SNMMI-TS Grants, Awards and Scholarships

Financial Support for Professional Growth
Objectives

• Explain how the NMT can enhance professional growth through advanced degrees or additional professional certifications

• Describe the financial implications associated with advanced degrees or certification preparation

• List the application process for grants and awards available to the NMT through the SNMMI
Entering the world of Imaging

• Over the years, multiple pathways have been developed to begin a career in imaging and specifically in nuclear medicine technology including:
  – Certificate programs (e.g. hospital-based programs for radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy)
  – 2-year associate programs
  – 4-year baccalaureate programs
  – 5-year masters programs
Education’s Financial Impact

• Regardless of the educational pathway chosen, the financial impact to complete an education in nuclear medicine technology can be significant:
  – Tuition
  – Books
  – Supplies
  – Living expenses
    • Rent/mortgage
    • Utilities
    • Food/ancillary expenses
• Limited time/opportunities to supplement finances with a part time job
Career Opportunities

• Once certified, the challenge of finding that perfect job might be hindered by:
  – limited employment opportunities
  – competing against technologists with more
    • experience
    • education or
    • certifications
  – your desire for enhanced skills in research, job opportunities outside the clinical setting or advanced skills that set you apart from other nuclear medicine technologists
Financial Support is Available!

- Regardless of where you are on your journey in nuclear medicine technology – financial support may be available through the SNMMI-TS in the form of scholarships and awards designed specifically for:
  - students entering the field of nuclear medicine technology
  - technologists enhancing their imaging skills with additional certifications in CT, MRI, etc.
  - technologists enhancing their skills through advanced degrees (BS, MS, PhD)
  - technologists advancing their clinical skills through the Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate program (NMAA)
SNMMI-TS

Awards and Scholarships
Available Grants, Awards and Scholarships

• Entry-level Students
  – Paul Cole Student Scholarship (ERF)
  – Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarship (PDEF)

• NMT Advanced Degree
  – Bachelor’s Degree Scholarship (ERF)
  – Advanced Degree Scholarship (ERF)
  – Professional Development Scholarship (PDEF)

• NMT Continuing Education
  – Career Advancement (ARRT)
  – Susan Weiss (ERF)

• ERF Travel Awards for NMTs and Students

• ERF/JNMT Best paper award

• Outstanding Technologist
SNMMI-TS
Awards and Scholarships
- Entry-Level Students -

Paul Cole Student Scholarship (ERF)
Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarship (PDEF)
Paul Cole Student Technologist Scholarship

• Named in memory of Paul Cole, CNMT, President of the SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) in 1986 and a champion of education for technologists

• This scholarship supports students in training at institutions accredited through the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT)

• 10 - $1,000 scholarships are available through a grant from the Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

• Application period opens in January
Who was Paul Cole?

• Past President of the SNMMI-TS (1986)
• Chair of the NMTCB
• Worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
• His focus and passion was the education and mentoring of students and technologists
Applicant Eligibility:

• Currently enrolled in, or accepted into an entry-level nuclear medicine technology program accredited by the JRCNMT including:
  – Associate level programs
  – Baccalaureate level programs
  – Note: individuals with a previous certificate or degree in nuclear medicine sciences are ineligible

• Maintained a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale

• Demonstrate financial need

• Be an active member of the SNMMI-TS
Additional Scholarships - SEMETA

- Four additional $500 scholarships – funded by the Southeastern Michigan Associates and Technical Affiliates (SEMATA), a local grassroots affiliate organization of the Central Chapter of SNMMI - are available to students in nuclear medicine technology studying in the Michigan Area.
- The application for Paul Cole is used to determine the eligible students.
Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarship

- Named in memory of Mickey Williams, CNMT, President of the SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) in 1991-92 and known as a champion and mentor of technologists.
- This scholarship supports a minority student in training (or accepted) at an institution accredited through the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT).
- 2 - $2,500 scholarships awarded annually - funded by the Professional Development Education Fund (PDEF)
- Application period opens in September
Who was Mickey Williams?

