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Building a Brighter Future—Because of You!
Teresa Ellmer-Buckley, CNMT – Chair, New Professionals Task Force

You asked and we agreed...there just isn’t enough information for nuclear medicine technologist new professionals! Your needs are different, your time is precious, and you need information that is going to be pertinent to you, delivered right to you.

In 2011, the SNMTS created a New Professionals Task Force, chaired by Teresa Ellmer-Buckley, CNMT, to address your needs. The mission of this task force is to provide a forum for those new to the profession, to get insight into their needs, and to help the SNMTS in developing programs that will directly relate to these new professionals. Through the discussions of the Task Force, it was agreed that a new professional can be defined as someone who is not a student and has been involved within the field for 5–10 years.

The group is charged with presenting and addressing items that will improve the value of the SNM to the new technologist. One of the first initiatives of the task force was to conduct a new professionals survey to gather feedback on what you, as new professionals, needed from the SNMTS. Through the results of the survey, it was determined that you, as new professionals, need specific information relative to you. It was with this in mind, that the Collimator Newsletter was created.

The Collimator is a quarterly newsletter that is sent to all nuclear medicine technologist new professionals (members and nonmembers). Each issue will provide relevant information that you have requested. While the task force will be soliciting articles for each issue, we encourage you to submit topics that you would like included.

In addition, during the 2012 SNM Annual Meeting in Miami, FL, we will be hosting a New Professionals Reception on Saturday, June 9, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. When you register for the meeting, you will be asked to check the “new professionals” box on the registration form. If you check the box, you will automatically receive an invitation to this event. This reception has been designed to provide a forum for new professionals to network with the SNMTS leadership as well as other colleagues in the field. In addition, guest speakers will be addressing the most pressing issue in the field today: “Why do we have a job shortage, and how does the future look for nuclear medicine?”

We hope that the Collimator Newsletter and the New Professionals Reception will provide a gateway for new technologists to garner information about SNMTS activities and provide a community where you can share ideas and concerns while seeking to build long-lasting friendships, contacts and career relationships.

SNM 2012 Annual Meeting Online Meeting Planner is NOW Live!
June 9-13, 2012 / Miami Beach, FL
Register today for the SNM 2012 Annual Meeting—the premier learning and networking event focused exclusively on the latest developments in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and therapy. Visit www.snm.org/AM
What Is the SNMTS? And...More Important...Why Is It Important to Me?

Nikki Wenzel-Lamb, MBA, SNMTS Administrator and Director of Leadership – SNM Staff

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), headquartered in Reston, Va., is a nonprofit scientific and professional organization that promotes the science, technology and practical application of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNM strives to be a leader in unifying, advancing and optimizing molecular imaging, with the ultimate goal of improving human health.

With 17,000 members worldwide, SNM represents nuclear and molecular imaging professionals, all of whom are committed to the advancement of the field. For more than 50 years, SNM members have developed—and continue to explore—innovations in medical imaging to allow for noninvasive diagnosis, management and treatment of diseases, benefiting countless patients. Members include physicians, technologists, physicists, pharmacists, scientists, laboratory professionals and more. The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNMTS), as part of SNM, is constantly striving to make a difference in the way nuclear medicine technologists receive academic and continuing education as well as information new procedures, technologies and equipment. Research has been a vital part of SNMTS activities for many years, as has monitoring federal regulation and influencing decisions that affect the practice of nuclear medicine.

In addition to providing discussion forums and publishing journals, newsletters and books, SNMTS also sponsors international meetings and workshops designed to increase the competencies of nuclear medicine practitioners and to promote new scientific advances. The activities of the SNMTS National Council of Representatives, volunteer committee members, and staff focus on improving the quality of care for the patients served by technologists around the world.

The SNMTS is working to position itself as the indispensable resource in promoting, educating and knowledge exchange, training and networking for nuclear medicine, molecular imaging and therapy; be a powerful advocate for nuclear medicine, molecular imaging and therapy and promote the highest standard of patient care; be a leader in educational and credentialing/licensing efforts for imaging specialists in nuclear medicine, molecular imaging and therapy; and be recognized as the society that positions technologists within the fields of nuclear medicine, molecular imaging and therapy.

