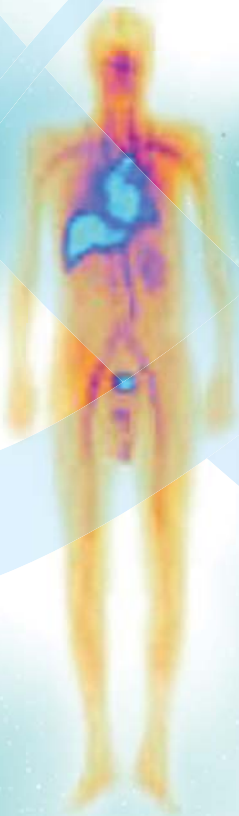




**BRITISH NUCLEAR MEDICINE SOCIETY**

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and its activities





## CONTENTS

<b>About the BNMS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Presidents Past and Present</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Committees and Groups</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Aim</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Categories of Membership</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>The Future</b>	<b>15</b>



## ABOUT THE BNMS

The British Nuclear Medicine Society ('BNMS') is a registered charity that was originally established in 1966 as the Nuclear Medicine Society. It is the only independent forum devoted to all aspects of nuclear medicine, clinical practice, education, research and development of nuclear medicine within the UK.

Nuclear medicine covers the whole spectrum of medical diagnostic investigational and therapeutic use of 'unsealed' radionuclides. The Society is committed to safe practice and high quality standards throughout the United Kingdom. As well as co-operating with other professional societies and interested bodies, the BNMS holds two scientific and educational meetings each year around the UK and through its committees, promotes education, good practice, organisational audit and quality assurance activities. The Society produces advice for purchasers on clinical and technical requirements and standards for nuclear medicine as well as responding to NICE when appropriate. The BNMS also promotes the countrywide audit and quality assurance activities. In an attempt to operate in a more open environment, the society now invites a patient representative and the chair of the Nuclear Medicine Manufacturers' Association on to Council as well as a representative from the Department of Health.

The society is governed by a group of trustees (Council members) who are elected by the membership to serve a three-year term of office. Although nominations for Council are invited from all craft groups annually, Council ensures that a representative of each craft group (usually the chair person), are co-opted automatically. The criterion for the election of the President is that the person should previously have served one full term as a Council member. Membership numbers over the years have maintained a steady 550-600, including over 10% overseas members ranging from South America to South Africa. Full members receive the official monthly BNMS Journal – **Nuclear Medicine Communications**. Although this is a UK journal, it is recognized as an international publication of considerable importance in the field with an impact factor of around 1.3. Membership of the BNMS is open to those who have a substantial interest and involvement in the provision of nuclear medicine services.



## **PRESIDENTS PAST AND PRESENT**

1968/69	Dr C J Hayter (Leeds)
1969/70	Prof E M McGirr (Glasgow)
1970/71	Dr T M D Gimlette (Liverpool)
1971/72	Prof E S Williams (London)
1972/74	Prof V R McCready (Sutton)
1974/76	Prof E Rhys Davies (Bristol)
1976/78	Dr D Croft (London)
1978/80	Prof M M Maisey (London)
1980/82	Dr R F Jewkes (London)
1982/84	Prof K E Britton (London)
1984/86	Dr L K Harding (Birmingham)
1986/88	Prof P S Robinson (Surrey)
1988/90	Dr A J Coakley (Canterbury)
1990/92	Prof J H McKillop (Glasgow)
1992/94	Dr S E M Clarke (London)
1994/96	Dr D H Keeling (Plymouth)
1996/98	Dr H W Gray (Glasgow)
1998/00	Dr T O Nunan (London)
2000/02	Prof P J Robinson (Leeds)
2002/04	Dr MC Prescott (Manchester)
2004/06	Dr AJ Hilson (London)
2006/08	Dr JW Frank (London)
2008/10	Dr G Vivian (Plymouth)



## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### The Council

The Council is the governing body of the BNMS and is responsible for formulation of policy consistent with current regulations and with the legal objects of the organisation. Elected members of Council are the Trustees of the BNMS and must remain mindful of the solvency of the charity and the overall wellbeing of the beneficiaries and staff. They guide and monitor the work of BNMS by meeting regularly.