• Past President of the SNMMI-TS
• Immigrated to the United States from Jamaica
• His focus and passion included mentoring technologists and students by encouraging them to actively engage in their professional organization and to share their knowledge and passion of nuclear medicine technology with the public
Applicant Eligibility:

• Be of African American, Native American, Hispanic American, Asian American or Pacific Islander decent
  
  – **Note:** Eligible Native Americans include:
    • American Indian
    • Eskimo
    • Hawaiian
    • Samoan

  
  – **Note:** Individuals with a visitor, student, or G-series visa are not eligible
Applicant Eligibility - continued:

- Currently enrolled in, or accepted into an entry-level nuclear medicine technology program accredited by the JRCNMT including:
  - Associate level programs
  - Baccalaureate level programs
  - Note: individuals with a previous certificate or degree in nuclear medicine sciences are ineligible
- Maintained a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale
- Demonstrate financial need
- Be an active member of the SNMMI-TS
SNMMI-TS
Awards and Scholarships
- Continuing Education -
- for Nuclear Medicine Technologists
Susan C. Weiss Clinical Advancement Scholarship

- Named in memory of Susan C. Weiss, President of the SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) in 1978-79 and a champion of career advancement for nuclear medicine technologists.
- This scholarship supports nuclear medicine technologists (CNMT/ARRT) who are pursuing clinical advancement through didactic educational programs.
- 2 - $500 scholarships awarded every even year (exception in 2017, additional awards to be provided) – funded by The Education and Research Foundation of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF).
- Application period opens in March.
Who was Sue Weiss?

- Past president of the SNMMI-TS
- Former Executive Director of the Education and Research Foundation for the SNMMI-SNMMI-TS
- Her passion and focus was the technologist’s ability to continue to develop professionally through education.
Applicant Eligibility:

- Provide:
  - current resume or curriculum vitae
  - Professional reference letter
  - Applicant statement not to exceed one page that details your activity level in the SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) and address the following questions: What are your career and educational goals? How will the course/program help you to achieve your goals?

- Enroll/complete a didactic educational program for clinical advancement (ex. CT, MRI, EKG, exercise physiology, etc.) with college or continuing education credit

- Be an active member of the SNMMI-TS
Career Advancement Award

- Funded by The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

- This grant serves to support nuclear medicine technologists wishing to pursue additional educational opportunities in an effort to advance their professional career. Additional education opportunities include, but are not limited to; continuing education courses (live or online), certification exams (application fees), degree seeking education (associate, bachelors or masters) etc.

- 13 - $500 awards given annually – one award/SNMMI-TS chapters

- Application period opens in February
Applicant Eligibility:

• Enroll/complete the educational program for career advancement

• Provide:
  – Current resume or curriculum vitae
  – Professional reference letter
  – Applicant statement that details your activity level in the SNMMI-TS and addresses your career goals and how this program/course will help you achieve your goals.

• Be an active member of the SNMMI-TS

• **Note:** You **DO NOT** need to be certified and registered with ARRT to apply
SNMMI-TS

Awards and Scholarships

- *Advanced Degree Completion* – for Nuclear Medicine Technologists
Why should a registered or certified nuclear medicine technologist consider pursuing an advanced degree?

In 2005 the SNMMI-TS leadership discussed and presented a white paper and provided a timeline to enhance the standing of nuclear medicine technologists with a BS degree as the minimum level of education.

The original date for the adaptation of this transition was to be 2015. At this time, work continues to make this a viable requirement.

There are currently 3 advanced degree options: BS, MS, NMAA.
• Why is there a need for advanced degree programs?
  – Students currently need additional background in science and math because of trends in our field such as theranostics, melding of technology, personalized imaging and therapy, and gene marker development of radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic and therapy
  – As technology continues to move into new areas such as MRI, more skills, knowledge, and education will be required.
  – The days of on-the-job training are coming to an end. For example, certification boards now require formal (didactic) education in addition to clinical experience prior to sitting for certification boards.
What are the costs and benefits of an advanced degree in nuclear medicine at the Master’s level?