The profession of nuclear medicine has evolved over the past several years and continues to evolve to include imaging and therapy beyond the sole use of radioactive materials. Fusion imaging—combining traditional nuclear medicine with other imaging technologies like CT and MRI and their related contrast agents, as well as new and exciting areas like fluorescence imaging—are examples of this. “Molecular imaging and therapy” is a phrase that has been developed in recognition of this expansion. The SNMTS has embraced this evolution with a vision of being the recognized leader in this exciting and ever-growing arena. During this revolutionary period, the SNMTS recognizes that the transition is ongoing and the terminology will take time to be adopted. With this in mind, the mission statement—the statement that underlies the current focus of, and gives direction to all that the SNMTS does currently—including both “molecular” and “nuclear medicine.” But the vision statement—the statement that defines the direction that the SNMTS is working toward—only includes the phrase “molecular imaging and therapy.” This vision brings the strategic plan in line with the tagline of the SNM and SNMTS, “Advancing Molecular Imaging and Therapy,” which was adopted several years ago. As the goals of the strategic plan are designed to work toward that vision, the reader will notice that the new terminology has been incorporated throughout this document.

MISSION: SNMTS is dedicated to the advancement of molecular and nuclear medicine technologists by providing education, advocating for the profession, and supporting research to achieve clinical excellence and optimal patient outcomes.

VISION: To be recognized as the leader in molecular imaging and therapy. To be dedicated to the advancement of the profession through adoption of emerging technologies.
Your Career – Your Resume
Sabrina Robinson – Senior Human Resources and Leadership Manager, SNM Staff

You are looking for a new opportunity, and you wonder how you can stand out from the rest of the pack. With the state of the economy today, there are more job applicants for each job than before.

Updating your resume is probably the first thing you should do. Ask yourself, is it clear and concise? Can anyone who looks at it determine what your experience is? I would suggest a few simple rules to follow:

1. At the top of your resume, be sure to include your current contact information, which should include your name, address, phone (cell/home) and email.
2. Don’t include an objective on your resume unless you tailor it for every type of job you are applying for. There is nothing worse than having an objective that says you are looking to be the next dance instructor and you are applying for a nuclear medicine technologist position. If you don’t want to take the time to tailor it for every job, then remove it altogether. As someone who reviews many resumes, I figure your objective is to find a position that is the logical next step in your career path based on your previous experience and education.
3. Include accomplishments on your resume; show that you not only did the work in your last position but also improved on what was expected of you. What did you do to streamline or improve a process? Did you save the company money, see inefficiencies in a procedure?
4. Clean up your resume by using bullet points to separate each description or accomplishment. Do not use paragraphs to do this, because the information gets lost.
5. Use action verbs. Start sentences with words such as: prepared, handled, managed, or monitored—they show power and draw the reviewer to your accomplishments.
6. At the beginning of every position you list, clearly state the name of the company and your dates of employment (months and years), then include a short sentence that tells the reader about the company: its name, size, specialty number of employees.
7. Add your education or certificates you have achieved and any special skills you have that are required in your profession.
8. Proofread, proofread, proofread, and then use software that proofreads for you. Make sure you have no spelling errors in your cover letter or resume. Employers will place your resume on the bottom of the stack if they see spelling errors; it’s a sign that you are not detail oriented or that you did not care enough to take the time to check it.
9. Keep the format simple; do not use fancy boxes, tables or formatting that might not be compatible with all types of word processing software.
10. List any accomplishments you have outside of work that would show that you are an accomplished person.
11. Do not include information that is of a personal nature, such as marital status, sex, age, or race.

When writing your resume, keep in mind that your goal is to interest the reader in calling you to invite you in for an interview or the next step in the hiring process. Most important: make sure you know your resume; be able to explain everything on it in detail. Be reachable, and respond. If an employer has to leave two or more messages before you return a call, they will move onto the next person and you will have lost the opportunity.

Another mistake job seekers make is not having a clear message on their voicemail that informs the caller they have reached the right person. Employers have been known to move onto the next person if they can’t verify they have called the right person. Change your voice mail to include your name and number; please leave a message, something simple.

Above all, remember that how you present yourself in the pre-employment stage is a true sign of what type of employee you will be. If your resume is sloppy or has spelling errors, if you don’t return calls—are you really the type of employee an employer wants?
Advocacy Committee Update

Jesse Schoolnik, Government Affairs Manager – SNM Staff

The Society of Nuclear Medicine’s Technologist Section is dedicated to the advancement of molecular and nuclear medicine technologists by providing education, advocating for the profession, and supporting research to achieve clinical excellence and optimal patient outcomes. The SNMTS Advocacy Committee was created with those goals in mind. Advocacy is an essential part of making sure our voices are heard. The committee is responsible for improving the communication and understanding of the SNMTS members on advocacy issues at the state and national levels. However, we all need to be active and serve as advocates to help further the SNM’s interests.

