



## **A message from the Past NDTA President...**

In 2009, NDT Certification has become a reality. We are excited by the vision of expanded educational opportunities and very pleased to be able to offer the added recognition that certification brings to those who complete the required NDT training. We know this will be an important step in NDTA members' careers.

How does certification and recertification fulfill the mission of NDTA? A major part of the mission of NDTA is to provide specialized clinical training to healthcare professionals. The basic pediatric and adult NDTA-approved certificate courses have always been considered a beginning step in a process of developing expertise in the application of NDT principles. Further progress and understanding increases through experience in treatment, continued input from advanced courses, and continued study.

The certification process will nurture this growth and provide courses designed to promote development of knowledge and skills beyond the basic level. In addition it will insure that those who are NDT certified have continued input and updating as the concept of NDT grows and develops. By providing evidence of current knowledge, the certification designation will enhance respect for NDT training in the professional community.

How will certification benefit you, our membership? Many of our members have asked for certification because they receive salary increases based upon satisfactory completion of continuing education courses that carry certification. We felt strongly that we must fulfill this need so that graduates of NDTA-approved certificate courses (whether they are NDTA members or not) can claim this benefit. Although we presently offer certificate courses, until now we have not had an actual certification process. Certification requires not only basic training, but also periodic recertification.

In the past, people who have taken NDT certificate courses may or may not have belonged to NDTA. We would, of course, like everyone to join the organization. We will offer incentives, such as discounts on courses etc, to encourage membership.

Those who aren't members of the association may not be aware of the opportunity to become certified in NDT. When the program becomes operative, we will make every effort to make information about certification available to as many people as possible by placing announcements in selected professional publications, etc. Information will be posted on the NDTA website, [ndta.org](http://ndta.org). If you know of someone who may be interested, please encourage them to watch the NDTA website for certification information.

NDT certification is an important step forward for NDTA and for our members. To me the most important contribution it will make is the stimulus to produce innovative forms of NDT education. Already there is talk of developing online courses and other learning opportunities to fulfill the needs of those seeking recertification and to promote their growth as practitioners of NDT. Watch for the announcement that NDT certification is in place and the instructions as to how to apply. If you are a graduate of the pediatric or adult certificate course, I invite you to take advantage of the opportunity to become certified. Congratulations to NDTA for making this important step a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Mullens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Mullens, PhD, PT, C/NDT, Past President, NDTA Inc.