

COMMENTARY:

LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

In early November, I attended the meeting of the Society's Southeastern Chapter. Although scheduled to give a scientific talk, I spent half of my allotted time discussing the American College of Cardiology's petition to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (I seem to have spent a large fraction of my time over the past seven months discussing this issue.) I was, however, impressed by the size, organization, and quality of both the educational and scientific programs offered by the Southeastern Chapter.



At the time of the Radiological Society of North America meeting in Washington, DC, I spent a day with Michael Payne, our Washington representative, and we discussed further lobbying action on behalf of the Society. Mr. Payne will write a brief report for a future issue of *Newsline* on this subject. Mr. Payne and I visited the National Academy of Sciences and the White House Office of Science and Technology and discussed funding for science—in particular, nuclear medicine—with representatives of these agencies. I felt that these visits were especially useful.

Later that day I attended the White House briefing session and reception arranged by the American College of Nuclear Physicians' Corporate Committee for the Advancement of Nuclear Medicine to celebrate the first anniversary of the formation of this committee. These functions again provided an opportunity for other leaders of the Society and me to meet government representatives involved in policy making and funding of health care projects.

In early December, President-Elect Stanley Goldsmith and I spent a day in New York with the Society staff examining properties for the National Office. The lease on our current property expires in the summer, and it has been decided to relocate to a property located in the same area of Manhattan. We examined three prospective sites, all of which were suitable and well within our financial capabilities. A final decision will be reached in the very near future following negotiations with the real estate brokers for the three properties under consideration.

At the recent Board of Trustees and 4th Conjoint Winter Meeting, held in Las Vegas, the major topic of discussion for the Board was the American College of Cardiology petition to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I invited

Dr. James Christie, of the American College of Radiology, and Dr. Schuyler Hiltz, of the American College of Nuclear Physicians, to present the positions of their organizations. This stimulated a spirited debate of the issues.

The major discussion was on a motion that The Society of Nuclear Medicine's position should be to support the current NRC position of six months of training for all physicians using isotopes. This motion was defeated. After much more discussion, the Board voted in favor of a position whereby we would support four months of training for cardiologists and six months of training for all other physicians practicing nuclear medicine.

The various reasons for this compromise have been discussed, not only among the Board of Trustees, but also at the Executive Committee and Chapter Presidents Committee meetings; I am sure you will hear the pros and cons again and again from your representatives to these organizations.

In addition to the business meetings, scientific programs were organized by the Technologist Section, the Radiopharmaceutical Science Council, and the Instrumentation and Computer Councils. A special Symposium on Receptor-Based Radiopharmaceuticals, sponsored by the Dept. of Energy, was organized by me. These sessions, as well as the Technologist Section National Council meeting, were well attended. I feel that the approximately 125 people who spent all day Sunday listening to and discussing the topic of receptor-based radiopharmaceuticals believed this symposium was particularly rewarding. A summary of this meeting will be presented in a forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

As I have mentioned in previous columns, I believe that public relations for our field is extremely important. I was pleased to see two major reports on nuclear medicine issues on Las Vegas television stations, especially in light of another major medical meeting (of orthopedic surgeons) which was held at the city's convention center.

The year seems to pass very quickly. It's difficult to believe that in only four months, at the Annual Meeting in Houston, I'll be turning over the President's gavel to Dr. Stanley Goldsmith. I gather from the Scientific Program Committee that a record number of abstracts have been received for this meeting, and I hope to see a large percentage of Society members at the opening session.

—Michael J. Welch, PhD

President

The Society of Nuclear Medicine