Currently, the SNMTS Advocacy Committee in finalizing their brand new State TAG Team program. TAG is short for Technologist Advocacy Group and was created to replace the State Health Policy Liaison (SHPL) Program. Laws and regulations pertaining to NMTs differ by state, leaving many of our members confused regarding licensure and continuing education requirements. In addition, most members are unaware of their state’s nuclear medicine Radiation Control Program, CRCPD representative and assembly/House and Senate leadership. This is where the TAG Team steps in.

The TAG Team requires at least one dedicated nuclear medicine technologist in each state. These TAG representatives are responsible for answering member questions, keeping an ear to the ground regarding changes to relevant laws or regulations, and being the liaison between the states and the SNM Technologist Section.

The SNMTS Advocacy Committee is also working hard to ensure the passage of H.R. 2104, the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence (CARE) in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act of 2011. The CARE Act would require those who perform medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures to meet minimum education and credentialing standards in order to receive Medicare reimbursement. This legislation has been introduced several times in recent years, and the committee is dedicated to working with the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its chairman, Fred Upton, to ensure that this bill finally becomes law.

In addition to H.R. 2104, several bills have been introduced at the state level. The Advocacy Committee, along with the TAG Team, must work to keep up to date on state legislation as it is introduced. Every state has a different legislative session, and many of these sessions are extremely short, leaving a small window of opportunity for the Advocacy Committee to act. The committee helps make sure nothing falls through the cracks and that the SNMTS’s voice is heard on bills that might be detrimental to nuclear medicine technologists.

The SNMTS Advocacy Committee has a wide variety of duties, all of which focus on the betterment of nuclear medicine technologists and their profession. Through their hard work and dedication, support for nuclear medicine has grown at all levels of government. As we continue to move through 2012, that support and the relationships that they have forged will only grow stronger.

Interested in Volunteering? We Want YOU!

Teresa Ellmer-Buckley, CNMT – Chair, New Professionals Task Force

As the SNMTS leadership begins working on committee appointments for the 2012-2013 board year, we would like to have input from the SNMTS membership. We are seeking interested and engaged members for appointment to our various committees and task forces. These individuals will be asked to continue our current efforts within the SNMTS and to work to serve as the building blocks for the future.
Over the past year, the SNMTS committees have been a major part of our success. Please take this opportunity to review the many accomplishments of the SNMTS Committees/Task Forces over the past year. Without the committee members’ ongoing participation, the SNMTS would not be able to achieve the many goals it has set forth.

While we have many accomplishments to be proud of, there is still much work to be done.

We encourage all interested SNMTS members who have a strong knowledge base in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and are excited about the future of the SNMTS to get involved now! If you would like to be considered for a committee or task force, please email your name, curriculum vitae (electronic), and the committees/task forces you are interested in serving on to Jenny Mills, SNM administrative manager, at jmills@snm.org as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued efforts and dedication to the SNMTS!

If you have any questions regarding this request or would like more information regarding a specific committee, please contact Nikki Wenzel-Lamb, MBA, at nwenzel@snm.org or by phone at 703-652-6766.

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**Applications Now Being Accepted for 50+ Grants, Awards, & Scholarships**

Applications are now being accepted for the Lab Professional Recognition Award ($1,500), the Outstanding Technologist and Educator Awards ($750), 22 SNM Travel Awards ($1,000), 27 SNMTS Travel & Student Travel Awards ($1,000), the Comparative Effectiveness Research Grant ($50,000), and the PDEF Professional Development Scholarship ($5,000). Application deadlines vary—please visit the SNM Grants and Awards website (www.snm.org/grants) to learn more.

Upcoming grant and award opportunities include the Advanced Practitioner Program, Bachelor’s Degree Completion and the Susan C. Wiess Clinical Advancement Scholarship. These, as well as several other grants, will be available in May 2012.

The scholarship, grant and award opportunities offered by SNM and SNMTS are made possible by a grant from the Education and Research Foundation for SNM unless otherwise noted.

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**Half Day Event in West Virginia Highlight Radiation Safety**  
*Imaging Effectively Through Uncertainty*

May 5, Charleston, WV

Get the crucial education you need regarding radiation safety at these half-day SNMTS Roadshows. You'll learn to identify methods of reducing radiation exposure to pediatric patients, discuss the importance of quality assurance testing in the nuclear medicine department, discuss the basic principles of ALARA, and identify safety aspects from the vantage point of the MR side. Learn more and register for a SNMTS Chapter Roadshow.

Contact nwenzel@snm.org to be notified by email of future newsletters.