

## EDITORIAL

With 1984 *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* celebrates a quarter of a century of publication. The *Journal* was initiated in 1960 as a quarterly. The rapid growth of nuclear medicine in the 1960s was reflected by the expansion of the *Journal* to a bimonthly publication in 1963 and a monthly in 1964. Thus, within three years it was necessary to triple the annual issues. George Thoma of St. Louis was appointed the first editor, followed by Belton Burrows of Boston in 1970, and the incumbent in 1975. The purpose of the *Journal* was, and is, to be a medium to provide scientific information, exchange ideas, stimulate research and progress, and establish a cornerstone to which all interested parties can adhere.

Although many significant advances in Nuclear Medicine had occurred before the establishment of the *Journal*, there were great achievements recorded during the first 25 years of our publication. We observed the development of the positron scintillation camera, multiplane tomographic scanner, the autofluoroscope imaging system, axial tomographic scanner, cisternography, and gated cardiology studies. In the area of tracers, we saw the introduction of iodine-125 for in vitro tests and imaging and iodine-123 for in vivo studies, iodine-131 albumin colloids for liver scanning, macroaggregates for pulmonary scanning, radioaerosols for lung scanning, the  $^{99}\text{Mo}$ - $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$  generator, technetium-99m sulfur colloid for RES imaging, technetium-99m "instant" labeling kits, mercury-203 chlormerodrin for brain scanning, selenium-75 methionine for pancreas scanning, fluorine-18 and the polyphosphates for bone imaging; gallium for tumor imaging; the iminodiacetic acid compounds for determining liver function; tracers for adrenal imaging, and thallium for myocardial imaging. In few fields have there been so many significant advances in so few years.

Through the advice, scientific contributions, and service of many clinicians and scientists *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* has become the preeminent publication in our field. To commemorate these first 25 years of publication, we will honor the group of 12 men who were instrumental in establishing Nuclear Medicine as an independent discipline, and in each issue during 1984 we will reprint an article from the first 24 years. The articles will be selected to emphasize the growth and development of Nuclear Medicine. In making this selection of 12 from several thousand articles, of course, many outstanding contributions cannot be included.

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