

The Solvent Strip

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2006

Welcome to the E-Newsletter for the Southeast

This marks a new venture for the Nuclear Medicine community of the Southeast. The idea for a newsletter specifically for the Southeast was the brain child of Deborah Gibbs, president of the Georgia Society and new President of the Southeastern Chapter of the SNM.

As sometimes happens to those of us who have spent too much time around low level radiation, volunteering to edit this newsletter seemed like a great idea to me. Seriously, I am happy to present this inaugural edition. I hope that as our distribution grows and articles are submitted for inclusion, we can offer an

avenue for the exchange of ideas and information about our state societies and issues relevant to our profession.

Please feel free to comment, ask to be included (or deleted) from our e-mail list, and to submit articles relevant to the nuclear medicine community. Also, please share this newsletter with others techs who may not have received it by e-mail.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonny Pendleton, CNMT,
NCT, Editor

The President Speaks

As the President of our chapter, I am pleased to announce that we have successfully been able to construct our own Newsletter. Some of you may not be aware that the SNMTS nor the SNM recognize the individual states in their publications, only the chapters. As the state President of Georgia, I have always felt that good communication and support for other states is a must, for there is no Southeastern Chapter without each and every one of us.

One of my goals for this coming year is to develop a

method for keeping all of us on the same page in order to assist and strengthen the Southern states. I feel this newsletter is the ticket we need in networking, mentoring and developing good resources.

I ask each of you, as members of the chapter, to help in the support, maintenance and growth of the Newsletter and I look forward to it being a fun venture! I would like to welcome the officers and committee chairs for 2005-2006 and look forward to working with each of them.

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Special points of interest:

- Stock up on CEU's. Attend a state meeting near you.
- Find out what's going on in your neighboring states
- Voice your opinion on hot topics



Medical College of Georgia's Nuclear Medicine Technologist Class

President-Elect: Kathy Thompson

Immediate Past President: Shelia Knefle

Treasurer: Terry Hatcher

National Council Delegate: Danny Basso

SNM Newsletter Editor: Cindy Luckett-Gilbert

Legislature (SHPLs): Cindy Luckett-Gilbert

Local Arrangements: Carol Bonanno

Membership: Kathy Thompson

Academic Affairs: Donna Mars

PET Taskforce: Debbie Gibbons

Cardiac Workshop: Robert Pagnanelli (Duke University)

CT Workshop: Still searching

Program Chair: Aaron Scott

Webmaster: Mimi Owen

Nominations: Shelia Knefle

Medical College of Georgia

Medical College of Georgia student NMTs have enjoyed a busy and exciting start to the new school year. Junior and certificate students from Atlanta, Athens, and Columbus joined their Augusta counterparts at a week long orientation in August. They plunged head first into their new profession! Currently, these students are choosing topics for group research projects and look forward to competing in the student competition at the GSNMT meeting in St. Simons Island in April. Senior students have just completed courses in CT and Advanced Cardiology and are enjoying PET and PET/CT clinical rotations. They look forward to a May graduation. Many have secured PRN employment already and the future is bright!

The MCG NMT program is proud to report that its faculty has been highly involved in research and professional development at the National level. Atlanta faculty, Krishnan Prabakaran, MS, CNMT, NCT received the second place award in nuclear cardiology for his presentation at the Toronto SNM meeting. Greg Passmore, PhD, CNMT received a \$10,000 research grant from the PDEF of the SNM for investigation of depleted uranium in radioactive emission shielding. Mimi Owen, MHE, RT(N) has been actively involved in the Education Committee of the SNMTS and is instrumental in the ongoing compilation of competencies for the new advanced clinician the Nuclear Medicine Practitioner (NMP).

We are pleased to have David Simons, MS, CNMT, RT(N) as our new clinical education specialist in Augusta. David has a strong background in research and statistics and we look forward to his support in systematic analysis of the effectiveness of student clinical practicum and competence mastery. Please contact us if you have interest in furthering your education to the baccalaureate level and watch for information on the developing NMP program which we hope will become available in 2007.
Submitted by: Mimi Owen, MHE, RT(N)
Program Director, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Medical College of Georgia

Middle Georgia Technical College

Patty Melnick, M.Ed, BS, RT(R)(M) is the Program Director of the Nuclear Medicine School at Middle Georgia Technical College. She reports that the school has 10 students this year. This is the maximum mandated by the JRCERT. All Patty's students are required to be registered radiographer prior to admission to the Middle Georgia program. The school maintains accreditation by the JRCERT and COC.

University of Tennessee Medical Center

In July of 2005, the NMT program at UTMTC graduated its 21st class. All passed the NMTCB certification exam on their first attempt. Four out of six received "pass with distinction" honors. In August, 7 new students began their year long training. John Reagan, Sammy Wilson, Lori Lawson, Dale Newman, James Avenell, Amanda McCoy and Kris Yarnell make up the current class. Each has chosen their project topic to be presented at the annual TSNMT education meeting in April. The program is currently completing its

JRC-NMT reaccreditation self-study and is readying itself for a site visit in 2006.