- Graduate programs cost about $12k more than a BS program.
- Students may have more opportunities for jobs at the graduate level.
- Graduate degrees provide a better opportunity to move into research positions—at academic centers or into the biotech/pharma world.
- Recent graduates have been successful in finding positions with starting salaries in the range of $85-90k.
For more information on a NMAA program contact:
SNMMI Advanced Associate Council
1850 Samuel Morse Drive
Reston, VA 20190
Email:
advanced_associate@snmmi.org
The Bachelors (BS) or Masters (MS) Degree Completion Scholarship serves to support current nuclear medicine student technologists in a BS or MS nuclear medicine technology training program or nuclear medicine technologists who are pursuing a BS or MS degree related to their nuclear medicine careers.

The scholarship is valued at $4,000 and is awarded annually.

Funding is provided by The Education and Research Foundation of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF).

Candidates must be a member of the SNMMI-TS.

Application opens in February.
ERF Advanced Degree Scholarship

- Advanced Degree Scholarship serves to support current nuclear medicine technologists in their pursuit of a Master's or Doctoral degree related to their nuclear medicine career
- The scholarship is valued at $5,000 and is awarded annually
- Candidates must be a member of the SNMMI-TS
- Funding is provided by The Education and Research Foundation of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF)
- Application opens in February
PDEF Professional Development Scholarship

- PDEF Professional Development Scholarship serves to support current nuclear medicine technologists or student technologists in their pursuit of a Master's or Doctoral degree related to their nuclear medicine career
- The scholarship is valued at $5,000
- Candidates must be a member of the SNMMI-TS
- Funding is provided by Professional Development and Education Fund (PDEF)
- Application opens in September
SNMMI-TS Research Awards
Annual Meeting Travel Awards

- Travel Awards support certified nuclear medicine technologists (CNMT or RT(N)) presenting molecular imaging abstracts at SNMMI Annual Meeting
- Candidates **must** be a member of the SNMMI-TS
- The travel award is $1,000
- Call for abstracts announced in December by the SNMMI and SNMMI-TS in the following formats:
  - Email, Smart Brief, Facebook, Twitter and SNMMI website
- The abstract application includes a section **asking if the technologist is interested in applying for a travel award**
- Funding is provided by The Education and Research Foundation of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF)
Technologist Abstract Travel Awards

Abstract Categories:

• Pre-clinical studies
• Professional Practices & Educational Exhibits
• Cardiovascular Sciences
• Clinical PET
• Diagnostic & Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine
• Instrumentation & Data Analysis
• Radiopharmaceutical Science, Biology and Dosimetry
Technologist Student Annual Meeting Travel Awards

- Supports nuclear medicine technology students presenting molecular imaging abstracts at SNMMI Annual Meeting
- Candidates must be a member of the SNMMI-TS
- The travel award is $1,000
- Call for abstracts announced in December by the SNMMI and SNMMI-TS in the following formats:
  - Email, Smart Brief, Facebook, Twitter and SNMMI website
- The abstract application includes a section asking if the technologist is interested in applying for a travel award
- Funding is provided by The Education and Research Foundation of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF)
Student Abstract Travel Awards

Abstract Categories:

• Cardiology
• General
• Instrumentation
• PET
• Radiation Safety and Patient Care
• Radiopharmacy
ERF-JNMT Best Scientific Paper and CE Article Awards

• Eligible scientific papers (first author is a technologist or scientist but not a doctor) are reviewed and ranked by all JNMT associate and consulting editors.

• The top 3 papers (in no rank order) are awarded the best 3 papers for the year.

• Eligible CE articles (first author is a technologist or scientist but not a doctor) are reviewed and ranked by all JNMT associate and consulting editors and a best CE article is selected for the year.

• Funding is provided by The Education and Research Foundation of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF).
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Exceptional Service Awards
Outstanding Technologist Education Award

Recognizes a SNMMI-TS member who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to the field of nuclear medicine technology.

