
COMMENTARY

LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last October, The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) Executive Committee and a small group of Society members and staff gathered in a quiet loca-



tion to discuss issues confronting nuclear medicine, its relationship to other medical specialties, its future potential and needs, and the threats and opportunities within the field. We also discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the Society and how we might enhance its objectives.

From these sessions emerged the following blueprint for future Society strategy:

- Amend the mission of the Society to take a proactive role in government and socioeconomic issues;
- Develop a plan to improve SNM's effectiveness in this area;
- Aggressively develop information on the cost effectiveness of nuclear medicine, including the design and/or coordination of prospective studies;
- Encourage further discussions with the leadership of the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) to avoid duplication of effort and to improve nuclear medicine's impact on the key socioeconomic and governmental issues;
- Coordinate with ACNP the improvement of the regulatory and legislative environment affecting new radiopharmaceutical development;

- Explore innovative (but related) sources of income, other than membership dues, using organizational and staff expertise.

I believe that these recommendations demonstrate the willingness of Society members to respond to difficult issues in order to preserve and embellish nuclear medicine as a medical specialty and scientific discipline.

I have already communicated details of this meeting to the Board of Trustees and have been developing proposals for discussion and implementation of these recommendations. It is important that members weigh the impact of these proposals on the future of nuclear medicine and the role that the Society will have in shaping that future.

I want to thank those members and staff who sacrificed a lovely autumn weekend to participate in these discussions. We were ably assisted in this endeavor by Richard Wilbur, MD, executive vice president of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, who served as facilitator for the 20 hours of candid and constructive review.

Several weeks before this planning session, I visited the new site of the SNM Central Office at 136 Madison Avenue in New York City, approximately one block from the previous location. These new offices provide better organization of Society functions. Our Executive Director Henry Ernstthal and his staff are to be complimented on the smooth transfer of operations and the attractive, yet cost-sensitive, design that has been developed.

Stanley J. Goldsmith
President

The Society of Nuclear Medicine

US CONGRESS MOVES ON NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

Since Congressman James H. Scheuer (D-NY) introduced Resolution 297 calling for the establishment of "National Nuclear Medicine Week" beginning on July 27, 1986, this resolution, presented on May 23, 1985, has been referred to the

Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

In order for the committee to send the bill to the floor for approval, 218 cosponsors are needed. So far, 129 members of Congress are cosponsoring the bill.

The idea for the commemorative week originated last year within The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) Technologist Section (see *Newsline*, July 1985, p. 690). Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, SNM president, and James J. Wirrell, CNMT, president of the SNM Technologist Section, said that they would urge all Society members to write their representatives in Congress to request support for "this important project." ■