Nuclear medicine techniques combine the use of high-tech equipment and radioactive tracers to study the function of the various organ systems. This includes imaging the progress of disease in the body.

This image was obtained with a positron emission tomography (PET) scanner and F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG). The many bright areas in the chest indicate where a tumor has spread to lymph nodes.

Additional bright areas can be seen in the abdomen and pelvis, along with radioactive tracer in the kidneys and bladder indicating areas of metabolism. The brain is also very bright because it uses glucose as an energy source. Images like these help doctors to determine the best choice of treatment for their patients.

If you are thinking of a career in a health related field, you can find out more about the Nuclear Medicine profession by talking with your counselor or by contacting the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program in your area.

Also, visit the career information section at www.nmtdcb.org