### Development

The BNMS is organised into a number of groups who are involved in maintaining and developing the BNMS. Some of these are task specific or represent the interests of specific professional groups

### Organisational Structure





## COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

**The Finance Committee** advises the officers and Council of BNMS on all aspects of finance as relating to the BNMS

**The Professional Standards and Education Committee** advises the officers and Council of BNMS on the development and implementation of policies on professional standards, audit and education. Promoting, supporting and monitoring education and training programmes, they develop, promote, publicise and review guidelines for the delivery of nuclear medicine services and procedures and are also responsible for developing patient information in nuclear medicine.

**The Radiopharmacy Group** promotes standards in Radiopharmacy, defined by leading Radiopharmacists, and approved by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the BNMS.

**The Technologists' Group** ensures the delivery of a safe service in a safe environment to ensure technical quality control of equipment, etc. to liaise closely with IPEM, BIR, RCR and the College of Radiographers, to ensure professional development of scientific and technical staff working within nuclear medicine.

**The Nurses' Group** supports the work of nurses within departments. It aims to ensure the delivery of good nursing practice and patient care within nuclear medicine.

**The Clinical Scientists/PACS/IT Committee** advises the officers and Council on the development and implementation of policies on computer related topics and oversees the role of clinical scientists within the BNMS.

**The Industry Committee** liaises with the representatives of industry.

**The Marketing and Publicity Committee** promotes the practice of nuclear medicine among practitioners and the general public.



**The Research Committee** promotes nuclear medicine research for new improvements in clinical practice.

**The Therapy Committee** promotes the widespread use of radiopharmaceutical therapy.

**The Conference and Meetings Committee** ensures the organisation of two scientific meetings each year.

## **OUR AIM**

The British Nuclear Medicine Society is dedicated to promoting the multidisciplinary practice of high quality nuclear medicine for the benefit of patients. In order to achieve this aim, the BNMS engages in the following activities:

### **Raising the profile of nuclear medicine through:**

BNMS website ● Two scientific meetings per year ● Attending careers fairs

### **Engaging with other professional organisations, including:**

British Institute of Radiology ● British Nuclear Cardiology Society ● Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine ● Royal College of Physicians ● Royal College of Radiologists ● Royal College of Surgeons ● Royal College of Nursing ● Society and College of Radiographers ● Society of Radiological Protection

### **Providing a forum for the communication of advances in nuclear medicine through:**

- Annual and regional scientific meetings.
- Nuclear Medicine Communications - The BNMS official Journal is a highly respected journal with an impact factor of 1.3 which provides a forum for the communication of advances in nuclear medicine.
- BNMS website.



### **Leading in the provision of education and training to support the development of nuclear medicine:**

- Providing careers information and information on learning aids produced by the BNMS and other Societies.
- Continuing medical education.
- Continuing professional education.
- Accreditation through the Royal College of Physicians.

### **Representing the specialty on relevant official bodies and advisory committees through:**

- Sitting on committees of other bodies as appropriate.
- The Intercollegiate Standing Committee.
- Royal College of Physicians Joint Speciality Committee.

### **Developing and promoting standards and guidelines for the safe practice of nuclear medicine**

- The Statement on Standards is a document, first drafted in October 1993, giving advice to purchasers/commissioners of nuclear medicine services in terms of the standards they should seek and expect.
- The Documents and Resources section allows you to download the gamma camera tender questionnaire, a document giving advice on the frequency of changing film badges and an RCP publication on 'Consultant Physicians working for Patients'.
- The Organisational Audit section contains details of the Society's continuing programme which aims to audit every UK department.
- The IPEM Software Group section contains details of the software audit scheme run by the IPEM, with support from the BNMS. The External Quality Assessment Schemes (EQAS) link is relevant to those carrying out non-imaging tests in nuclear medicine.
- The Guidance on Staffing section allows you to download reports on guidelines for the provision of radiopharmacy and physics support to nuclear medicine, together with the results of a survey of the role of the UK





physicist in nuclear medicine.

