it may more appropriate to reduce the dose for patients who can tolerate traditional scan times, especially if they are young women or we are imaging with TI-201. Just as we balance resolution and sensitivity for our images, we should balance risk versus benefit for our patients.

Appropriate Imaging

Making wise choices on behalf of our patients does not stop with dose reduction. It also involves assuring that our patients are getting the best test available for their particular symptoms and history. Referring physicians may not always know the indications and contraindications for our imaging procedures, but technologists should. Talking with patients to obtain a good medical history is one of the best ways we can be a patient advocate. It establishes a relationship with the patient and the information we gather can help in image interpretation and confirm that we are performing the appropriate test. If there is a doubt that the correct test was ordered, it is our responsibility to bring it to the attention of the ordering physician or our physician. The American College of Cardiology (ACC), American College of Radiology (ACR), and ASNC all have detailed guides available on their websites that can help you determine when a test is appropriate and more importantly, when it is not.

As a part of the Choosing Wisely campaign, the ABIM Foundation asked each of its participating organizations to identify “Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question” specific to their specialty. These are designed to help physicians work with patients to make wise choices about their care. SNMMI is scheduled to publish its list this fall. ASNC released its list recently and made the following five recommendations:

1. Don’t perform stress cardiac imaging or coronary angiography in patients with cardiac symptoms unless high-risk markers are present.
2. Don’t perform cardiac imaging for patients who are at low risk.
3. Don’t perform radionuclide imaging as part of routine follow-up in asymptomatic patients.
4. Don’t perform cardiac imaging as a pre-operative assessment in patients scheduled to undergo low- or intermediate-risk non-cardiac surgery.
5. Use methods to reduce radiation exposure in cardiac imaging whenever possible, including not performing such tests when limited benefits are likely.

You’re not done yet!

Stay committed to making a change in your daily practice. Encourage your fellow professionals to get involved in the effort. Even if you are a one-technologist department, you are still a part of a team. Know your practice standards and follow them. Work with your physicist, physician and department manager to review your protocols, optimize your doses and make changes where needed.

Our patients depend on us to be their advocates. Our physicians and administrators depend on our technical expertise. When you show up for work, you accept these responsibilities. Even small changes like spending a few extra minutes talking with a patient, reducing your dose, or considering stress only, when appropriate, can have a huge impact on our patients and on health care in general. We too can make wise choices.
This past January, we were selected—along with 14 other talented individuals—to attend the SNMTS’ 5th Annual Leadership Academy in Orlando, FL. SNMMI Leadership Services, under the direction of Nikki Wenzel-Lamb, coordinated a fun, enlightening and successful three-day leadership workshop.

Accomplished technologists from chapters across the country were present. Attendees and presenters included our then SNMTS president, Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), and current president, Brenda King, BS, CNMT. The group was privileged to finally meet and attach faces to those elusive telephone voices—the employees of the SNMMI—the foundation of our organization based in Reston, VA. At the forefront of the event was an outstanding facilitator, Shawn Dunning. Shawn, a certified mediator who holds an MS in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, has presented leadership conferences to hundreds of groups and organizations across many disciplines worldwide. He did not disappoint.

Attendees formed groups and participated in several—sometimes mind-boggling, stressful or infuriating—team-building competitions and brain-teasers, indoors and out. Marvelous presentations by the SNMTS president and president-elect enlightened the group on the purpose, structure, progress and goals of the organization. There was always a stimulating flow of ideas and exchanges between attendees and presenters alike.

In those three short days, everyone developed a better grasp of their weaknesses and strengths, and many lessons were learned about leadership skills, professionalism and team-building. We discovered that not only is leadership an ongoing learning process but that “a good leader is a good team member.” Everyone appeared to be a few allies richer in the end. Not only did we gain a better sense of our individual leadership styles, but of the caliber of leader we could strive to become. The future of SNMMI-TS is bright, indeed.

Congratulations to all of this year’s Leadership Academy attendees: Jacqueline Allen, CNMT – Pacific Southwest Chapter; Pamela Alderman, BSRS, CNMT – Southwestern Chapter; Amy Brady, CNMT – Southeastern Chapter; Dori Browning, CNMT, NCT – Southeastern Chapter; Bryan Kerr, CNMT, PET, NCT, RT(N) (CT) – Central Chapter; Katrina Kinsella, BS, CNMT – Mid-Eastern Chapter; Sarah Krumrey, CNMT, NCT, PET – Missouri Valley Chapter; Maria Mackin, BS, MS, CNMT, RT(N) – Eastern Great Lakes Chapter; Elton Mosman, CNMT – Central Chapter; Delisa Nash, BS, CNMT, RT (N)(CT) – Mid-Eastern Chapter; Katie Penas, MHA, CNMT, RT(N) – Missouri Valley Chapter; Tanya Pettigrew, CNMT – Southeastern Chapter; George Pluchino, CNMT – Eastern Great Lakes Chapter; Laura Quillia, BS, CNMT, ARRT(N) – New England Chapter; Jared Seliger, MBA, CNMT, PET, RT(N) – Missouri Valley Chapter; Jessica Williams, CNMT, RT(N) – Greater New York Chapter.

