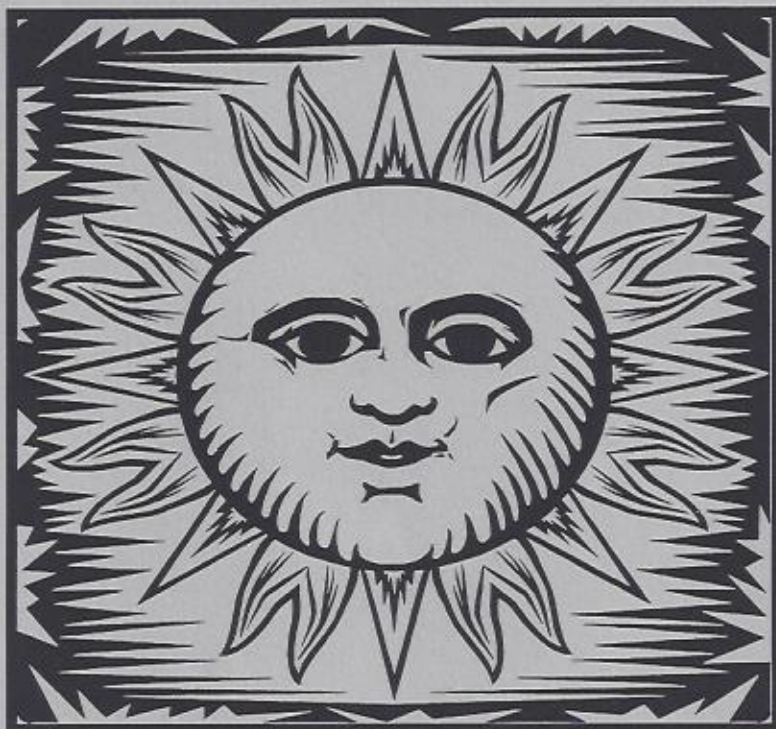


# TECHNOLOGIST SECTION

Society of Nuclear Medicine



## **"A Glimpse Into The Past"**

Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of the

Technologist Section, Society of Nuclear Medicine

1970 -1995

**"Twenty-five Years and Still Glowing with Pride"**

**By Donald R. Bernier, CNMT**

"A Glimpse Into The Past" was originally published in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the Technologist Section. It has been revised and edited to present the current state of the Section as seen in the eyes of this observer. The opinions expressed in this updated version are those of the author.

Donald R. Bernier, CNMT

St. Louis, Missouri

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## A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

July 7, nineteen ninety five will mark the twenty fifth anniversary of the Technologist Section. I thought it appropriate to reminisce a bit and look back to see how the Section came about. Many people were involved in the formation of the Section, some of whom have long been forgotten, as well as others who are still active today. Perhaps the single most important person was Dr. Thomas P. Haynie, but first, let me review what occurred before Dr. Haynie entered the scene.

Long before the Technologist Section existed, the Society of Nuclear Medicine membership, as it is today, was a hodgepodge of people with different backgrounds. Unlike today, there were no Sections or Councils for special interest groups to exchange ideas or work for common goals. Probably because of this, an organization known as the Society of Nuclear Medical Technologists (SNMT) was formed by twelve technologists from the Chicago area in May 1965, and later incorporated in the state of Illinois

in August 1965. This organization flourished and by 1968 counted 382 members. It conducted several successful scientific meetings in 1965, 66 and 67.

In August of 1966, a group of technologists in Houston, Texas organized an association under the presidency of Mr. Gary Wood. This group sought to associate themselves with the SNM and approached Dr. Haynie for assistance. Dr. Haynie obliged and he, along with other members of the Southwest Chapter, was instrumental in amending the chapter bylaws to include technologist associations.

In December 1966, at its midwinter meeting, The Board of Trustees approved the formation of the Committee on Technical Affiliates to be comprised of three subcommittees. They were identified as The Subcommittee on Nuclear Medicine Technologist Training to the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education, (now called the Joint Review Committee in Nuclear Medicine Technology- JRCNMT); the Subcommittee on Continuing



Education, and the Subcommittee on Technologist Affairs. Prior to that time a Committee on Nuclear Medical Technologists had existed under the chairmanship of Dr. Ervin Kaplan of Chicago. Dr. Kaplan had long been an advocate of technologists' interests and must be credited for organizing the first technologist program as part of a national meeting. This took place at the fourteenth annual meeting of the Society in Seattle in 1967.