- The Non-Medical Reporting link allows you to access the BNMS guidelines for non-medical reporting of nuclear medicine investigations. These guidelines are aimed at non-medical staff (e.g. medical physicists, radiographers and technologists) who intend to report on nuclear medicine examinations, or who already do so. Non-medical reporting should not be considered an alternative to the provision of suitably trained and experienced medical staff. However it is recognised that there are local needs where the skills of non-medical staff will contribute to the provision of timely and accurate reports. The guidelines represent the outcome of a multidisciplinary working party and were approved at the Annual General Meeting in 2005.
- An advisory service to hospitals wishing to set up a nuclear medicine service.
- Developing quality standards for the performance of studies.

**The above standards are available from the BNMS website**

### **Promoting nuclear medicine research and development**

Although the BNMS does not fund research it will endeavour to engage with academic institutions and industry to promote research leading to new developments and improvements in clinical practice.

### **Awards and Prizes Awarded by the Society**

#### **Young Investigators Prize Competition**

This competition took place for the first time at the 1998 Annual Meeting. The BNMS are keen to promote research in the field of nuclear medicine and especially to encourage those beginning a career in nuclear medicine in one of its many aspects. The prize is in the form of a financial contribution towards attendance at a scientific meeting. Travel, subsistence and meeting registration costs up to a maximum of £1000 will be reimbursed upon submission of appropriate receipts to the Treasurer of the Society.

#### **Rules for entry**



1. The entry should take the form of a brief communication limited to 1000 words (approximately five A4 pages typed double spaced). It should detail study purpose, methods, results and conclusions. It should also indicate the originality of the research and possible impact of results on clinical practice.

2. The entry should be accompanied by an abstract of the work (tick the box indicating submission for the Young Research Workers Prize) stating also the name of the institution where the work was actually done. The abstracts of finalists will be reproduced in Nuclear Medicine Communications. If not selected as a finalist the abstract will be judged for the main scientific meeting in the usual way.

3. The competition is open to 'junior staff' of all disciplines, 'junior staff' (for the purposes of this competition) should normally be aged less than 35 years at the time of application and:

- Medical - not holding a consultant or equivalent appointment.
- Clinical Scientists - below NHS band 8.
- Academic staff - below Senior Lecturer or equivalent research staff grade.
- Pharmacist - below NHS band 8.
- Technologists, Radiographers, Nurses - any grade.

Membership of the British Nuclear Medicine Society is not a requirement but non-members should be introduced in an accompanying letter by a member of the Society.

4. Closing date for entry, copies of entries and abstracts will be as for other abstracts submitted to the British Nuclear Medicine Society Annual Meeting.

5. Research shall have been performed in the United Kingdom and shall be concerned with the application of nuclear medicine.

6. The major part of the research must be performed by the applicant who should submit a statement from the head of department in confirmation. Collaborators should be named and their contribution clearly identified in a



separate letter.

7. Entries may include previously published work but this should not consist wholly of work already published in full paper form by the closing date for submission of abstracts to the BNMS meeting.

8. Work which has previously been awarded a prize in a research competition is not eligible for submission.

9. Finalists will be required to present a fifteen minute paper at the BNMS Annual Meeting and the judges will take note of the presentation and responses to questioning in determining the winner.

10. Judging will be by a committee appointed by the Council of the BNMS and will comprise individuals who have a current involvement and strong background in research.

11. The prize is £1000.

### **The Norman Veall Medal**

In 1991 a decision was made by Council to honour the memory of the late Dr. Norman Veall, one of the pioneers of nuclear medicine in this country, by asking members to contribute to a Norman Veall prize.

