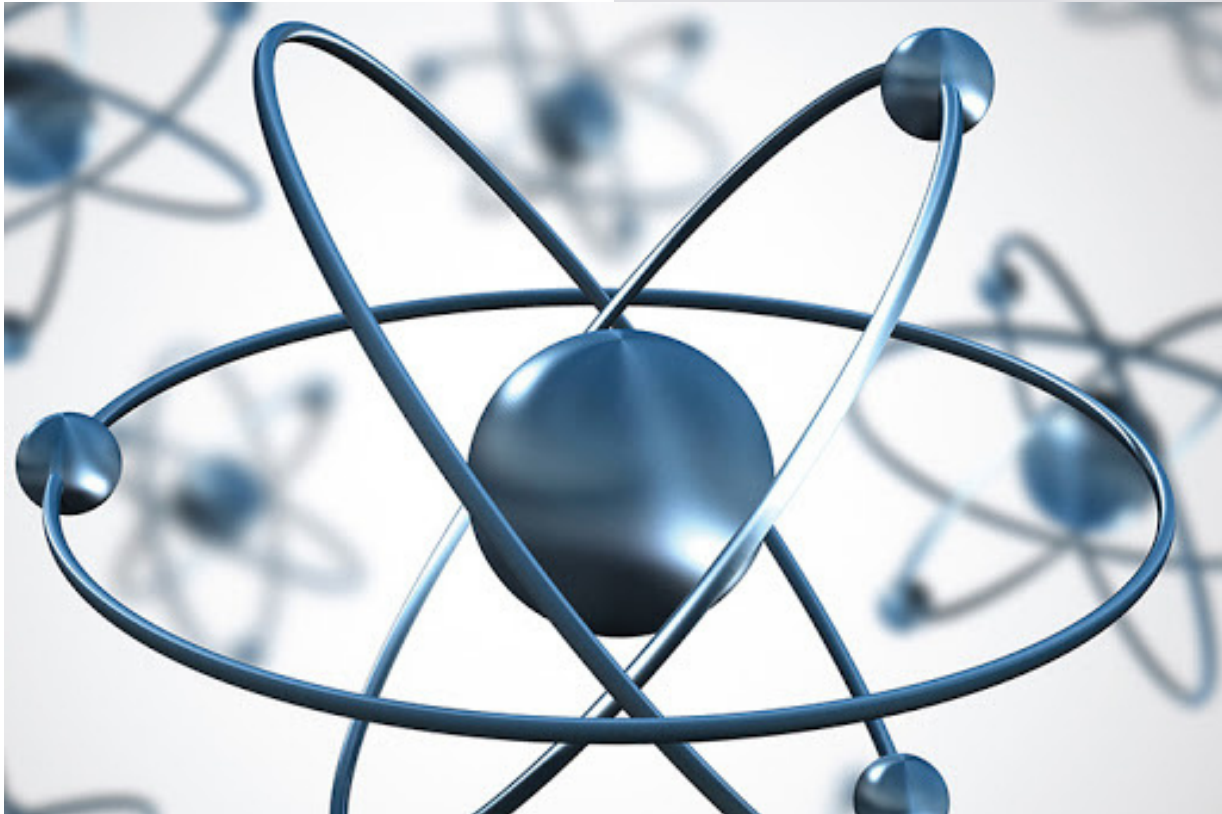


THE HARD BEAM

The Southwestern Chapter SNMMI Technologist Section Newsletter



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jose Meza, MAM,CRA,CMM,CNMT,PET,NCT,NMTCB(RS)(CT),RT(R)(N)(BD)(CT)



First, I would like to thank our outgoing technologist section leadership for their excellent work and contributions to the Southwestern Chapter (SWC) Society of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging (SNMMI). Your service to our chapter is genuinely commendable. I hope to continue carrying on a tradition of excellence as I take the baton from our immediate past president, Paul English. I have been privileged to work in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging for the past sixteen years, and I consider it a passion. It is my honor to serve as your President along with our distinguished leadership council. I look forward to the year ahead and the memories we will make.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Paul English, RT(N),CNMT,RDMS,RVT

Whew!!! What a year 2020 was, right?!? The tension, the anxiety, all that we as medical professionals had to deal with. But here we are, looking forward to a bright reopening of our lives and our world. However, we should pause, reflect, and remember the many lives lost or forever altered by this pandemic, not only in our medical community but the nation and the world community as well.

