

# ADVANCE

for Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals®

## THE REAL WORLD OF TRAVELING

### Introducing a new "reality series" on the lives of traveling technologists and therapists | BY KELLEY DEVEREAUX

In a rut? Tired of working hours of overtime? Fed up with hospital politics? Maybe you should take your talents on the road.

Beginning with this issue, *ADVANCE* peeks into the lives of traveling technologists and therapists from across the country in a new reality-based series. Find out what it's really like to try to pack for a three-month stint in a city 3,000 miles away from home. Discover the economic realities of making a traveler's salary. Learn about the challenge of raising a family from the road.

Over the next few months, we'll print articles written from the perspective of traveling

there were an estimated 27,720 traveling image technologists in 2001 and 71,280 temporary imaging opportunities ranging from two weeks to six months. Because the positions for temporary technologists far outnumber the people willing to do the work, salaries can get quite competitive. For this reason, higher pay was ranked the No. 1 reason to travel in the Med Travelers report, which surveyed 2,480 traveling technologists (an estimated 9 percent of all the technologists who were working on a temporary basis in 2001).

John Moberly, vice president of recruiting for Med Travelers, said it's a great time to be a

where and how they want to work. There is an end in sight this way."

The second group is made up of people who want more out of their careers, he said. "They're looking for a new environment, to use new equipment and to do different procedures and use different skill sets. It's a professional challenge to travel."

Moberly's third group of likely travelers includes people who simply want the chance



**John Moberly**  
Vice President,  
Med Travelers

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technologists and therapists. Travelers from across the country will share their experiences with you. Some give glowing reports of the benefits of being a traveler. Others give accounts of the challenges and difficulties. But no matter what the opinion, there's no doubt it's a traveler's market.

From Maine to Montana, the need for imaging and therapy professionals is great. Make no mistake about it, your profession is in the midst of a shortage and your skills are in great demand.

Staffing companies are known for offering higher-than-average salaries. They tout the ability to see the country and the flexibility of choosing where you work and often, when you work.

The option to travel can be attractive for all these reasons. According to a market report conducted by Med Travelers, Irving, Texas,

traveling technologist. "There is a large demand right now for travelers in every specialty in imaging and radiation therapy. The demand is there. It's a question of how flexible you are to go to where the jobs are," he said.

#### Who travels?

According to Moberly, there are three types of travelers. The first group is technologists and therapists who are simply looking for a better opportunity. "Traveling is very lucrative. Often, travelers make \$7-\$8 more an hour than full-time employees," he said. But it's not always a better financial opportunity that this group is looking for. Instead, it might be the chance to work in a different environment. "A lot of people tell us they feel undervalued and unappreciated. That leads to burn-out," Moberly said. "Traveling gives them the opportunity to decide

to see the country. For them, the traveling is the most desirable aspect of the job. This group is made up mostly of new graduates who are not yet tied down with family responsibilities, or technologists and therapists who are nearing retirement. They can travel with their spouses and call it an early retirement, while still enjoying financial benefits.

In this, *ADVANCE's* reality series on the traveling technologist/therapist, you'll hear from colleagues in every category. If you've ever wondered what it's like to be a traveler, you won't want to miss even one installment of the series.

**Med Travelers**

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