The first medal was awarded at the Society's Annual Meeting in London in March 1994 and every year members are invited to nominate a non-medical scientist who has made an outstanding contribution to the science and/or practice of nuclear medicine in the UK.

Commemorative medals have been struck and a cash award is presented to the recipients of the award.

A panel comprising the President and two past Presidents judge the nominations.



## Travelling Fellowships

A sum of £3,000 is allocated each year by the BNMS for the provision of Travelling Fellowships. The aim is to promote the development of nuclear medicine by allowing individuals to visit, and to experience aspects of clinical nuclear medicine in departments of nuclear medicine in the United Kingdom or overseas. These awards are open to **'junior' staff only** from all disciplines within nuclear medicine, provided they are currently Full Members of the BNMS. Particular consideration will be given to those applicants who can demonstrate an established interest in the chosen subject. The Fellowships will be awarded by the Council of the BNMS and will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

Definition of junior staff:

- a) Medical, etc. - not holding a consultant or equivalent appointment.
- b) Clinical scientists - below NHS band 8.
- c) Academic staff - below Senior Lecturer or equivalent research staff grade.
- d) Pharmacist - below NHS band 8.
- e) Technologists, Radiographers, Nurses - any grade.

Membership of the Society must have been held for at least one complete year before the application is made. The advertisement for the year's Fellowships is normally made towards the end of the preceding year. For eligibility, members should have paid the subscriptions due in the October of that year, and of the year before, as a minimum. Thus, for the 2000 awards, subscriptions due in October 1998 and 1999 should have been paid.

Details required from the applicant are:

- a) One page detailing the proposed visit, its purpose and a description of what the individual expects to gain from it.
- b) Details and justification of the expenses sought.
- c) A letter of support from the head or a senior member of the employment department.



- d) Confirmation from the department to which the visit is intended, that this is acceptable or agreed.

Applications should be made in writing before 31st December to the Secretary, British Nuclear Medicine Society, Regent House, 291, Kirkdale, London SE26 4QD.

### **The Ros Breen Fund**

This fund was established in memory of Ros Breen, who was Superintendent Radiographer in Nuclear Medicine at Southampton General Hospital. She died in June 1991, after a long illness. Ros made a great contribution to the field of nuclear medicine technology and it is appropriate that the fund established in her memory should be used to help technologists further their careers and help with the development of the speciality of nuclear medicine.

The Ros Breen Fund contains approximately £11,000. This principal sum remains invested, but the interest will be used each year to provide grants to members of the Technology Group. The exact amount available will vary each year with fluctuations in interest rates.

As a member of the Technology Group you are eligible to apply for a grant from the Ros Breen Fund if you need money to attend a conference or meeting, to go on a course, wish to visit a 'Centre of Excellence' anywhere in the U.K. or abroad, or have some other project connected with professional development in nuclear medicine. Applications must contain a full estimate of costs for the project, details of any other sources of funding you intend to use and indicate that you have the support of your head of department. Please write to the Chair or Secretary of the Technology Group, for further details to apply for a grant.

### **The BNMS Student Prize**

The BNMS is keen to encourage participation by all students, with an aim to interest them in furthering a career in nuclear medicine.



This prize is open to undergraduate medical students, undergraduate and Grade A trainee physicists, undergraduate and pre-registration pharmacists, undergraduate radiographers, trainee technologists and student nurses.

Medical students should consider nuclear medicine projects for their special study modules (SSMs) or B.Sc. degree options. Students or trainees in other disciplines are encouraged to undertake nuclear medicine projects as part of their wider training. Projects would normally be undertaken in conjunction with a Department of Nuclear Medicine/Radiology/Medical Physics at the local hospital, who will be able to offer guidance.

It is understood that the students will have had help from established staff, and they should submit a letter from their supervisor/head of department (who should be a full member of the BNMS) guaranteeing the originality of the work and confirming the student's status.