The pandemic caught our Southwestern Chapter by surprise, forcing us to cancel our Annual Spring meeting in 2020, as it did for so many other organizations with meetings and symposia scheduled early last year. But with the leadership of our Executive Director, Charles Metzger, our physician, and technologist leadership, we turned around and presented an excellent virtual Fall Technologist meeting in October under the superb leadership of Jose Meza, and program chair, Lucrecia Pantarotto. This first virtual meeting endeavor by the chapter had 250 registrants compared to 66 for the 2019 Fall meeting, showing great acceptance of the virtual platform by our members. Nationally, the Annual Meeting of the Society met virtually in June 2020, and the Mid-Winter meeting was virtually held in January 2021, both excellent and informative gatherings. Most recently, the Annual Spring meeting of the Southwestern Chapter was presented in April, with Dr. Saeed Elojeimy and Paul Hanson serving as program chairs. For this meeting, there were 255 registrants, and again with Charles' excellent guidance, the Remo virtual platform was used for a very successful meeting experience.



NEW OFFICERS

Technologist Section President

Jose Meza, MAM,CRA,CMM,CNMT,PET,NCT,NMTCB(RS)(CT),RT(R)(N)(BD)(CT)



Jose is a Nuclear Medicine Technologist and Affiliate Clinical Supervisor for the VA North Texas Healthcare System in Dallas, TX. Jose is a U.S. Army Veteran and received Radiology and Nuclear Medicine Technology training while serving on active duty. After being honorably discharged from the military, Jose attended Thomas Edison State University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging. He later completed a Master's degree in Health Care Administration from Wayland Baptist University and is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership through Abilene Christian University.

Jose is an active participant and advocate for the nuclear medicine profession. He has previously served as a nominating committee member, program chair, and moderator for the SWC-SNMMI. Additionally, Jose is a graduate of the National SNMMI Technologist Section (TS) Leadership Academy and is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). Jose is also a member of the TS-SNMMI professional development and continuing education committees and a member of the SNMMI diversity, equity, and inclusion task force.

Technologist Section President-elect

Melissa Andrews, CNMT,PET,RT(CT)(ARRT)



Melissa Andrews received her BA in Nuclear Medicine Technology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2005 and currently works for BRF/Center for Molecular Imaging and Therapy in Shreveport, LA. Melissa is a firm believer in mentorship and the tremendous impact it has on an individual's career. At the encouragement of a great mentor, she became more involved in her profession. Since then, she has served as program chair for the SWC-SNMMI Fall and Annual Meetings. Additionally, Melissa has been working on the program committee at the national SNMMI level for the last five years. She is excited to serve as President-elect for the SWC alongside such a fantastic group of professionals. She looks forward to seeing all that is to come.

NEW OFFICERS

National Council & House of Delegates Representative
Jose Miranda, MBA,CRA,RT(R)(N)



Jose Miranda is a U.S. Airman currently assigned to Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) at Fort Sam Houston, TX. He is the Program Director for the Army, Navy, and Air Force Nuclear Medicine Technology program, providing entry-level technologists to over 30 medical treatment facilities worldwide. Additionally, Jose directs teaching/learning activities in the school, evaluates instructional material, and mentors students on academic performance, resulting in a 100% graduation rate. In addition, Jose manages the career field for the Air Force providing strategic direction while meeting the needs of thousands of beneficiaries.

Jose holds an MBA in Healthcare Administration from the Our Lady of the Lake University at San Antonio, TX. He holds certifications as a radiologic technologist, nuclear medicine technologist and is also a Certified Radiology Administrator.

Secretary
Debby Hillhouse, CNMT



Debby began her career in Nuclear Medicine Technology at Parkland in 1986. Debby left Parkland as a supervisor and went on to host medical explorers at her next employer - winning the Medical Explorer Post of the Year. She has since then been active with both Baylor and Arkansas Nuclear Medicine Technology students, where they have done clinics at the Sammons Cancer Center. She is currently the PET/CT Technical Supervisor at the Sammons Cancer Center for Texas Oncology. Debby has served as program chair for two of the SWC-SNMMI meetings. Currently, she is the SWC Secretary - aspiring to help others in the molecular imaging field.

TECHNOLOGIST ADVOCACY GROUP

Louisiana Representative
Dr. Shannon Youngblood, Ed.D., MSRS, CNMT



Dr. Shannon Youngblood is a Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist (CNMT) and currently works at Ochsner Medical Center as a CNMT and Assistant Professor of Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Shannon has received multi-modality training in PET/CT, CT, MRI, Mammography, and hands-on exposure in Stealth Sinus Surgery. She is also an NMTCB Director and a member of the SNMMI Advocacy Committee.

