

**NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE REPORT
MIDWINTER MEETING –February 7, 2014
ANNUAL MEETING-June 5, 2014
Report Submitted 10/9/14**

Executive Board Report:

Budget from Fall SNMMI-TS Executive Board Meeting approved with small surplus for technologist section.

New Grants approved: WFNMB Student Travel Grant
Graduate Program Award Grant

Joint Compounding:

In response to the recent challenges surrounding the understanding of appropriate compounding procedures, a task force was formed with representation from both the SNMMI and the SNMMI-TS to focus on Joint Compounding initiatives.

Key items:

1. Draft an article on compounded sincalide to be included in Newline, Uptake or another format that will be seen by technologists and others.
2. Draft curriculum to use to develop education and training modules.
3. Continue review and monitoring of the draft legislation in the House and Senate.

In December the President signed the Drug Quality and Security Act which regulates pharmacy compounding.

Nuclear Medicine Graduate Level Curriculum:

A Graduate Level Curriculum Sub Committee was created and charged with exploring options for advance level education and programs for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologists.

Focus areas include:

1. Begin identifying strategies for continued advocacy and increasing awareness of the NMAA.
2. Publish white paper focused on the growing need for technologists and molecular imaging professionals in clinical research.
3. Create a new section of Uptake highlighting technologists working in research and clinical trial settings.

Care Bill Update:

One of the CARE Alliance groups contacted the SNMMI-TS indicating there was going to be movement on the CARE Bill. The SNMMI-TS leadership agreed that due to the limited amount of time the SNMMI-TS was given to review the document that the SNMMI-TS would not include our name on the bill.

NMTCB Update:

The NMTCB announced that they have created a new CT entry level exam.

ARRT Update:

It was noted that first time nuclear medicine exam takers were up 10% in 2013 compared to 2012. Board Structure now consists of a Nuclear Medicine Representative nominated from the ASRT, ACR, & SNMMI-TS.

Chapter Reports:

All Chapters were asked to identify the three most pressing issues or concerns that affect their constituents.

Concerns included:

1. Reimbursement
2. NMTS Operating Hybrid Equipment
3. Depressed Job Market
4. Membership and Technologist Involvement
5. Radioisotope Shortage
6. Lack of Funding and Support from Employers
7. Meeting Attendance
8. Ease of obtaining CEUS from other Sources
9. CT, MRI, PET Training
10. Decrease in Nuclear Medicine Orders

Road shows are themed Back to Basics; The Heart of Nuclear Medicine and Beyond.

Joint Commission:

The Joint Commission released the final changes which included many of the suggested changes proposed by the SNMMI-TS. The most notable areas of concern were; a medical physicist must perform the quality control on nuclear medicine and PET equipment, the lack of recognition of the Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board as a qualifying certifying agency for nuclear medicine technologists; and the lack of credentialing requirements for Nuclear Medicine Technology, Positron Emission Tomography and PET/CT.

Cindi-Luckett-Gilbert, reported that the announcement from CMS of the new rule which finalized the previously proposed change of removing the term “direct” from the current requirement was released July 12, 2014.

The new final rule permits trained nuclear medicine technologists in hospitals to prepare radiopharmaceuticals for nuclear medicine without the supervising physician or pharmacist constantly being present, which will help speed services to patients, particularly during off hours.

Specialty Area Reports:

All Specialty Area Representatives were asked to identify the three most pressing issues or concerns that affect their constituents.

Concerns were:

1. Depressed Job Market
2. NMT'S Operating Hybrid Systems
3. PET/MR entering the US Market
4. Graduate Employment
5. Saline Shortage
6. Appropriate Use Criteria materials released by the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology for Cardiac PET.
7. Disruptions of the Molybdenum supply

Technologist Advisory Board:

The Technologist Advisory Board identified the following topics as critical areas to address educational gaps over the next year:

1. Computed Tomography (CT)
2. Targeted Radionuclide Therapy
3. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

4. Cardiovascular Disease Imaging
5. Advances in Oncologic Imaging
6. Neurodegenerative & Neuropsychiatric Disease Imaging

Social Network and SNMMI Website:

The new SNMMI website debuted. The new website has many features that will make navigating the site much easier than the past. SNMMI is on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Advocacy Committee:

Goals set by the committee were:

1. Increase visibility at chapter and local organization meetings.
2. Reorganize the SNMMI-TS culture to be the repository of legislative and advocacy information on nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.
3. Promote the NMAA and ensure that its role is recognized in all states.
4. Improve Resource Management.

