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IN THIS ISSUE: TRANSITIONING TO A NEW CE/RENEWAL CYCLE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

April Mann, CNMT, NCT



I am happy to report that the NMTCB Board of Directors has been very busy since my last report. We have been working on several projects and initiatives to enhance and improve our current services and structure, as well as become more organized and efficient as

an organization. The biggest of all the initiatives was to hold a strategic planning session at our Spring Board meeting in March. This session was very productive and resulted in a new and improved mission and vision statement that will enable us to progress with the continued changes and advances in Nuclear Medicine Technology and also incorporate Molecular Imaging. Please visit our website at

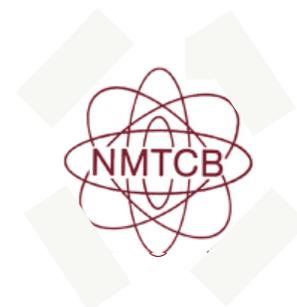
www.nmtcb.org to view these new and improved statements.

Our new strategic plan will allow the organization to keep up with changes in the field and allow the NMTCB to better meet the needs of both our current and future certificants. The 3 areas of focus over the next few years will include 1) Address the changes and scope of practice in this dynamic field by updating task analysis procedures, evaluating our role in new modalities and changing the Board profile as necessary to meet these needs. 2) Evaluate overall operational effectiveness by improving internal and external communications, evaluating and improving current testing options and improving financial performance. 3) Enhance marketing and outreach efforts to Program Directors, outside organizations and regulatory agencies and the general public.

(Con'd Chair..., Pg 2, Col. 1)

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(Continued from Chair..., Pg 1, Col. 1)

As Chair, I also had the opportunity to represent the Board at several meetings with the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNMSTS), American Registry of Radiologic Technologists and American Society of Nuclear Cardiology. These relationships help us to keep up with the issues that do or will affect certificants. One such meeting was the CT Consensus Conference that was held to discuss the issues surrounding hybrid imaging and technologists performing CT on these systems. Another meeting I had the honor of attending was the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. The issues that were addressed at this meeting included continued efforts for support of the CARE bill and the effects the new Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) will have on medical imaging. More information on these issues can be found on our website (www.nmtcb.org), and in our Newsletter.

Other exciting Board news is that I had the opportunity to work closely with our new Executive Director David Perry, CNMT, PET who has proven to be an asset to the organization. He has spent months getting the office in order and making needed improvements to our operational and financial processes. Also, we have a new addition to the Board, Dr Leonie Gordon, MD. She will certainly be a welcome addition and her expertise in Nuclear Medicine will be very helpful. Sadly, we say good bye to Lynn Fulk, who has served the Board for 8 years. Also leaving is John Radtke, who served for 4 years, and Bob Anger, who served for 6 years. We will miss all three of these outstanding individuals and wish them well.

In closing I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the Board members for their hard work and dedication and continued support over the past year. It is the dedication of these individuals that makes the NMTCB such a wonderful organization. I would also like to thank the office staff as without them we would not be as successful and efficient as we are. They certainly make our responsibilities as Board members easier. Lastly, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve as Chair of such an important organization and extend a welcome and my support to the incoming Chair, Anne Fisher, CNMT.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

David Perry, CNMT, PET

Once again, fall is upon us and we take this opportunity to review the past year. This is the end of the first of what I hope will be many years with the NMTCB. We have had some good times and a few struggles but I am proud of what we have accomplished these past twelve months.

In February, the NMTCB Nuclear Cardiology examination became available on demand. Since then, we have brought the scoring for that exam in house and can finalize the scores within hours of receiving the finished examination. Our next project will be to work with the testing company to get the examinations from them in a more timely manner.

In May, I attended the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) meeting in Greensboro, NC. CRCPD is a nonprofit organization of individuals that regulate and control the use of radioactive material and radiation sources, and the NMTCB is committed to offering our knowledge and expertise to the CRCPD when they are considering matters related to nuclear medicine technology.

In June and July, the NMTCB conducted two task analyses. A task analysis is an extensive survey of certified technologists as a part of its ongoing efforts to maintain the validity of our examinations. A PET task analysis survey was sent to 440 Certified PET Technologists and a general nuclear medicine technology task analysis was sent to 1,800 randomly selected Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologists. A comprehensive report on each survey will be made available in the spring of 2009.

