Dear Dr. Hemphill:

At its meeting on November 4-5, 2022, the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) evaluated the Annual Report submitted by the nuclear medicine technology program at Old Dominion University. Upon review of the Annual Report, the board determined that the program is not meeting Standards D.3.1b and D.3.4. Accordingly, the program was placed on probation. The details of the board’s review are provided below.

Completion Issues on Annual Report

The results provided for each Student Learning Outcome on Form J are unclear and require additional detail. Examples:

- SLO 1: A benchmark number is reported but without sufficient detail, reviewers are unable to tell whether the value is a class average or a percentage of students. The ‘n’ number is also not provided.

- SLO 2: Reviewers cannot discern if the benchmark is 4 of 5 responses.

Additional clarity is needed on Form L:

- D3.1d: Results indicate 100% faculty retention for academic year 2021 but the explanation discussed a new program director, two new clinical coordinators and adjunct faculty. This turnover is not reflected in the percent retention reported.

- D3.1e: More details are needed in the benchmark and results information provided.

Compliance Issues on Annual Report

D3.1b  Assessment of program effectiveness must, at a minimum, document the regular collection and analysis of graduate performance on the national certification examinations.

*Within the Annual Report, on Form J: Program Effectiveness, the JRCNMT sets a benchmark of 80% as a rolling three-year pass rate for first-time examinees on the national certification examinations. The program’s pass rate for 2019-2021 is 53%. This is the fourth consecutive year it has been below the benchmark and it’s been trending downward since 2018.*
D3.4 The results of ongoing assessment must be appropriately reflected in the curriculum and other dimensions of the program. In particular, the program must systematically document the application of assessment results in the process of program improvement.

Form L in the Annual Report, and the program’s previous Pass Rate Progress Reports, have provided general plans to address the program’s low certification exam pass rate that do not appear to have been effective. Because the low pass rates have been an on-going problem, it is imperative that the program conduct a thorough analysis of all aspects of the program, from admissions to curriculum; implement significant changes; monitor carefully for results; make modifications if indicated; and provide detailed reports to the JRCNMT. Effective and urgent program changes are necessary to ensure graduates can obtain certification and enter the workforce as soon as possible upon program completion.

The program must undertake the following in the upcoming year:

- Submission of a satisfactory Pass Rate Progress Report, due no later than February 1, 2023. The report form is attached to the email that delivered this letter. Please include with the report a letter from the appropriate dean or higher administrator describing the institutional support that is or will be provided to aid the program director in making effective program improvements in the upcoming year;

- Submission of a satisfactory Annual Report, due no later than August 1, 2023; and

- Completion of a satisfactory focused site visit. The purpose of the visit, which will likely occur in September of 2023, is to verify the information contained within these two reports.

At the fall 2023 JRCNMT meeting, the board will consider the reports and results of the focused visit, paying particular attention to the thoroughness of the program’s assessment process and follow through on its commitment to making program changes that result in improved graduate outcomes, including certification exam pass rates. At that time, the board may remove probation, or, if it finds the program continues to be deficient in meeting the standards, the board may continue probation for an additional year.

**Reconsideration of Probation**

In accordance with JRCNMT policy 2.800 (enclosed), an institution may request reconsideration of probation if it believes the factual accuracy of a deficiency is in question. The request, due by December 9, 2022, must include evidence demonstrating that a deficiency was cited in error.

If reconsideration is not requested prior to the stated deadline, notification of this decision will be forwarded to the institution’s accrediting agency. The information will also be made available to the public through the JRCNMT website and its publications.

A program on probation is required to advise current and prospective students of the probationary status on its website and in publications (JRCNMT policy 2.150, pages 16-17). In addition, a program on probation may not add clinical affiliates or expand its student capacity until the probationary status has been removed, except when addition of clinical affiliates is necessary to address a cited deficiency.

Please contact the JRCNMT office if there are questions regarding the content of this letter.
Sincerely,

Jan M. Winn, M.Ed., RT(N), CNMT
Executive Director

Att:  Pass Rate Progress Report, ver. 2+
       JRCNMT Policy 2.800
       JRCMT Policy 2.150, pp. 16-17

cc  Sara Maynard, MS, CNMT, NMTCB(CT)
    Nuclear Medicine Program Director

Harold C. Riethman, PhD
Chair, Medical Diagnostics & Translational Sciences

JRCNMT Executive Officers