Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in the Philippines

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March 2003:

- Total # of NM Doctors: 30
- NM Technologists: 85
- Radiation Physicist: 4
- Radiation Pharmacist: 2
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March 2003:

In Vitro Laboratories: 14
In Vivo Laboratories: 4
Both In Vivo & Vitro: 16
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March 2003:

Gamma Probes: 2
Gamma Cameras: Total of 24
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March 2003:

Gamma Probes: 2

Gamma Cameras: Total of 24
14 single head
10 double heads
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March 2003:

PET Camera : 1
Cyclotron : 1
Uptake machines : 9
Bone Densitometers: 6
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- Total Imaging Studies 2002: 30,017
- Total PET Imaging year-to-date: 385
- In-Vitro Studies 2002: 127,993
- RAI Therapy: 1,963

Philippine Population: 80 M
Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in the

![Bar chart showing NM Facilities in the Philippines from 1980 to 2001.](chart.png)
Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in the Philippines

Total number of NM Centers in the Philippines is 20
Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in the Philippines

Total number of NM Centers in the Philippines is 20 → 16 Metro Manila
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- 16 Metro Manila
- 3 Visayas
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- 16 Metro Manila
- 3 Visayas
- 1 Mindanao
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Historical Background:

- Endocrinologists & radiologists started NM in the Philippines
- 1956 first NM Center was established: rectilinear scanner & basic radiation detection devices
- 1960’s first gamma camera was available in the country
- 1966- PSNM was formed
- 1976 – First thallium scan
- 1980 – hosted Asia and Oceania Congress of Nuclear Medicine and Biology
- 1980: first national society of NM established
- 1986 – First SPECT machine
- 2002 PET imaging available in Manila
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Training:

- national certifying board examinations for NM since 1981
- NM residency: 3 years straight residency
- Or 2 years of fellowship if board-certified in Radiology, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics or Pathology
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- Consortium Training Program?
- Residents are made to rotate in the different Metro Manila hospitals
  - Makati Medical Center
  - St. Lukes Medical Center
  - Philippine Heart Center
  ...other hospitals
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Goals of the PSNM:

- Promoting quality patient care
- Public education through mass media exposure
- Accreditation of hospitals for training and/or service
- Conduct certifying board examinations
- Continuing medical education for members
- Coordinate multicenter research projects
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- PSNM daughter societies:
  - April 1994  Philippine Association of Nuclear Cardiology
  - Dec. 1994  Section of Nuclear Technologists
Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in the Philippines

- PSNM born sometime in the 1980’s
- Presently 100 members: NM doctors residents
  fellows
  NM technologists
Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in the Philippines

- PSNM born sometime in the 1980’s
- Presently 100 members: NM doctors, residents, fellows, NM technologists
- Scientific meetings held regularly:
  - Annual convention
  - Mid-year convention
  - Bimonthly scientific meetings
  - Monthly board meetings
Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in the Philippines

Current Problems of the society:

Brain drain: NM technologists are leaving the country!
Very few trainees/doctors, with only about 30 NM doctors in active practice

Under-utilization of NM procedures/studies

Expense of raw materials....expensive studies!
ex: Sr89
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Current Problems of the society...

No university degree courses for NM Technologists
No formal training for NM technologists; DAT?
No national examination for NM Technologists
No domestic production of any single-photon radionuclides or radiopharmaceuticals
Only recently were positron-emitting radionuclides produced in the country
Most of the NM departments are clustered in Metro Manila
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Plans of the PSNM:
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- Continue with the outreach programs
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- Schedule more scientific sessions, esp. with other specialists
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- Continue to promote nuclear medicine studies
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- Hold more conferences
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- Schedule more scientific sessions, esp. with other specialists
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- Look for more sources of less expensive radiopharmaceuticals
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Plans of the PSNM:

- Continue with the outreach programs
- Schedule more scientific sessions, esp. with other specialists
- Continue to promote nuclear medicine studies
- Hold more conferences
- Look for more sources of less expensive radiopharmaceuticals
- Promote use of less expensive alternatives such as samarium!
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- Continue with the outreach programs
- Schedule more scientific sessions, esp. with other specialists
- Continue to promote nuclear medicine studies
- Hold more conferences
- Look for more sources of less expensive radiopharmaceuticals
- Promote use of less expensive alternatives such as samarium!
- Already, we started publication of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine
- Invite more foreign experts/speakers to train residents, fellows and consultants!
Thank You from the Philippines!