

### *Upgrading the Scientific Forum*

In recent years, nuclear medicine has become an important part of clinical medicine throughout much of the world. Advances in radiopharmaceutical chemistry and instrumentation have provided many testing procedures of superior quality for patient service and research. As a natural consequence of the continuing sophistication of the field, major innovations and new discoveries seem to have decreased in frequency. It is my feeling that further significant progress in the future will require greater creativity and a carefully organized and coordinated effort directed toward the stimulation of scientific development. The Society of Nuclear Medicine has two basic commodities to contribute to this process — *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and scientific meetings. We can all take pride in the advancement of science accomplished by the *Journal* over the years due to the devoted service of many individuals. It seems reasonable, therefore, that the other forum for presentation and exchange of ideas, our scientific meetings, deserves the same careful structuring for continuity and responsible control that has been intrinsic to the success of the *Journal*.

To obtain better definition and consistency, the Scientific Program Committee for 1976, as a part of its charge, has devoted considerable time to deriving a series of organizational principles:

1. The activities of the Scientific Program Committee should be carefully organized into a year-round responsibility.
2. To provide continuity, the Program Chairman and Vice-Chairmen should have a tenure extending beyond a single year (for example, 2 years).
3. Because of the importance of postgraduate medical education, the activities of the Teaching Sessions Committee should be incorporated into the overall Program Committee structure. In addition, teaching sessions should be distributed throughout the program of the Annual Meeting, and not be relegated exclusively to the early morning hours.
4. A more definitive responsibility for the quality of individual scientific sessions should be delegated to the session chairmen and vice-chairmen responsible for the topical areas.
5. The mechanics of organizing and constructing the program should be handled as much as possible in the SNM National Office.
6. The Program Chairman should function primarily as a general manager, with all activities that influence each meeting falling under his purview and approval.
7. A definitive mechanism for critiquing each meeting should be established so that modifications in content, structure, and format can occur with prudent speed.

A similar listing of concepts was adopted by the SNM Trustees in Atlanta on January 24, 1976. In addition, the Strategic Planning Task Group appointed last year is currently studying reorganization of the basic structure and function of the Society in order to better serve the membership needs of today. Because of these activities, I am confident that we will expand and enhance the effectiveness of the scientific forum.

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Chairman, 1976  
Scientific Program Committee