
COMMENTARY

LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the recent Winter Meeting of The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) in West Palm Beach, FL, I presented a preliminary proposal to the Board of Trustees in response to the consensus developed at the Executive Committee planning session held last October in White Plains, NY. This proposal had four components:



- To broaden the mission statement of the Society to include a role in government, socioeconomic, and practice-related issues in response to the

increased needs of members in this area. Although the Society is primarily a scientific and educational organization, we believe that the SNM Annual Meeting, the Society's educational and scientific programs, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, and the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* meet the needs of our members in these areas, and that the Society must play a stronger role in the government, socioeconomic, and practice-related issues that today confront our members.

- To coordinate efforts with the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) in areas of mutual interest. The Board approved the forming of an ad hoc committee to implement this directive. Oscar (Jay) Powell, MD, a past president of the ACNP and a past vice president of the SNM, will chair the first meeting of the ad hoc committee, which consists of: Jose Martinez, MD, president of the ACNP; Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, president of the SNM; Kenneth A. McKusick, MD, immediate past president of the ACNP; David H. Woodbury, MD, president-elect of the ACNP; Howard J. Dworkin, MD, president-elect of the SNM; B. Leonard Holman, MD, and Marguerite (Rita) T. Hays, MD, nominees for SNM president; and James J. Wirrell, CNMT, president of the SNM Technologist Section.

- Reorganization of the SNM structure. The functional components of the Society consist of its Chapters, Councils, Technologist Section, Board of Trustees, and Committees. While the function and performance of some of

the committees (such as the Scientific Program, Publications, and Finance Committees) are clearly defined, others have changing requirements depending upon the vagaries of the milieu in which they operate. In order to enable the Society to respond as necessary to specific situations, I am suggesting that the responsibility for specific actions be assigned to individual "issue managers," while committees evolve into networking instruments. As an example, A. Bertrand Brill, MD, PhD, has been appointed chairman of an ad hoc Radiation Effects Committee to report to the SNM officers at regular intervals on health effects of low, medium, and high levels of ionizing radiation received from medical and/or accidental exposures, as well as other aspects of radiation, including waste disposal, nuclear power, natural background radiation, and consumer products.

- The exploration of additional sources of non-dues income, such as management and administrative support for related scientific societies and a more aggressive/competitive book publishing policy. The Executive Committee and the Publications Committee, respectively, have requested that the SNM Central Office staff develop specific business plans for further consideration.

In view of the potential significance of these changes to the future of the Society, I have requested that the Board of Trustees discuss these issues at the Chapter level and provide comment and direction prior to the SNM Annual Meeting in June, at which time I plan to submit a specific proposal for action in these areas. I would also like to invite the delegates of the Technologist Section's National Council to discuss the Society's new directions at their Chapter meetings. In addition, I encourage all SNM members to communicate their thoughts, ideas, and reactions to their Chapter officers, Trustees, National Council delegates, or directly to me in the very near future.

I look forward to hearing your responses, and to seeing the membership at the Society's 33rd Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD
President
The Society of Nuclear Medicine