As usual, the NMTCB was at the 55th SNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. We thank all of you who stopped by our booth and I was very pleased to have met so many certificants and prospective certificants. We also attended the ASNC meeting in Boston, MA. I had not been to an ASNC meeting before and was very impressed with the educational symposium and the people I met there.



Over the summer, the NMTCB worked with the SNMSTS to develop a credit sharing mechanism designed to be a benefit to NMTCB certificants who are members of the SNMSTS. During a CE audit, the NMTCB will receive CE credit information from the SNMSTS about certificants who have signed up for this service. If the SNMSTS information demonstrates that the certificant has met the CE requirement, the certificant will receive a letter from the NMTCB congratulating him or her for passing the audit. If the SNMSTS information does not demonstrate that the certificant has met the CE requirement, or if a certificant is audited and has not signed up for this service, the certificant will receive a letter from the NMTCB asking for documentation that the required number of CE hours have been obtained. Certificants who are audited have 30 days to submit their documentation. Signing up for this service is fast and easy, and free to NMTCB certificants who are members of the SNMSTS.

The PET examination was administered on September 27, 2008 at testing centers across the country. While this examination is administered on a computer, it is still hand graded. Individual results have been sent to each candidate and the NMTCB will report on the examination itself in our spring newsletter.

The annual renewal statement has been mailed. Remember that the NMTCB only sends one statement each year. If you did not receive a statement, please contact us at board@nmtcb.org or 404-315-1739 as soon as possible. The renewal deadline this year is December 31, 2008. Renewals received after that date are subject to a \$15 late fee. Alternatively, you may renew online using a credit card or check at www.nmtcb.org. For your safety and

security, the NMCTB has secured its website using some of the latest technology available.

As a reminder, the NMTCB is transitioning to a renewal cycle based on each certificant's birth month. During this transition year, certificant's will be billed differing amounts depending on which month is their birth month. Certificants with January through May birth months will be renewing through 2010, while those with June through December birth months will renew through their birth month in 2009. In all cases, certificant's will receive a bill for the next year's renewal fee approximately two months before the end of their renewal date.

I have included a brief chart at the bottom of the page that should help explain how billing works through this transition period.

Finally, I would like to remind certificants who may be considering letting their certification lapse that a certificant who has been inactive for 5 years or more must pass the entry-level examination in order to reactivate. To reactivate, a person who has not been active for more than 5 years must submit a new application to the NMTCB under current eligibility requirements - either as a program graduate or an Alternate Eligibility applicant. Also, the NMTCB is phasing out the Alternate Eligibility pathway toward certification. All requirements for Alternate Eligibility must be met and the application and fee must have been received in the office by December 31, 2015 in order for a candidate to be eligible to take the certification exam through the Alternate Eligibility pathway. After that, only candidates who have graduated from an approved program in nuclear medicine technology within 5 years of the application date will be approved to sit for the entry level examination.

Birth Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CNMT Fee	\$38	\$41	\$44	\$47	\$50	\$18	\$21	\$24	\$27	\$30	\$33	\$35
Add'l Fee 1 Specialty	\$16	\$17	\$18	\$19	\$20	\$9	\$10	\$11	\$12	\$13	\$14	\$15
Add'l Fee 2 Specialties	\$33	\$35	\$38	\$40	\$43	\$15	\$18	\$20	\$22	\$25	\$28	\$30
Good through:	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009

CARE BILL UPDATE

Though the CARE made the most gains ever during the 110th Congressional Session, it fell short of passage. The Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (AQMIRT), of which the NMTCB is a member, intends to continue its efforts in support of the CARE Bill. Starting with efforts to have the Bill introduced early in the 111th Congressional Session, the Alliance members, including the NMTCB, plan to participate in RT in DC April 20-21, 2009. This is an organized event in which hundreds of medical imaging technologists and radiation therapists go to Washington, DC and visit with members of Congress, explaining why this is such an important Bill. The NMTCB also encourages all certificants to contact their representative in the House and Senate. To do so is very easy. Just go to the SNM website at www.snm.org. On the left side of the screen, hover over Government Relations and click on "Action Alert: CARE". Membership in the SNM is not required to use this feature. It is fast and easy, and it is free. Most of all, it will show that you CARE.