If you have the desire to become a leader in the field of nuclear medicine, apply for the 2013 Leadership Academy. Information will be posted on snmmi.org in the near future.
There are a lot of exciting things happening in the SNMMI Education Department! First we welcome Pam Colman, DPM, as the director of education. Pam has just experienced her first Annual Meeting and has hit the pavement with her feet running! Second, I want to thank Sara Johnson, MBA, CNMT, NCT, for all her hard work as the outgoing SNMTS CE chair. I have some huge shoes to fill. So with that being said, here are some of the exciting CE opportunities that we are offering:

2012 Virtual Meeting and NCT Certification Review Course

If you were unable to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting or would like to get more CE opportunities, get access to full-motion video capture of 70 of the most popular sessions from the 2012 Annual Meeting—online or on your mobile device.

The Virtual Meeting includes:

- The option to view on your iPad, iPhone or Android 2.2 or higher.
- Seventy of the most popular sessions from this year’s Annual Meeting, featuring over 100 hours of content—including 20 of the most popular technologist sessions with over 30 hours of content and 45 VOICE credits.
- VOICE credits available for sessions you did not attend at the meeting. The sessions will offer a maximum of 103.0 VOICE credits.

The Virtual Meeting can be purchased from SNMMI’s website, www.snmmi.org.

The NCT Certification Review Course, 2012 held at the Annual Meeting, will be offered online as an enduring event. The course offers 15.25 voice credits and is designated for nuclear medicine technologists with experience in cardiac imaging who are considering sitting for the Nuclear Cardiology Technologist (NCT) certification exam.

The course provides a thorough review of nuclear cardiology to cover the topics outlined in the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB)–published Nuclear Cardiology Examination Content Specifications. It will enhance and reinforce your knowledge of cardiac anatomy, physiology, pathology, electrophysiology and imaging and processing. You will also gain valuable information on ECG interpretation, stress test end points, exercise capacity and performance measures, as well as cardiac and emergent medications.

The workshop will be available at www.snmmi.org in the fall.

PET Review Workshop

A PET Review workshop will be offered September 28-30, 2012, at the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, providing 14.0 VOICE credits. This workshop is designed to assist nuclear medicine professionals to develop the required knowledge in PET and PET/CT to prepare for the NMTCB PET exam. The three-day program will include comprehensive lectures covering all the topics listed in the NMTCB’s PET content outline and will conclude with a mock exam.

SNMMI/University of Arkansas Partnership

SNMMI and the University of Arkansas have joined together to develop cutting-edge online educational products for the nuclear medicine technologist and other nuclear medicine health care professionals. The University of Arkansas is host to Nuclear Education Online (NEO), which is an educational consortium between the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy. Some of the products from this new partnership may include:

- Online interactive lessons
- Repurposed live sessions/content into an online format
- Webinars

For more information or to see other CE opportunities, visit www.snmmi.org/education.

Free Technologist Guides from EANM

The European Association of Nuclear Medicine offers complimentary guides for technologists to download online. Guides include:

- Principles and Practice of PET/CT, Parts I and II
- Dynamic Renal Imaging
- The Radiopharmacy
- Best Practice in Nuclear Medicine, Parts I and II
- Myocardial Perfusion Imaging
- Parathyroid Scintigraphy

Take advantage of these free resources, available at http://www.eanm.org/publications/tech_guidelines/index.php?navId=293.
The Roadshows – Through the Rearview Mirror
SNMTS Chapter Roadshows Summary

Over the past year, the SNMMI-TS leadership has been working to develop an outreach program that would reach beyond the SNMMI-TS chapters and into the grassroots organizations. In 2011, the SNMTS debuted the Chapter Roadshows. The theme of the 2011-2012 roadshows was “Imaging Effectively Through Uncertainty.”

This was an important initiative for the SNMTS for several reasons; (1) it provided us with a vehicle to communicate to some of the members who are not able to attend the national meetings, (2) it provided our members with crucial education regarding radiation safety, and (3) it allowed us to show the importance of SNMTS as it relates to the profession.

The selection process consisted of a “call for applications” to all SNMTS chapters. All interested chapters were asked to submit a one-page intent form that outlined why they would like to host the roadshow and the importance of the SNMTS coming to their area. Five submissions were received. Three locations were selected during the initial review process; Albany, NY; Tyler, TX and Des Moines, IA. Subsequently, as additional funding was secured, the SNMTS notified the remaining two submissions that the roadshow would also be coming to their areas; Charleston, WV and Charlotte, NC.

The roadshows, a half day course spanned six months and brought together four extraordinary speakers; Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT, FSNMTS, Nanci Burchell, MBA, CNMT, FSNMTS, Charles Stanley, RT(R)(CT)(MR) and Lyndsi Hay, CNMT, RT(N). Attendance at each roadshow ranged approximately from 20-50, with the highest attendance in Des Moines, IA, with 56 individuals. The feedback from all of the roadshow cities was outstanding. Attendees were appreciative of the national level program at the local level and were excited to see national leadership in attendance at every event.

As it would have been nearly impossible for the roadshow to travel to all chapters, the speakers graciously agreed to give a final “performance” at the 2012 SNM Annual Meeting in Miami, FL. The four-hour session was captured and will be available online this coming summer.

Finally, we are happy to announce that due to the overwhelming success of this new program, the SNMMI-TS will be continuing the roadshows in the coming year!

The SNMMI-TS would like to thank the following chapters for hosting the roadshows; Greater New York, Southwest, Central, Mid-Eastern and Southeastern. The SNMMI-TS would also like to thank our sponsors, which without them this program would have not been possible.
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