Shannon began her journey as a CNMT in 2010 with an AAS, earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Studies in 2013, a Master of Science in Radiological Sciences in 2015, and recently completed her Doctor of Education for Health Professions in 2020.

Arkansas Representative
Arthur Maune, MEd, CNMT



Arthur Maune is an Assistant Professor and Program Director for the Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences Program for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), where he has been employed since March 2001.

Arthur began his career in nuclear medicine in January 1977 as a staff technologist at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, AR, where he later became a coordinator/faculty member for nuclear medicine technology students at the School at Baptist. During his tenure at Baptist Medical Center, Arthur also served as Supervisor for the Nuclear Medicine Department and Manager for Ultrasound and Computed Tomography. Arthur has also worked for General Electric Medical Systems as a Nuclear Application Specialist and their Sales team.

Since 2001, Art has prepared and conducted annual Registry Review sessions for nuclear medicine students at the National SNMMI meeting and Southwestern Chapter Meeting. He has also undertaken review sessions for the Tennessee State meeting, the Kaiser Permanente school, Caldwell Community College school, and the SNMMI Central Chapter.

TECHNOLOGIST ADVOCACY GROUP

New Mexico Representative
Alison Kleven, CNMT



Alison Kleven has been a CNMT for over 25 years and is a lecturer for the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program at her alma mater, the University of New Mexico. She has served as the New Mexico TAG since 2015 and has introduced legislation to allow CNMTs without an X-ray background to run PET/CT scanners solely for attenuation correction. Alison regularly attends meetings for the New Mexico Environment Department Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Advisory Council (MIRTAC).

Oklahoma Representative
Julie Lentz-KoeHN, CNMT



Julie Lentz-KoeHN is a Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT) for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Oklahoma City. Before this role, Julie worked as an NMT at Integris Baptist in Oklahoma City.

Julie graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BS in Radiologic Technologies. She also received certification in PET/CT and has served in multiple leadership positions within the Southwestern Chapter and National SNMMI.

TECHNOLOGIST ADVOCACY GROUP

Texas Representative

Nancy McDonald, MHA,CRA,CNMT



Nancy McDonald is currently employed at Texas Health Resources in North Dallas as the Director of Radiology, where she leads operations for six radiology departments. She began her career working as a nuclear medicine technologist at Hines VA Hospital in Illinois, which led to her role as Program Director of the School of Nuclear Medicine Technology. After 15 years with the VA, Nancy embarked on a new journey to develop a new hospital-based JRCNMT accredited school of nuclear medicine technology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, which led to three other radiology programs (Radiology, Radiation Therapy, and Ultrasound). Her success in this role led to other roles, managing program directors, the nuclear medicine department, three ultrasound departments, medical physics, and radiation safety. Nancy has also served on numerous committees with the SNMMI and Central Chapter of the SNMMI.

Nancy holds a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from the University of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, a Bachelor of Science, Biology (Nuclear Medicine concentration) from Benedictine University, Chicago, IL. She is a certified nuclear medicine technologist and Certified Radiology Administrator.

Texas Representative

Lucrecia Pantarotto, CNMT,NMTCB(CT),PET



Lucrecia Pantarotto is employed with the VA North Texas Healthcare System in Dallas, TX, as a PET/CT Technologist. She has 13 years of experience working in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, has participated with various committees at the local and national SNMMI level, and is also a past president for the SWC-SNMMI Technologist Section. Additionally, Lucrecia is a member of the SNMMI-TS Executive Board and one of four SNMMI-TS TX TAGs.

TECHNOLOGIST ADVOCACY GROUP

Texas Representative

Courtney Cross, MBA,MS,CNMT,PET,RT(N)(CT)



Courtney Cross is the Program Director for Nuclear Medicine Technology at Galveston College, where she has been employed since 2019.

Courtney graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Medical Imaging in 2006 and has previous experience working as a lead PET/CT technologist at St. Agnes in Baltimore, MD, where she was employed for 13 years. Additionally, Courtney was employed at MD Anderson in Houston, TX as a nuclear medicine technologist.

Courtney has previously served as Secretary for the Mid-Eastern Chapter of the SNMMI and is a graduate of the 2014 TS-SNMMI Leadership Academy. She is one of four Texas TAGs.

Texas Representative

Adam Fairbourn, MBA,CNMT



Adam Fairbourn has been a member of the SWC-SNMMI since 2009. He has provided lectures at annual meetings and is one of four Texas TAGs. Additionally, Adam is the Program Director for the SWC-SNMMI mentor/mentee program and is currently serving as a newly elected member of the SWC-SNMMI nominating committee.

