
COMMENTARY

--- --- LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT: PRAGMATISTS PREVAIL AT WINTER MEETING --- ---

On February 2, 1987, the first day of The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) Winter Meeting in San Antonio, the SNM Board of Trustees convened and voted on a number of important issues. The SNM committees, which held their meetings on the previous day, remain the backbone of the Society. Their deliberations and hard work permit the Board to make expeditious yet difficult decisions. When a proposal has not undergone adequate review by the appropriate committees, then the Board's response is predictable—a decisive vote against it. Such was the case with the most controversial issue considered by the Board at this meeting.



Howard J. Dworkin, MD

During the Fourth World Congress of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, held in November 1986 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology voted to hold its next quadrennial meeting in Montreal, Canada. The Canadian delegation in charge of the Fifth World Congress attended the SNM business meetings last month and presented a proposal for the SNM to provide financial backing and administrative services for the international meeting in Montreal. The delegation was warmly received and spoke before a number of committees.

A resolution put before the Board called for the SNM to cancel its 37th Annual Meeting in 1990 and join the World Federation for the Fifth World Congress in August 1990. Board members expressed a strong philosophical sentiment for supporting the World Federation and for joining the Fifth World Congress to help produce a scientific meeting that would unify nuclear medicine around the globe. When the vote was counted, however, the pragmatists prevailed, and the SNM will hold its Annual Meeting as planned in June 1990 at the previously selected Washington, DC, site.

Time was actually the greatest enemy of this resolution. We had a deadline to renew or back out of our commitment to Washington within hours of the Board's decision, and the SNM Finance Committee did not have enough time to review adequately the proposed budget (which became available the day before) and render an informed recommendation. A significant portion of the SNM's operating budget is generated by the Annual Meeting. With unre-

solved questions about the projected revenues and expenses for the Fifth World Congress, the Board was unwilling—despite the strong emotional arguments expressed by some Board members in support of the resolution—to take a risk that might jeopardize the Society's financial security.

Richard S. Wilbur, MD, executive vice president of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), spoke on "The Structure in Organized Medicine: How We Fit In, Our Impact, and the Impact on Us." The SNM is a member of the CMSS, which comprises 24 medical specialty societies. It is a valuable association for us, and Dr. Wilbur reinforced the value of our continued participation.

Joseph A. Marasco, Jr., MD, president of the Board of Chancellors of the American College of Radiology (ACR), spoke on "The Relationship between the SNM and the ACR." Dr. Marasco highlighted the many areas of mutual support and common interest, as well as several areas of disagreement. I strongly support the attitude of cooperation displayed by Dr. Marasco. It may not always be easy for the ACR and SNM to cooperate in all issues, but both organizations must make the effort.

Captain William H. Briner, chairman of the SNM Government Relations Committee, presented a report on the Society's work in Washington. Robert H. Wilbur and Melissa Brown, newly appointed director of government relations for the SNM/ACNP Conjoint Washington Office, gave the Board an overview of various legislative and regulatory issues now affecting nuclear medicine research and practice. It is evident that the ongoing cooperation of the SNM and the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) has led to more effective representation in Washington for nuclear medicine professionals in the United States.

I was pleased with the mature and business-like proceedings of the Board of Trustees meeting, and I believe that the SNM membership was well represented. [A more detailed report of this meeting will appear in a future issue of *Newsline*.] Our administrative staff from the SNM Central Office also deserve commendation. The arrangements for the San Antonio meeting were excellent. I hope you will join with our staff in starting to plan for the 34th SNM Annual Meeting this June in Toronto, Canada. It's going to be great!

Howard J. Dworkin, MD

President

The Society of Nuclear Medicine