- **Eligible candidates:**
  - SNMMI-TS members in any area of the field of nuclear medicine technology who have exhibited commitment to advancing the field in their workplace and through their involvement with the Society. Both clinical nuclear medicine technologists and educators are eligible and are encouraged to be nominated.
  - Nominees must be involved with the Society at the local, regional and/or national level and have at least five years of experience in nuclear medicine technology.

- Emails are sent to membership to nominate a colleague
Grants are supported by:

- Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF)
- SNMMI-TS's Professional Development and Education Fund (PDEF)
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
- Southeastern Michigan Associates and Technical Affiliates (SEMATA)

They represent the society's commitment to advancing molecular imaging and therapy
How to Apply

• All applications are submitted online
  – http://SNMMI.org/grants
• All awards, grants and scholarships are listed with the dates to apply
• Be certain to submit a complete application to be considered
• Notices posted in SmartBrief, UPTAKE, FaceBook, and Twitter
When to apply: Most open for a 3 week period

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Membership Eligibility Requirement

• Grants and awards are a **MEMBER Benefit**!
• No application will be considered if the applicant is not a member of the SNMMI-TS
• Student Membership is FREE!
• For more information, visit:
  http://snmmi.org/membership
Summary/Conclusion

• The journey to achieve a career in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is a rewarding experience; however, in today’s climate, the financial impact of that journey can be a limiting factor.

• Graduation is not the end of the educational process for many nuclear medicine technologists. Enhanced skills through the acquisition of additional certifications or degrees can be the distinguishing factor that open doors to new opportunities in the clinical setting, research environment, or commercial arena – yet that pathway again results in a significant financial impact and can delay that goal’s achievement.

• Grants and scholarships are a MEMBER BENEFIT!

• Thanks to the following supporting foundations – you could be one step closer to achieving your goals or enhancing your skills in nuclear medicine technology and molecular imaging.

• Don’t wait – apply today!
SNMMI-TS
Supporting Foundations
SNMMI-TS
Grants, Awards, and Scholarships
Funded by

ERF
The Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

PDEF
Professional Development and Education Fund

ARRT
THE AMERICAN REGISTRY OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS®

SEMATA
SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATES AND TECHNICAL AFFILIATES
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

- More than 330,000 Registered Technologists
- First certification was in 1922
- Fourteen credentials (Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiography, Radiation Therapy, MRI, CT, etc.)
- Nuclear Medicine certification is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). To receive NCCA accreditation, ARRT demonstrated that this certification and registration program met strict standards
Our mission is to advance excellence in health care through the support of education and research in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging by provision of grants and awards.

Behind every advance in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease is an investment in painstaking research. The Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (ERF) has unparalleled expertise in funding the most promising minds in our field.

We secure, invest and distribute funding to support rigorously vetted physicians, scientists and technologists in the pursuit of advanced academic studies or breakthrough discoveries in the fields of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.

We are the leading source of private philanthropic financial support focused exclusively on education and research programs in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. This allows us to help launch careers by providing early and essential financial support that 1) allows physicians, scientists and technologists to conduct pilot research and 2) makes it possible for students and trainees to expand their knowledge base through educational activities or rigorous academic study.
The Professional Development and Education Fund (PDEF) was created in 2001 by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) to provide a forum in which corporate entities could contribute financial support to technologist related programs and activities.

Over the past years, the PDEF has evolved and grown into a strong fundraising arm for the SNMMI-TS. Through the recommendation of the membership, in 2011, the PDEF began accepting donations from individuals as well as corporate entities.

The annual Hot Trot 5k run/walk proceeds permits the PDEF to provide scholarships
Southeastern Michigan Associates and Technical Affiliates (SEMATA)

• SEMATA is a non-profit affiliate of the Central Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine located in southeastern Michigan.

• As a commitment to supporting the philosophy of continuing education, all members of SEMATA donate their time to organize semi-annual meetings each year to offer nuclear medicine professionals the opportunity to maintain required CEU credits.

• Throughout our history, we have enjoyed a strong relationship with our industry, working together to provide high quality Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging services to our communities.
Thank you

Additional questions? Please contact:
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tellmer@snmmi.org