STUDENT CENTRAL ARTICLE

By Courtney Cross (Nominating Committee Member & Texas TAG)

Texas Medical Board Temporary License

When radiology students are nearing graduation, they are looking to start their careers by finding employment. To become employed in Texas, Radiology Technologists must apply for a Medical Radiologic Technologist license through the Texas Medical Board. This application process can take up to 6 months to complete. It involves extensive background checks, and a knowledge examination called the JP Exam. Most program directors encourage their students to get an early start on the application. However, those students will still not receive their official TMB license until they have passed one of the entry-level board exams and can send the TMB their certification card. This results in a wait of several weeks to several months until the student receives their license.

Since employers are looking for a Texas Medical Board license when they are hiring, the students want to know what they can do to be still considered for that position. The answer is that they need to complete an application for a temporary license through the Texas Medical Board. Most employers will accept a temporary license and hire a student, but it is important to acknowledge that it is up to the employer whether they accept it or not. If the student has further questions, they should ask their potential employer about the policies at that facility.

The temporary license costs \$30 and will be awarded as soon as the student's program transcripts have been received and verified by the Texas Medical Board. The students are encouraged to have their educational institution release their transcripts as soon as they are conferred or officially ready for release.

You can apply online: <http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/page/licensing-full-medical-radiologic-technologist>. After you've applied, email TMBScreening@tmb.state.tx.us for application assistance.



Featured:
Adam Fairbourn, MBA, CNMT
Program Director SWC-SNMMI
Mentor/Mentee Program

Following the completion of the pilot phase of the SNMMI Southwest Chapter Professional Mentor Network, we are happy to announce that mentee and mentor applications are now open to all! The program is an easy and insightful way to network, give back, and grow professionally. For more information visit: **SWC Mentor Network** (<https://mailchi.mp/775569352604/swc-snmml-professional-mentor-network>).



2021 FALL TECHNOLOGIST MEETING

OCT 1-2, 2021



Featured:

Top: Jacqueline Marlow

Bottom: Kierra Wilson

Jacqueline Marlow and Kierra Wilson are second-year students in the Galveston College's Nuclear Medicine Program. They aspire to be technologists who will be dedicated to lifelong learning and be leaders in Nuclear Medicine. Their high achieving spirit was evident in their volunteering to be the co-chairs for the 2021 Southwestern Chapter's (SWC) Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNNMI) Fall Technologist Meeting. For the first time in the chapter, students will be scheduling the meeting, finding speakers, and moderating the meeting. They have gladly taken on this task and are excited about the challenge.

Meeting Details

The SWC-SNNMI Fall Technologist Meeting will be virtual and held on Friday, Oct. 1st, and Oct. 2nd, 2021.

Details about the Fall meeting are forthcoming and will be updated on our chapter's webpage: <https://swc-snnmi.org/>

2022 OPEN OFFICE POSITIONS

By Paul English, RT(N),CNMT,RDMS,RVT (Nominating Committee Chair)

As the Chairman of the nominating committee for 2021-2022, which is tasked with presenting a list of qualified nominees for the election of officers for the 2022-2023 term, I and my distinguished committee members, Courtney Cross and Adam Fairbourn, are seeking interested and qualified candidates for the following positions along with the qualifications.

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

1. Must be a current contributing member of the SNMMI/SWC for a minimum of 3 consecutive years.
2. Active participation (local, chapter, and/or national) within the last 2 yrs.
3. Must have served in an elected position, local or national board, or attended the SNMMI Technologist Section Leadership Academy before running for this elected position.
4. May not run for chapter and national at the same time.
5. Must not be currently holding office, which will overlap into the term of this office.
6. Term: 3years (one-year president-elect 2022-2023, one year president 2023-2024, and one year chairman of the nominating committee 2024-2025).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2 candidates):

1. Entry-level.
2. Must be a current contributing member of the SNMMI/SWC for a minimum of 1 year.
3. Active participation at the local, chapter, and/or national meetings.
4. Term: 1 year 2022-2023.

We on the nominating committee covet the full membership's input and recommendations for these positions. Please reach out to us on the committee if you or any of your colleagues are interested, including new graduates from educational programs for the nominating committee positions.

You may reach us by email at:

Paul English	unclepaul28@aol.com
Courtney Cross	ccross@gc.edu
Adam Fairbourn	adamfairbourn@gmail.com

We are all looking forward to a much different year. We appreciate the leadership and cooperation of all the members of the Southwest Chapter. We look forward to serving you, and if there is anything you need from your Chapter, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.