THE NMTCB WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE
HARD-WORKING ITEM WRITERS WHO HELPED STRENGTHEN THE FIELD OF
NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY BY CONTRIBUTING ITEMS FOR OUR
EXAMINATIONS IN 2008

Amanda Abbott
NaTarsha Abraham-Brown
Danny Basso
Michelle Beauvais
Cynthia Brodnax
Lindsay Brown
Jimel Carpenter
Mark Collins
Eileen Ehret
Bijan Farboud
Deborah Gibbons
Deborah Gibbs
Chad Grant
Marcia Hess Smith



Scottie Jacobs
Bryan Kerr
Anthony Knight
April Mann
Nancy McDonald
Andrzej Moniuszko
Cybil Nielsen
Robert Pagnanelli
David Perry
Tammy Pritchett
Julie Riggert
Leesa Ross
Kristen Waterstram-Rich
Amy Wright
Dusty York

NMTCB CALL FOR ITEM WRITERS

Chad M. Grant, CNMT

The world of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is advancing rapidly. Each year, the board of directors, staff and various CNMT, PET and NCT certificants work diligently to maintain and update the three examinations. The process first begins with a detailed task analysis to determine the appropriate examination content, and, from there, authors develop examination questions to appropriately cover the required knowledge base.

The hard work and dedication of all previous and current authors has been crucial to the success of the organization and our profession. In order to maintain this momentum, we are asking for additional item writers to contribute exam questions for the CNMT, PET and NCT examinations. For those of you who are interested in contributing, the process is simply a mouse click away.

To simplify the submission process, The NMTCB has an online process for exam items. To contribute, simply log into the NMTCB website at www.nmtcb.org and select the "Resources" link on the left side of the website. Authors will be required to enter their last name and certificate number. Once inside, you will find item writer guidelines, examination content summaries, sample questions, and online submission forms. Questions that include digital images are an excellent part of the examination process and are also accepted online. Whether you are looking to submit a single item from an interesting case file or multiple items, this new process will save time, effort, and paper.

Please take the opportunity to visit the NMTCB website and check out this new process. Item writing is a rewarding and enjoyable way to contribute to our profession. Thank you in advance for your help with our mission and good luck. As always, please feel free to contact the NMTCB office staff with any questions or comments.

NEW MIPPA LEGISLATION REQUIRES ACCREDITATION FOR SOME NUCLEAR MEDICINE CLINICS BY 2012

Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT

NMTCB Liaison to the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

A new law passed by Congress, H.R.6331 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA), requires facilities that perform "Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services" and accepts Medicare Part A/B payments to be accredited by the year 2012. The law defines Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services as diagnostic magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography, and nuclear medicine including positron emission tomography. It excludes X-ray, ultrasound, and fluoroscopy. Most outpatient centers and physician offices accept Medicare Part A/B. Hospitals will not be affected by this law. So facilities outside of a hospital that perform MR, CT or nuclear medicine and accept Medicare payments will be required to be accredited by 2012.

The organizations that will be performing the accreditation will be designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on a date not later than January 1, 2010. It is believed that those organizations will include the American College of Radiologist (ACR) and the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). While these organizations require the technologists to be properly trained and credentialed, the MIPPA law falls far short of the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and

Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act (the CARE bill) which came close, but did not pass in the 110th Congressional Session. This law also requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to perform a study by March 2014 on accreditation requirements for advanced diagnostic imaging services. This study is to examine how the required accreditation affects the amount, type and quality of the services provided to Medicare patients.

The Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, in which the NMTCB is a member, still actively supports the CARE bill. The CARE bill would require all technologists performing medical imaging or radiation therapy to be properly trained and credentialed. While most of the members of the Alliance believe the MIPPA legislation was a positive step, it is disappointing that so many technologists and facilities were left out of this law. The NMTCB believes that for patients' safety and diagnostic accuracy, all technologists performing diagnostic imaging should be properly trained and credentialed whether it is ultrasound and radiography in the hospital or computed tomography and positron emission tomography in an outpatient clinic.

THE STATE OF THE NCT EXAM

**Robert Pagnanelli, CNMT, NCT
Chair, NCT Subcommittee**

In 2007, 224 candidates sat for the Nuclear Cardiology Technologist (NCT) exam. 141 candidates (63%) passed the exam. As requested by our certificants, and earlier published in the spring newsletter, the exam is available on demand. Again, this means that you can essentially choose the day you sit for the exam as long as long as you meet one of the two annual deadlines. This year, as of publication of this newsletter the pass rate has increased to 80.7%. Hopefully this is a direct result of candidates being better prepared for the exam with a flexible testing date.
So be confident!

