

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SPECT, PET, and NMRI at SNM Winter Meeting

The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) 5th Conjoint Winter Meeting will "offer a unique combination of educational functions—lectures, panel discussions, and symposia—and submitted papers related to metabolic imaging," said Peter D. Esser, PhD, program chairman. "A significant feature in formulating this program has been the joint sponsorship of three SNM councils: the Radiopharmaceutical Science Council, Alan R. Fritzberg, PhD, president; the Computer Council, Michael L. Graham, PhD, MD, president; and the Instrumentation Council, Paul H. Murphy, PhD, president," he added.

The meeting, held March 2-5, 1986, in West Palm Beach, FL, will include 16 submitted papers covering single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), positron emission computed tomography (PET), and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (NMRI).

"An integral part of the program will be three panel discussions, funded by a DOE grant to the Radiopharmaceutical Science Council, on the current state of radiopharmaceutical development for PET, SPECT, and NMRI," said Dr. Esser. There will also be a minisymposium on glucose kinetics, and the Computer Council will cosponsor with manufacturers user group meetings for various clinical computer systems.

There will also be lectures on: in vivo assessment of biochemical events with PET, the present and future challenges of SPECT receptor imaging, receptor-ligand kinetic modeling, NMRI contrast agents, and compartment modeling techniques in PET, SPECT, and NMRI.

On March 2-3, the SNM Technologist Section will present a program, under the chairmanship of Robert J. English, CNMT, that will include an intensive financial management course and clinical seminars. ■

### Congress Approves DOE Research Budget

The United States Congress passed the \$24.2 million budget for the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Nuclear Medicine Applications Program, and President Ronald Reagan signed it into law (P.L. 99-141) at the end of last year.

The DOE had originally requested \$21.2 million for this program, but Congress decided to appropriate \$3 million over that amount for research in cardiology, neurology, and particle beam therapy. The \$24.2 million appropriation for fiscal year 1986 was first authorized by the House Science and Technology Committee last April—13 days after its Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agricultural Research, and Environment held a hearing to review nuclear medicine research (see *Newsline*, May 1985, pp. 443-444).

Four members of The Society of Nuclear Medicine—Thomas F. Budinger, MD, David E. Kuhl, MD, Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, and Alfred P. Wolf, PhD—had testified before the subcommittee.

The Nuclear Medicine Applications Program is just one part of the Biological and Environmental Research Program, which received a \$1 million decrease in funding overall for fiscal year 1986.

The \$24.2 million budget for fiscal year 1986 represents a \$2.5 million increase over fiscal year 1985. ■

### Low-Level Compacts Pass by Vote of 378-0

The US House of Representatives on December 9, 1985, passed the Low-Level Waste Policy Amendments Act (H.R.1083) and all pending regional interstate compact bills by a unanimous vote of 378 to zero.

At press time, the US Senate was scheduled to vote on the compact bills. If they pass in the Senate, they will become law once President Ronald Reagan signs the legislation.

The interstate compact bills call for each region to establish its own low-level disposal site, and the Amendments Act was drafted to extend the January 1, 1986, deadline for building those sites.

"The passage of these bills in the House represents a victory for nuclear medicine, due in large part to the efforts of nuclear medicine groups in making our elected officials aware of the necessity of providing more disposal sites for low-level radioactive waste," said William H. Briner, chairman of The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) Government Relations Committee.

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, president of the SNM, said that "the Society also appreciates the efforts of the American Medical Association and other medical organizations which supported this legislative effort."

The SNM has followed the issue closely ever since Congress passed the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980, which required the formation of interstate compacts to handle low-level waste disposal (see *Newsline*: Jan. 1985, pp. 1-6; Mar. 1985, p. 224; May 1985, pp. 453-454; June 1985, p. 563; Aug. 1985, pp. 845-847; Dec. 1985, pp. 1366-1367). ■