In June 1967, Dr. Merrill Bender succeeded to the presidency of the Society and appointed Dr. Haynie to chair the newly formed Committee on Technical Affiliates because of his work with technologists in the Southwest Chapter. Dr. Haynie asked Dr. Kaplan to serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on NMT Training to the AMA Council on Medical Education. Dr. Kaplan agreed and is credited for authoring the first "Essentials". In fact, Dr. Kaplan's subcommittee report to the Board of Trustees in January 1968 said that a Committee to Establish Essentials for Radioisotope Training had been established within the Council on Medical

Education of the AMA and that representatives of the Society were Dr. William H. Beierwaltes of Ann Arbor and Dr. Wil B. Nelp of Seattle.

Meanwhile, after conferring with Dr. George Taplin, program chairman for the fifteenth annual meeting to be held in St. Louis in June 1968, Dr. Haynie asked Dr. Donald Korst of Madison Wisconsin to head the Subcommittee on Continuing Education. Dr. Korst accepted and organized a successful program that included sixteen scientific papers presented by technologists as well as several informative teaching sessions.

To serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Technologist Affairs, Dr. Haynie turned to Gary Wood, who had been so instrumental in technologist affairs in the Southwest Chapter. In order that Gary not be a committee of one, Dr. Haynie wrote to each chapter president asking that a technologist be appointed to represent that chapter on Gary's subcommittee. The responses were slow in coming, but on June 28, 1968



the Committee on Technologists, as it was now called, met in St. Louis, Missouri. Present were Dr. Haynie, Subcommittee Chairmen Ervin Kaplan, Donald Korst and Gary Wood, and Chapter Representatives Joseph Iacova, Gloria Sword, Charles Shannon, Dorothy Kelsey, Ruthe Miller, Vincent Cherico, Vernon Ficken, Donald Bernier, Bobbie Quandt, Rae Ellen Bower, Katie Lambert, Kenneth Day, John Mullins and several other interested technologists. Mr William K. Otte and Mr Ray W. Dielman gave a short presentation on behalf of the SNMT in an effort to establish a liaison between the two organizations. In reviewing the minutes of that meeting and Dr. Haynie's correspondence, it was recorded that the committee asked for : Continuation of this method of organization on a national level and that the Board of Trustees encourage formation of local groups; expansion of the technologist program at the national meeting; standing committee status for the Committee on Technologists;

a special section of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine for publication of technologists' scientific papers; and that the chapter representative to the committee be made a voting member of his chapter's executive committee. Needless to say, not all of the committee's requests were granted. Because the Committee on Technologists was a special committee subject to appointment by the president, incoming president Craig Harris combined the functions of the three subcommittees into one Special Committee on Technologists with Gary Wood as Chairman, Barbara Jump as Secretary and Dr. Haynie as Advisor.

During the following year, the chapter representatives worked within their chapters to organize and were quite successful. So successful, in fact, that on June 4, 1969 Dr. Haynie wrote to President-elect Dr. George Taplin: "The time is approaching and may have arrived when it is desirable to set up a 'Technologist Section' with its own officers which would hold meetings coinciding with those of the Society



and its chapters, and be administered through our New York office. In my opinion, this would do much to clear the air and provide for rapid healthy growth in this segment of our membership". This was the first time that the term "Technologist Section" was used.

On June 23, 1969 outgoing President Craig Harris, in his report to the Board of Trustees stated: " The experience of the past year, dealing with concerns of nuclear medicine technologists in several frames of reference, causes me to be increasingly persuaded that the interests of nuclear medicine technologists and their relationship to the field of nuclear medicine would be served by having their own organization. I propose that the organizational efforts at present embodied in sectional groups and in chapter technologist organizations, be further extended to organizational efforts at the national level".

During the following year, Gary Wood and Dr. Haynie worked diligently for the formation of a Section. At President Taplin's

suggestion they prepared a Constitution and Bylaws for a Section to be presented to the Trustees at their forthcoming winter meeting in January 1970. Based on comments received from the Trustees, the bylaws were revised and resubmitted. On July 7, 1970 the Trustees approved the revised bylaws and the Section was born.

Incoming President, Dr. Henry Wagner, appointed the following to serve as officers: James F Cooper, Chairman; Donald R. Bernier, Chairman-elect and Membership Chairman; Barbara J. Jump, Secretary-Historian; Catherine A. Lambert, Treasurer; Vincent V. Cherico, Nominating Committee Chairman and Huey D. Barnett, Scientific and Teaching Sessions Committee Chairman.

Subsequently, Because of pressing personal obligations, Mr. Barnett resigned and Mr James K.Langan was appointed to take his place.

