News Briefs

Imaging Equipment Sales Rising in Europe

Western European sales of diagnostic imaging equipment in 1985 are estimated at $1.2 billion, and are projected to rise to $2.25 billion by 1990, according to "Medical Electronic Imaging Market in Europe," a report from Frost & Sullivan, an international market research firm.

Newer technologies, such as positron emission computed tomography (PET) and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (NMRI), are changing the structure of the worldwide market for medical imaging equipment, according to the report. The worldwide market is estimated at $6.05 billion in 1985 and projected to reach $9.27 billion in 1990. In the United States, conventional X-ray equipment now makes up only 30-35% of the market, a trend that is starting to appear in Europe with NMRI playing a major role in the shift.

Worldwide, NMRI equipment accounted for $232 million in 1985 sales, with $1.04 billion projected for 1990; in Europe, NMRI accounted for $51 million in 1985 sales, with $230 million projected for 1990. The worldwide market for ultrasound will rise from a 1985 base of $700 million to $1.2 billion in 1990; in Europe, ultrasound should increase from $203 million in 1985 to $340 million in 1990.

West Germany leads Europe with the largest imaging equipment market share, followed by France, the United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, and Belgium. According to the report, leading suppliers include Siemens, Philips, and General Electric. The 278-page report, available for $2,200, includes forecasts for nuclear medicine, conventional and digital X-ray, and X-ray computed tomography (CT), and breaks down the European market by country and product type.

For more information, contact: Frost & Sullivan Ltd., 104-112 Marylbone La., London, WIM 5FU, England (01) 935-4433; or Frost & Sullivan, Inc., 106 Fulton St., New York, NY 10038 (212) 233-1080. ■

Newly Accredited Residency Program

The Hospitals of the University Health Center of Pittsburgh, PA, has recently obtained accreditation for its residency program in nuclear medicine. The program, which did not receive notification in time to be included in the annual listing in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (Jan. 1986, pp. 31A-32A), will have openings for first- and second-year residents starting on July 1, 1986.

For more information, contact: W. Newlon Tauxe, MD, Director, Nuclear Medicine, Presbyterian-University Hospital, De Soto at O'Hara Sts., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. ■

HHS Publishes Credentialing Rules

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently published standards for the accreditation of education programs for and credentialing of radiologic personnel, including nuclear medicine technologists (*Federal Register*, December 11, 1985, pp. 50710-50724).

The HHS action follows a lawsuit filed by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) against HHS for failing to establish minimum standards as required in the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981. The ASRT maintained that its 15,500 members found it detrimental to be subject to licensing requirements that varied from state to state.

"Promulgation of these standards will affect private-sector health costs only to the extent that states elect to regulate these personnel. This effect is probably minimal since state regulations of these personnel has been increasing without a federal model regulation," said James O. Mason, assistant secretary of HHS. ■

HPS Membership Votes on Committed Dose

The membership of the Health Physics Society (HPS), based in McClean, VA, voted down a resolution last September by letter ballot that would have confirmed the HPS's support of the International Commission on Radiological Protection's (ICRP) method of determining radiation dose limits for nuclear workers.

The issue of whether to record committed dose to radiation workers by the ICRP recommendations of assigning the 50-year committed dose from a long-lived radionuclide to the year of intake, or by the recommendations for annual dose limits which are supported by the National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), the US Department of Energy (DOE), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was the subject of heated debate last year within the HPS (see *Newsline*, Sept. 1985, p. 977).

The HPS, which has a membership of 6,750, refused to adopt the resolution by a vote of 1,234 to 1,032 with 149 abstentions. ■