Scholarships, Grants, and Awards Committee:

This committee is responsible for the recipient selection of awards and grants sponsored by the SNMMI-TS. Additionally, this committee is responsible for the review and development of new SNMMI-TS awards.

Bylaws Committee:

Current working objective goals:

1. Work with Nominating Committee to ensure election procedures are followed.
2. Review bylaws to ensure consistency with current SNMMI-TS structure.

Continuing Education Committee:

The Committee's responsibilities meet the following goals:

1. Enhance Marketing
2. Advance Education
3. Optimize Advocacy
4. Improve Resource Management

International Outreach Committee:

Raise awareness of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and their appropriate use in diagnosis and treatment.

Provide guidance to nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals.

Membership Committee:

Nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals will look to the section for guidance in their professional development.

Raise awareness of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and their appropriate use in diagnosis and treatment.

Goals:

1. Identify new and innovative benefits for members.

Program Chair Report:

Future Annual Meeting dates:

2016 San Diego, CA
2017 Denver, CO
2018 Philadelphia, PA
2019 Anaheim, CA
2020 Austin, TX
2021 Washington DC

Scope of Practice Task Force:

Current working objectives include:

1. Align SNMMI practice guidelines and other SNMMI documents that reference nuclear technologist practices to our updated scope of practice.
2. Align similar documents that are available from other sources. These other sources include but are not limited to ACR, ASRT, ASNC, Department of Labor, etc.
3. The Scope of Practice Task Force has assigned three different working groups:
 - 1.) To develop PET SOP for non-nuclear medicine technologist that successfully complete PET certification
 - 2.) Add molecular breast imaging into SOP and Clinical Performance Standards and
 - 3.) Review clinical performance standards for accuracy.

Center Reports:

CTN takes the leadership role in advancing the use of radiopharmaceuticals and optimizing the use of molecular imaging in clinical trials and dissemination into clinical practice.

The CTN finished its fifth year in a financially stable position and continues to collaborate with new and varied industry partners. New and exciting projects are being developed that will benefit the entire molecular imaging community. With the new strategic plan in place, the CTN looks forward to fulfilling its mission and goals.

Issues Impacting the Availability of Medical Imaging Drugs:

Shortages-What can/should SNMMI do?

1. Quality issues
2. Demand
3. Reporting

Pricing Issues-What can/should SNMMI do?

1. MAA
2. DTPA

Conversion from HEU to Non-HEU

Kinevac

1. A shortage has caused Kinevac to be rationed
2. Intermittent inventory depletion likely

Sodium Chloride 0.9 Injection Bags Shortage

Price adjustment on MAA and DTPA

1. Jubilant DraxImage initiated a onetime market price adjustment on MAA and DTPA on March 1, 2014 to support ongoing sustainability and continuity of these critical products in the US

State of ^{99m}Tc Today

Strengths:

1. Available from a Mo-99/Tc-99m generator

2. Mo-99 allows for a delivery of radiopharmaceutical doses to rural areas
3. Six hour half-life of Tc-99m allow for wide distribution of does from central radiopharmacies
4. Ideal photon energy for SPECT
5. Low radiation dose to patient

Weaknesses:

1. After the NRU reactor shuts down in 2016, no Mo-99 produced in the western hemisphere.
2. After 2016, the US is completely dependent on foreign producers for Mo-99
3. Only two vendors for Mo/Tc-99m generators for US market
4. High barrier to market entry

Opportunities:

1. Revival of domestic production
2. Viable options for Mo-99 production

Threats:

1. No replacement production for Canadian Mo-99 in 2016
2. Environmental factors: e.g. weather, volcanoes
3. Aging infrastructure
4. Border security challenges