Submitted by Glenn Hathaway, CNMT
Program Director
School of Nuclear Medicine
UTMC Knoxville

Chattanooga State Technical Community College

The Chattanooga State Technical Community College Nuclear Medicine Technology Program Class of 2006 started in August with 18 students from within a 300 mile radius throughout the southeast. The students are placed in areas as far away as Bowling Green, KY; Opelika, AL; and Johnson City, TN. Several students from Louisiana joined the group this year and are transitioning well to the area.

The students plan on attending the TSNMT meeting in April as well as submitting posters and papers for the student competition. They may also

participate in the Georgia state meeting since we have several students from the Atlanta area.

The deadline to apply for the 2006-2007 academic year is April 15, 2006. The next group of students will begin in August 2006.

Faculty news included Dusty York, BS, CNMT, ARRT (N) just returning from maternity leave after having a baby boy, Easton, in September and Leesa Ross, MA, CNMT, ARRT(N) being elected to the Board of Directors of the NMTCB for a 4 year term beginning January 2006.

Call to all Program Directors

The Solvent Strip would like to include stories about all the Nuclear Medicine programs in the Southeast. Please submit information about your schools to bpendlet@utmck.edu. As we hope to publish this newsletter quarterly, the deadline for receiving school news for the next issue will be March 15, 2006. You may include student names, how you are accredited, faculty information, any items of note in your curriculum, or any other information you would like to share. We'd love to hear about any awards your students or faculty have received.

STATE OF THE STATES REPORTS!

South Carolina SNMT

Annual Meeting September 16, 2005
Sheraton Atlanta Buckhead, Atlanta,
GA

The South Carolina Technologist Section experienced a bountiful year. Our website has become an important media for information dissemination and it includes our newsletters, meeting information, links, legislative issues, pictures, board of director contact info, scholarships, and links to the SEC and SNM.

We had a successful annual meeting that was held at Hilton Head in March with attendees from Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina.

Our President's Fall Seminar, offering 4 CEs, will be held in October in Florence, SC. This is free to SC members.

The 2006 Annual Meeting will be held in Greenville, SC in March. This two day seminar will offer 10 CEs.

South Carolina NMT students in a JRC accredited program will have gratis registration at our Annual Meeting.

Our scholarship student, Donna "Lynn" Gatlin, graduated with a 3.66 GPA and secured a job in Columbia, SC. She is a mother of 11 children, 7 still at home. Nine of those children attended her graduation.

We are continuing to address the state licensure issue pertaining to nuclear medicine technologists operating PET/CT equipment and how the state will categorize those nuclear medicine technologists who successfully passed the CT registry. DHEC is South Carolina's governing body as an agreement state but SCQRSA, South Carolina Radiation Quality Standards Association issues the licensures and makes decisions regarding such. Since our licensure bill was passed we have had continued issues with radiologic technologists being cross trained to nuclear

medicine. SCQRSA, policed through DHEC, mandates all ionizing radiation technologists to maintain a licensure in order to practice in South Carolina. However, within the policing definition of the bill, nuclear medicine was left out. So law states a nuclear medicine technologist must hold a license but no where is it stated who will inspect those licenses and fine institutions when necessary. This is the body we are currently working with to insure our nuclear needs. Respectfully submitted: Gerald Stone, CNMT, President South Carolina Technologist Section

Georgia Society of Nuclear Medicine

"This was the BEST Georgia State meeting ever". "The social events (Winery, golf tournament and Casino night) were a hit!" "I felt so welcome and I got to meet a lot of new Technologists."

The Annual Georgia Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists was held at Brass Town Valley Resort in Young Harris, Georgia on May 14 & 15, 2005. We has a total of 100 technologists and 12 vendors in support of our profession. We made a profit of \$3,652.72 on our meeting. We made \$350 dollars in monetary awards to our students. Our lectures included topics from CT physics, Cardiac PET, Treatment Planning, the "Daunting" Future of our Profession, New Advancement in

Nuclear Cardiology and Cyclotron Production.

We said "Good-bye" to our dear friend and President Jean Mayheu, who has moved to the Buckeye State. We will miss her efforts and sincerity. We introduced our new website: www.gsnmt.org which we hope all our members will take advantage of for upcoming news and meetings. Out new President, Aaron Scott, CNMT, who is presently employed by Emory Health Care will undoubtedly be an attribute to our officer panel. He has a lot of bright ideas cooking that will be unleashed at the 2006 Annual Meeting at the King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort in St. Simons, GA. (www.kingandprince.com)

I personally want to thank everyone who was a huge help in the success of this meeting; Jeannie & George Yoder, Sheryl Wilhite, Connie Haney, Jeanette Cook, Jean Mayheu, Mimi & Glenn Owen and OUR VENDORS!!!!!!