I encourage those of you who work in nuclear cardiology laboratories to work toward earning your certification. It is professionally

rewarding in many ways. As managers and chief technologists sort through resumes, those with more advanced certification are sure to work their way to the top of the list. Additionally, it seems that an increased number of employers are financially rewarding NCTs for their higher level certification.

Another request regularly made by NCT exam candidates is a faster turnaround of results. This is likely to take place in 2009. At the NMTCB, our directors and office staff will continue to do our best to serve the nuclear medicine technologist community. Further details about the exam content and registration can be found at www.nmtcb.org. Be sure to meet the next application deadline of May 1, 2009.

THE STATE OF THE PET EXAM

Leesa Ross, CNMT, PET
Chair, PET Subcommittee

This being my first Chair report, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the past Chair, and my mentor, Kathy Thomas, CNMT, PET for the great organization, preparation, and commitment she put into the PET exam. As the first and only chair, prior to my appointment, she was the key developer of the exam. Whenever the PET exam is mentioned, many people automatically think of Kathy Thomas. I hope to follow in her footsteps and continuing to evolve the PET exam by maintaining its relevancy to current practice and advancements within the field.

Currently there are 441 active, certified PET technologists, and 198 applicants who took the exam on September 27, 2008. I anticipate these numbers will continue to increase because of the growth occurring in the PET field. It is a high possibility the demand for PET certified technologists will continue to increase, as well. This is due to insurance approval and easier access to PET scanners, which has caused a faster growth in the field than many ever expected.

In fact, the field has progressed so fast, the availability of PET Exam review materials is limited compared to demand. With the NMTCB and even the NCT, study guides and/or review sessions have been developed by various vendors to help applicants prepare for the exams. Currently, there is little published PET review material; however, the SNM is an excellent starting point in organizing an applicant's own study guide.

In fact, the SNM sponsored a PET Exam Review Session in July of 2008 to aid this year's applicants in preparation for the exam. The organizers of the review session were Nancy Swanston CNMT, PET and Paul Christian CNMT, PET. Nancy Swanston felt that participants found the review session beneficial and they plan to organize another review session sponsored by the SNM next year. She also stated that they are working on a study guide for the PET Exam. I am sure this will make a lot of future applicants very pleased! It will be interesting to see the outcomes of the Review Session—the pass rate and amount of preparedness felt by the examinees that attended the SNM PET Review Session.

Other study options available are categorical seminars and workshops available at the SNM Annual Meeting, as well as those held at the SNM regional chapter levels. Several educational providers have started PET Courses and Programs to help technologists obtain the didactic base, which will enable them to think critically through the questions on the PET Exam.

Currently, the PET exam is scheduled to be offered on the last Friday in September. However, due to multiple requests from applicants, the NMTCB is currently evaluating the possibility of "on demand" testing of the PET exam. As most are aware, the NCT recently went to on demand testing, and many have requested the PET exam be offered in the same format.

This year the NMTCB mailed out a PET Task Analysis Survey to current PET certified technologists. This information will provide input on current trends, progress, and advancements within the PET field. This data will be used to update the Content Outline of the PET exam and, as a result, enable the PET Exam to be updated to reflect current practice.

I would also like to take the opportunity to place a call out for PET Exam Item Writers. The NMTCB is always seeking new writers for all three exams. Utilizing a variety of writers is one of the first steps enabling the development of psychometrically sound exams. Input from certified PET technologists and other qualified individuals is always welcome—whether this is in the form of exam questions, suggestions, comments, or, oh yes, even complaints.

The NMTCB organizes an Item Writer's Workshop every January in Atlanta, GA. In order to become eligible to attend the PET Exam Writer's Session, an individual needs to have previously submitted multiple questions of good quality to the NMTCB, and be certified in PET. This is easily accomplished by using the Item Writer Online Submission link, found under Resources, on the NMTCB website.

WHAT BECOMING AN NCT MEANS TO ME.