At this point there was a Section with officers, a gargantuan budget of one thousand dollars and no identifiable members. The membership committee was expanded by enlisting the help of Diane Regan and Donald Hamilton and Jim Langan's committee



was expanded to include Vernon Ficken, James Kellner and Leo Lopez. During that first year, Jim Cooper worked many long hours enlisting the help of the chapters, restructuring the National Council, preparing press releases and corresponding with anyone who had a question, comment or complaint about nuclear medicine technology. The first business meeting of the Section took place June 28, 1971 in Los Angeles. Seven hundred thirty seven applications had been received and approved for charter membership. There were twenty three scientific papers presented by technologists and eleven out of sixteen chapters sent National Council members to the meeting. Election of officers for the forthcoming year resulted as follows: Floyd Potes, Chairman-elect; Catherine Lambert, Secretary-Historian and James Sims, Treasurer. For their efforts on behalf of the Section, Dr. Haynie and Gary Wood were later named Distinguished Honorees.

Now that the Section had members it could identify, work was immediately undertaken to establish some means of

communication. The first Technologist Section Newsletter was published in November 1971. A committee on Continuing Education was formed immediately after the Los Angeles meeting with Glenn Isserstedt as chairman. The early efforts of this committee were directed at improving the teaching sessions at the next annual meeting to be held in Boston and in identifying the educational needs of technologists. A joint committee between the Section and the SNMT was formed. Although talks were held to affect a merger, nothing was achieved and eventually the SNMT went out of existence. At the annual meeting held in Boston, the following were elected to serve as officers for the coming year: Leo Lopez, Chairman; Dorothy Duffy Price, Secretary-Historian and James K.Langan, Treasurer. Incidentally, With his election as a trustee in 1984, Jim Langan was the first to hold every elective office in the Section.

The most significant event to occur during the year was the publication of the first Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology.



After working out details for a journal with Executive Director Judy Glos, President Floyd Potes called Glenn Isserstedt and informed him he was the editor and had three months to produce a journal. The rest is history. The JNMT has come a long way since then under the capable editorship of David Wells, Pat Wiegand, Paul Christian, Sue Weiss and current editor Susan Gilbert.

Driving back to the midwest from Boston, Glenn Isserstedt, Leo Lopez and Don Bernier thought -"Why not have a Section meeting separate from the Society's summer meeting". With the blessing of President Potes and the organizational help of Judy Glos and Robin Kaplan, Section Administrator, a highly successful winter meeting was held in St Louis in the winter of 1973. Although it was never given credit as being the "first" annual meeting of the Section, it proved to be the forerunner of many more to come. Subsequently, the Section curtailed the scientific portion of the winter meeting and combined it with the Society's annual meeting in June.

Many other events of considerable significance have taken place over the years. Verification of Involvement in Continuing Education or VOICE, (coined by that master of acronyms, Glenn Isserstedt) came into being as well as the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (again, named by Glenn). The NMTCB probably evolved more out of frustration than because of anything else. For several years before the NMTCB came into existence, the Society and the Section favored a single certifying body for technologists. Today we still have not achieved that goal, but the NMTCB is alive and well and is recognized as THE certifying agency by the nuclear medicine community. Many devoted people have given of their time to the NMTCB, but two individuals should be given special credit; Mark Muilenburg for bringing it into the world, and Barbara Horton for nurturing it to maturity.

Daily management of the Section's affairs at Society headquarters has always been in competent hands. A great deal of credit must go to Judy Glos, Robin Kaplan and Paul Hubbard. This



year of 1995 marks the fifteenth year that Virginia Pappas has served the Section. Just ask any of the last fifteen presidents how valuable she is to the Section.

For the past twenty five years we have seen the Section grow and change to better serve our membership. Section representatives have given testimony before congress. Lines of communication now exist between the Section and other organizations involved in nuclear medicine such as the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP), the American College of Radiology (ACR), the American Society of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP), the Bureau of Health Professions and the Summit on Manpower. We now have a National Nuclear Medicine Week, a new publication called "Uptake" and a new headquarters in Reston, Virginia to place us closer to the heartbeat of our nation

Changes in our structure have occurred. I feel honored to have been the first elected trustee from the Section. Now we no longer

have a Board of Trustees but a House of Delegates. On the other hand, some things never change. Vincent Cherico has been directly involved in Section affairs for over twenty seven years. Although she hasn't been around for quite twenty seven years, Susan Weiss has held every elected, appointed and volunteer position there is. The dedication displayed by these two individuals deserves recognition. Goodness knows, the pay isn't worth it.

Indeed, the Section has come a long way in twenty five short years. Tom Haynie put it best when in May 1977 he wrote a letter to Section President Mark Muilenburg which said: " I have had the pleasure of sitting on the sidelines over the past seven years, watching the Technologist Section grow stronger and stronger and more and more effective in its job of serving technologists. In June of 1971, the Technologist Section honored me by presenting me with a beautiful sculpture of a seagull.



I thought this most appropriate because of the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull. That story tells it all, in my opinion. 'You are and can do what you are willing to really believe you are and can do.' Keep that faith...."