Submitted by:
Deborah M. Gibbs, BS, CNMT, NCT
President Elect, Georgia State Society

(State Reports continue on page 4)

2006 STATE MEETINGS

South Carolina—March 11,12 2006
www.scsnm.org
Gerald Stone, President

Mississippi—March 11, 12, 2006
rwilliams2@rad.umsmed.edu
Randy Williams, President

Georgia—April 21-23,2006
www.gsnmt.org

Tennessee—April 28-30
bpndlet@utmck.edu

Bonny Pendleton, President

Florida—May 4-7, 2006
www.fnmt.ws
Robin McCarthy, President

Alabama—June 16-18, 2006

www.asnm.no-frills.net
Norman Bolus, President

North Carolina—October 29, 2006
www.ncnmt.org
Vince Fox, President

Kentucky—November 19, 2006
www.ksnmt.org
Cybil Neilsen, President

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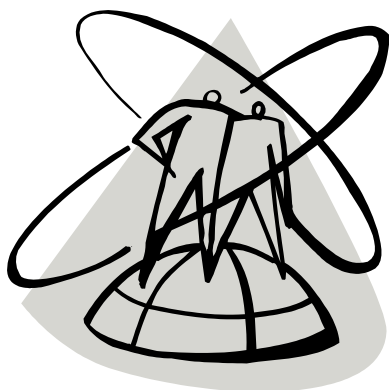
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*Bringing the news
from the states to
the technologists
of the Southeast*



Tennessee SNMT

The 28th annual meeting of the TSNMT was held April 1-3, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee. Approximately 150 technologists attended the three day conference earning 10 continuing education credits. Topics for the meeting ranged from Neutrospec to Veterinary Nuclear Medicine which was a popular talk. (Did you know you inject a snake in the heart for a nuclear scan?) Celebrating the fact that Tennessee produced the first radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine, t-shirts were available for ordering that bore the TSNMT logo and "Birthplace of Nuclear Medicine". These were a big hit and the profits went into the state treasury for future meeting expenses.

Elected officers for the coming year were: Dusty York-President Elect, Secretary- Leilani Eastman and Treasurer - Susan Swafford. Bonny Pendleton is the current President.

The TSNMT has 134 members. The 2006 meeting will be held in Chattanooga at the Chattanooga Marriott and Convention Center.

Alabama SNM

The Alabama Society of Nuclear Medicine has had an exciting year. In October 2004, we celebrated Nuclear Medicine Week by hosting a Nuclear Medicine Update Symposium at the Downtown McWane Center in Birmingham, Alabama. This event provided 2 VOICE credits for participants and a day of fun for the family at the McWane Center. On April 29 - May 1, 2005, we had our 32nd annual ASNMT meeting in historic Mobile, Alabama. Eight VOICE credits were offered to participants. The weekend events included dinner and tickets to the Mobile Explorium which housed the Dead Sea Scrolls for a brief US exhibition. Our 2005-2006 officers were elected at our annual business meeting. Danny Basso from the SNM installed our new officers: Norman Bolus-President, Jim Palmer - President-Elect, Kirwan Price-Treasurer and Aleshka Kerley-Secretary. The ASNMT will have another Update Symposium on October 6, 2006 at the University of Alabama. Two VOICE credits will be offered. The 33rd annual ASNMT meeting will be June 16-18 in Birmingham. At least eight VOICE credits will be offered.

What's Your Opinion?

The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section is currently drafting proposals for new entry level requirements for Nuclear Medicine Technologists. The entire content of Draft IV of this proposal can be found on the SNM website. I encourage all techs to read it. In the interest of space, I am including only excerpts from this draft.

"The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNMTS) proposes that by the year 2015, education leading to the baccalaureate degree become the standard for entry level nuclear medicine technologists. Since 1997, nuclear medicine technology has burgeoned in scope...These evolutions have ...challenged the professions to graduate entry-level technologists (NMTs) with cutting edge skills and knowledge. NMTs work more

with less physician supervision than ever before."

Citing the variety of NM schools out there the SNMTS says, "...it is extremely difficult to correlate relative success of graduates to the type of program from which they graduated."

The SNMTS feels that "...the current mechanisms for nuclear medicine technology education are diverging from the market need for knowledgeable and skilled professionals in clinical practice. Based on the amount and complexity of knowledge that must be acquired...a baccalaureate degree is the appropriate level of education." The need for critical thinking skills, problem solving skills and communication skills were cited in the draft as further proof that a bachelor degree is needed. Also, cited was the need our profession

has for a standardization of entry level education requirements.

Internationally, the SNMTS cites "Our neighbors in Canada, Australia and Great Britain all educate NMTs at the baccalaureate level." Also considered is that "an NMT is categorized as a technical occupation by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, not as a profession..."

What are your thoughts on this topic? Do you feel it would add to our profession to require a baccalaureate degree for entry-level technologists? What positive or negative repercussions do you anticipate if this change is phased in over the next ten years? E-mail me with your ideas, responses and opinions. I will condense the responses for the next issue.

Bonny