As we look back on the past six months, it is obvious that we are well on our way to achieving the activities set forth in Goal G of the SNMTS Strategic Plan: Improve Resource Management by increasing revenue producing projects and improving internal organizational efficiency. The SNMTS has made great strides over the past several years and the momentum continues to grow. When we review the progress of the Strategic Plan in June, I think you all will be very pleased with the accomplishments to-date.

Over the past several years, the SNMTS has focused on expanding the entry-level curriculum to prepare our technologists for molecular imaging using hybrid imaging and transitioning our educational programs to the baccalaureate level. The Transition Task Force has been actively involved with assisting Associate degree and Certificate programs in this transition. A Resource Manual is available online and will be updated continually with new information from the Task Force including additional transition models as they are developed. In addition, the SNMTS Research Task Force will be launching a task analysis survey that will look to gather information from technologist regarding their job responsibilities and the associated tasks they routinely perform. Later this year, we will be submitting an article for publication in the JNMT on the gap analysis survey performed to determine how NMT educational programs currently meet the curriculum as outlined in the 4th edition of the SNMTS Curriculum Guide.

While we continue to expand our entry-level curriculum, we are simultaneously promoting an advanced career path for NMT’s. The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA) Council has been established as the Advanced Practice Council and is currently looking for nuclear medicine physicians to champion this endeavor and serve on the council. Currently there are 10 students enrolled in the NMAA program, four in their second-year and six in their first-year of the program. In addition, the consortium plans to enroll two to three more students this spring. The four second-year students are on track to graduate in May 2011.

In addition, the Publications Committee has been very busy and we have several updates of our most popular textbooks. The new edition of Practical Math is now available! The CD is being recreated as a Web program that will be available via subscription. The new edition of Steve’s Review of Nuclear Medicine Technology with Preparation for Examination is in production and should be available later this week. The new edition of Nuclear Cardiac Imaging is now available. And lastly, a Russian translation of A Patient’s Guide to Nuclear Medicine Procedures will be released this fall (in pocket size only). These are in addition to the two new study guides that we have to offer, the technologists now have access to new online lectures that were launched in the last quarter of 2010: MRI for the NMT, and Therapy Series.

The SNMTS has also made great efforts regarding the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy bill (CARE) Bill. We have revised the
State Health Policy Liaison (SHPL) program to become the new and re-energized State Technologist Advocacy Group (State TAG). As the SNMTS continues to work directly with the Alliance to push the CARE bill forward, we are beginning our work at the state level. We will be reaching out to the grassroots organizations and asking for volunteers to serve as the designated State Advocates. In addition, and as part of our outreach effort to our grassroots, we have created an Advocacy Leadership presentation that we are hoping to present during each chapter meeting for the next year. So far, it has been presented at five meetings and has been one of the most well received presentations at the meeting. We are finding that our members are very interested in what the SNMTS is doing at the federal level and how they can help. We believe that this presentation will help to inform them of what the SNMTS is really doing for them and the future of the field.

This year, for the **2011 Mid-Winter Meeting** I am pleased to announce that we not only met our preregistration budget, but we exceed our meeting budget (preregistration and on-site). In 2009, the SNMTS Management Fee Task Force approved a change in the stipend the SNMTS receives for participating in the Mid-Winter Meeting. In 2010 and 2011, the SNMTS received $80 per technologist registered for the meeting. There were 49 technologists who pre-registered for the meeting compared to a budget of 24; totaling $3,920 (compared to $1,920 budget). In addition, on-site registration (individuals registering after the December cut-off) totaled 30, compared to a budget of 7; totaling $2,400 (compared to $560). The total revenue generated for the SNMTS by participating in the 2011 MWM equaled $6,320 (compared to a budget of $2,480). In an effort to attract more attendees to the Mid-Winter Meeting this year, the SNMTS added an additional session, resulting in an additional 3 VOICE credit ours for the technologist program. The new program included a specific talk geared towards radiopharmacy scope credits. We also turned to some old marketing efforts to bring in California technologists; sending flyers to the ammo can.

As you know, over the years, technologist attendance at the Mid-Winter Meeting has continued to decline (with the fortunate exception of the 2011 meeting). To assist the SNMTS in gathering additional information regarding the needs of our members, we created a Mid-Winter Meeting survey. While the survey verified much of what the SNMTS Leadership thought was true, such as, the major reason most respondents indicated they did not attend the MWM last year (2010) or this year (2011) was cost of travel, and that most individuals are not reimbursed by their employers to attend educational meetings. It was encouraging to hear that most individuals responded that they would recommend the MWM to their colleagues. As we begin planning for the 2012 Mid-Winter Meeting in Orlando, Florida, you will see that we have incorporated several of their suggestions. Our goal is to make the Mid-Winter Meeting more economical and attractive to our members and we believe that these proposed changes are a step in the right direction.

Lastly, the committee appointment process for 2011-2012 is almost complete. We are excited to welcome the SNMTS Committee Chairs (below) to the leadership team:

SNMTS Advocacy Committee - Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT, FSNMTS
SNMTS Awards Committee - Frances L. Neagley, CNMT, FSNMTS
SNMTS Bylaws Committee - Laura A. Wall, CNMT, NCT
SNMTS Continuing Education Committee - Sara Johnson, CNMT, MBA, NCT
SNMTS Educators Committee - Anthony W. Knight, CNMT, NCT
SNMTS Finance Committee - David Urani, MBA, CNMT
SNMTS/EANMT International Competencies Working Group - Kristen M. Waterstram-Rich, CNMT, MS, NCT, FSNMTS
SNMTS Membership Committee - Kathy Krisak, CNMT, FSNMTS
SNMTS Student Membership Task Force - Joseph R. Hawkins, CNMT, MSEd
SNMTS Nominating Committee - Kathy E. Hunt, MS, CNMT
SNMTS Nuclear Medicine Week Task Force – TBA - SNMTS President-Elect
SNMTS Professional Development and Education Fund - James Timpe, MS, RT (N)(MR)
SNMTS Professional Development Task Force - TBA
SNMTS New Professionals Task Force - Laurie Mixon, CNMT, RT(R)
SNMTS Program Committee - Ellie Zimmer, CNMT, RT(N)
SNMTS Publications Committee - Kathy S. Thomas, MHA, CNMT, PET
SNMTS Research Task Force - David Gilmore, MS, CNMT, NCT, RT(R)(N)
SNMTS Scope of Practice Task Force - Lynne T. Roy, MBA, CNMT, FSNMTS