Jimel Carpenter MS, CNMT, NCT, RT (N), RDMS

My journey to becoming an NCT began soon after completing my entry-level nuclear medicine technologist training at the Medical College of Georgia, and earning my CNMT certification. I thoroughly enjoyed working in a hospital setting that performed both routine and cardiac nuclear medicine procedures. But as always has been the case for me, it wasn't long before I was looking for the next challenge. I earnestly desired to stay in clinical nuclear medicine because I enjoyed the provider-patient interaction. Unfortunately for me, remaining in clinical nuclear medicine technology was limited to a fairly horizontal career structure. Yet, I was still motivated to find an avenue for personal and professional advancement. In addition, in an increasingly competitive job market, I wanted to be able to distinguish myself, in the event that I ever had to compete for employment. An opportunity to do just that came in the form of starting work at another local facility. I was blessed with a radiology department director, who also happened to be a nuclear medicine technologist. She suggested that all the nuclear technologists at our facility consider taking the NCT exam. This was supposed to be a way for seasoned technologists to display their expertise, while simultaneously taking that next step forward in their professional development. Without any financial assistance for exam registration from our employer, there was plenty of discussion on whether advance certification would impact our pay at our facility. In addition some of the staff may have been reluctant because of the lack of a guarantee of success. For me it wasn't a hard sell. After all, I have been always taught that

in anything you do, you should want to be the best. So after some rather intense preparation, I was able to pass the NCT exam. To my surprise, the certification did manifest in additional pay at my current place of employment. So now the question remains, what does being an NCT mean to me? First being an NCT has satisfied an internal need to advance in a field that I truly feel passionately about. For me, the NCT credential was that elusive next step in a career ladder that isn't necessarily always laid out before nuclear medicine technologists. Secondly, to my peers, physicians, and practitioners with whom I have contact, it has given me substantially increased credibility in the area of nuclear cardiology. As a result of the NCT certification, I have personally been asked to be involved in multiple research projects that have resulted in publication credits. I also have had the opportunity play an integral role in the setup and implementation of a new outpatient cardiology practice site at my facility that features myocardial perfusion imaging. And, undoubtedly, the most significant opportunity I have had as a direct result of earning NCT credentials was being the honor of giving back to the field of nuclear medicine technology as a board member of the NMTCB. So in my opinion, no matter where you are in your career, there are many benefits to earning any advanced credentials in your chosen profession. And for me, the obvious choice was the NCT exam. I have proudly worn the credentials for the past four years and when it is time to renew the certification, I will not hesitate to take advantage of what has been for me, a fantastic career move.

EMERITUS CERTIFICATION

Are you retired or looking to retire soon? Then you may wish to consider becoming an Emeritus certificant. By definition, an Emeritus certificate is "an inactive certificate of a certificant with either 15 years active certification or 10 years active certification and over the age of 62." An Emeritus certificant is a retired certificant who is no longer working in the field of nuclear medicine technology. Therefore, Emeritus certificants will not be required to obtain continuing education hours to maintain their inactive Emeritus status. Emeritus certificants receive a laminated Emeritus identification card. They also continue to receive the NMTCB newsletter. There are no renewal fees associated with this status.

Should an Emeritus certificant wish to become an active certificant again, he or she will be required to follow the NMTCB Continuing Education Policy, which became effective on January 1, 2006:

A certificant who has been inactive for **less than 5 years** may reactivate by completing both of the following requirements:

- *Paying back dues up to a total of no more than the current examination fee, plus a \$15 reactivation fee, AND*
- *Documentation of completion of 12 continuing education credits for each year he/she was inactive.*

A certificant who has been inactive for **5 years or more** must:

- *pass the entry-level examination in order to reactivate.*

To reactivate, an Inactive person must:

- *submit a new application to the NMTCB under current eligibility requirements - either as a program graduate or an Alternate Eligibility applicant.*

If you qualify and are interested in becoming an Emeritus certificant, please email board@nmtcb.org or call us at 404-315-1739.



2008

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Anne Fisher, CNMT

Secretary

Jimel M. Carpenter, CNMT, NCT

Treasurer

Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT

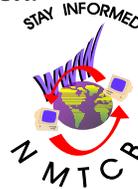
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PHASING OUT
The Alternate Eligibility Pathway
to
Certification

ATTENTION

before December 31, 2015 in order to be eligible. Contact the NMTCB office for more details.

The NMTCB will discontinue the Alternate Eligibility pathway toward qualification to sit for the entry level exam by the end of 2015. All requirements must be completed and the application received and accepted by the NMTCB office

NOTICE

The identification card issued by the NMTCB is only guaranteed to be an accurate reflection of a certificant's standing as of the date of issue. For the most up-to-date status of a certificant's standing, please use the NMTCB Online Verification function on our website at www.NMTCB.org.

Effective March 31, 2009, all certificants who seek to return to Active status from any Inactive status, including Emeritus, Retired, Inactive, CE Probation, suspension, etc., will be assessed a \$65.00 reinstatement fee.