Students should proffer original papers (in the form of an abstract) for consideration by the Scientific Committee. The closing date is as for other abstracts submitted to the Annual Spring Meeting of the Society. Students should use the standard abstract submission form for the Spring meeting, but head the work 'Student Prize'.

Three prizes are offered annually:

**First prize** consists of free registration and accommodation for the annual spring meeting, plus £100

**Second prize** is £75

**Third prize** is £50

All prize winners' abstracts will be published in Nuclear Medicine Communications, and are citable. The work will also be presented at the Annual Meeting held each spring.



## **The BNMS Technologist Award**

The BNMS Technologist Award is awarded to recognise the efforts of technologists working within nuclear medicine who have contributed professionally or academically. Nominations, with a brief supportive statement, should be forwarded to the Chair or Secretary of the BNMSTG by December. This will be an annual award.

## **The Annual Spring Meeting Prizes**

Prizes are awarded at the Annual Meeting for 1st, 2nd and 3rd papers and the winner of the 1st prize also receives the President's Cup (this has to be returned after one year but the winner is given a replica to keep). A 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for posters is also awarded as well as a prize for the best technology oral and poster presentations and the best multimodality oral and poster presentations.

## **RESOURCES**

Currently the Society employs one full-time and 3 part-time members of staff. Staff are responsible, under the direction of the CEO, in conjunction with the President and Honorary Treasurer, for the provision of agreed activities which support the work of BNMS. There are also 10 elected Members of Council. As necessary, extra Council members may be co-opted.

Elected Council members and Honorary Officers are responsible for governance of the charity.

## **CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

### **Full Membership**

Full membership of the BNMS is open to suitably qualified medical staff, clinical scientists and technologist (radiographers, medical technical officers) who are making an active contribution to the science, practice, or technology of nuclear medicine. Applicants for full membership should be sponsored by two



full members of the Society.

### **Associate Membership**

Associate membership is open to such persons who do not fill the requirements of full membership or who are eligible but not in career grades of employment. Council have the authority to decide whether a person comes within these categories.

### **Technology Group Membership**

Membership of the Technology Group is open to technicians and radiographers who are full or associate BNMS members working in any aspect of nuclear medicine. Group members receive a quarterly newsletter containing reviews and dates of meetings and updates on educational issues with general information relevant to technologists. The Technology Group has a general meeting during the BNMS annual meeting. Members of the Technology Group are eligible to apply to The Ros Breen Fund for assistance with education, meetings and visits to specialist centres.

### **Retired Members**

Retired members may retain membership of the society at a reduced fee.

### **Honorary Membership**

Honorary Membership is at the discretion of the BNMS Council.

## **THE FUTURE**

Nuclear medicine is a dynamic field and, while some investigations have become superseded, an exciting future lies ahead with developing applications, for example in PET/CT, SPECT/CT and targeted molecular radiotherapy. The society will continue to involve all the stakeholders and professional groups involved with nuclear medicine and hence the BNMS will remain a highly relevant organisation.

The BNMS is now regarded as the lead organisation in the UK concerning all things nuclear medicine. In 2007 the BNMS undertook, for the first time, a





comprehensive survey of nuclear medicine departments, including sections on workforce, equipment and procedures. Apart from providing a detailed picture of the practice and provision of nuclear medicine throughout the UK, the results from the survey will provide invaluable evidence to support any arguments for increased provision or funding.

The society will continue to hold regular meetings throughout the country and will further encourage regional networks.

Future dates for meetings are:

Edinburgh 12-14 May 2008

Liverpool Autumn meeting 25-26 September 2008

Manchester 27-29 April 2009

Guildford Autumn meeting 14-15 September 2009

Harrogate 26-28 April 2010

The public face of the Society is the website. [www.bnms.org.uk](http://www.bnms.org.uk)

This will continue to evolve to embrace the full spectrum of nuclear medicine activities, providing a useful resource for professionals, patients and carers.

