

## Last Thoughts from the Editor To a Future Trust

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Six years ago, I sought the position of Editor of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* because it presented an unparalleled opportunity to work on a scholarly publication with a great number of people whom I respected and admired at home and around the world. At the time of my selection, I had been a member of the Society of Nuclear Medicine for 22 years and had served as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal*, on the Board of Trustees as Secretary, and as Vice President of the Society in the preceding 10 years. This experience prepared me to deal with the many complementary and sometimes conflicting elements that make up the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Pre-eminent among my duties as Editor was the administration of a rigorous peer-review system. I knew this would not be easy and that I would need the support and understanding of a large number of people if I was to succeed. I set as my first priority the conduct of a fair, impartial, and democratic system for assuring the quality of science in the *Journal*. I endeavored to provide an editorship that encouraged young investigators at the beginning of their academic careers and gave opportunity to more mature investigators to transmit their wisdom to future generations. During my term, I devoted most of my time and effort to peer-review activity, and although I tried to balance the need for thorough review with that of expeditious publication of important information, I was inevitably challenged by the controversies this process generates. Fortunately, my weaknesses were usually offset by others' strengths.

I could not have succeeded without the support of a great many people, some of whom I would like to especially remember: Douglas Maynard, Leonard Holman, and Richard Witcofski, successive Chairmen of the Publications Committee, for interacting with the Society leadership and disgruntled members; Laura Kosden, Cary Richardson, and David Teisler, Publications Directors, who taught me the rudiments of academic publishing and administered the New York office, as well as interacting with the printers, distributors, readers, and anyone else that I couldn't handle; and Joan Simon, Managing Editor in New York and Colleen Hubona, Executive Editor in Houston, who saw to the details of publishing the *Journal* with the highest standards of professionalism.

To my associate editors Stanley Goldsmith, Paul Murphy, and Leon Partain go appreciation for taking on responsibility for Newline, Book Reviews, and Continuing Education, respectively; and special thanks to my assistant editors for invaluable advice in the peer-review process. I also recall the helpfulness of many other individuals and the many kindnesses that were extended to me during my term as Editor. My deepest gratitude goes to officials and staffs of Waverly Press, the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and to all the authors, reviewers, and readers around the world who have supported *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* during the past five years. To my successor, I wish all of these good things.

I welcome this opportunity to introduce to you the new Editor of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, H. William Strauss, MD. Dr. Strauss brings with him a long list of accomplishments in the field of nuclear medicine. For the past 8 years, he has been a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal*, and an active contributor. He also serves as Vice President-Elect of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. From his base at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Strauss has the support of the great traditions of those potent institutions to infuse new life into the *Journal* and introduce the improvements and changes inherent in a transition in leadership.

Finally, as is customary, I have printed below the names of the individuals who served as manuscript reviewers during the past year. These individuals gave unselfishly of themselves so that the *Journal* represents a solid base upon which our research, practice, and educational activities can be conducted. I commend these individuals for their devotion and dedication to nuclear medicine. These men and women ensure the fulfillment of the obligation we all share—to preserve our profession and to pass it on to future generations better than we found it.

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