

## COMMENTARY

## **LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT ANTICIPATION OF ACCOLADES, A MESSAGE FROM R.A.H.**

**A**t the 36th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine in St. Louis, I succeeded Barbara Y. Croft, PhD, assistant professor of medicine/radiology (nuclear medicine), University of Virginia Hospital—the first woman president of the Society. Several situations that began during Barbara's year have carried over into mine, with the most immediate being the search for a new executive director.



**Richard A. Holmes, MD**

Henry L. Ernstthal, who has served as our executive director for the last 10 years, has decided to pursue a new career in academia and joined the George Washington University faculty at the beginning of the school year. Under Henry's stewardship, the SNM has grown in all aspects. We wish him well in his new occupation. A search committee composed of several officers—old and new, physicians, scientists, and technologists—was appointed. The search committee hired a professional executive search organization (American Society of Association Executive (ASAE) Search Group) to solicit and screen candidates using a job description for the executive director prepared by the search committee. Those of you with names of potential candidates can call the ASAE office in Washington, DC at (202)626-8825.

During the search, Virginia M. Pappas, the deputy executive director, has agreed to manage the SNM office until the new executive director is selected. Virginia is well known to the membership and has already begun to address several annoying problems that have adversely affected a few of the members during the last year. I visited the national office since becoming president and was deeply impressed by the enthusiasm, dedication, and ability of the office staff. In the ensuing months, if you have complaints, please let Virginia or me know, and if perchance you have accolades, please direct them to the office personnel.

### **New JNM Editor**

By now you should know that H. William Strauss, MD,

director of the division of nuclear medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School, will succeed Thomas P. Haynie, MD, chairman of the department of nuclear medicine, James E. Anderson Professor of Nuclear Medicine, and professor of medicine at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, as editor of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. A systematic transition of the editorial staff and its location is underway and this should not affect the continued high quality and relevance of the Journal. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Tom for all he has done for the Journal and wishing Bill the best in continuing the tradition of the most outstanding publication in nuclear medicine.

### **Location of the National Office**

For some time, the location of the SNM national office in New York City has been a subject generating diverse views and strong attitudes. With the hope of resolving the situation logically, I have appointed a Committee of Business Advisors to determine what the impact of a move would be on the Society. Leon S. Malmud, MD, vice president, Health Science Center, Herbert M. Stauffer Professor of Diagnostic Imaging, Temple University, our immediate past vice president, will chair this committee that is composed of academic administrators and nuclear medicine entrepreneurs, who can use their business acumen to judge such a move considering we are in the front end of an extended lease. I am certain Dr. Malmud will be happy to receive any constructive advice or recommendations you might have. The committee intends to generate a report by the next annual meeting.

### **RVS Issues**

Through the efforts of the Conjoint SNM and ACNP Government Relations Washington Office and the Relative Value Scales Task Force Members, an early victory was recorded when the House Energy and Commerce Committee adopted the Health and Environment Subcommittee's recommendation to remove nuclear medicine specialists from the Radiology Relative Value Scale (RVS) for one

year. Proposed by Subcommittee Chairman Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), the recommendation exempts nuclear medicine physicians who are certified or eligible to be certified by the ABNM or ABR (Special Competence in Nuclear Radiology) for one year, effective January 1, 1990. Credit for this accomplishment should be given to several people in and outside of nuclear medicine but in particular to Daniel S. Berman, MD, director of nuclear cardiology, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, professor of medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, whose unrelenting persistence made this possible, and Peter Boussein, Mr. Waxman's aide, who carried it through. The next hurdle is the Senate Finance Committee, which began deliberations on budget reconciliation in late July. Those of you who can contact your Senators for their support of this recommendation, please do so, or for those of you who need information on how to do this, contact Melissa Brown in our Government Relations Office at (202) 429-5120.

## Annual Meeting

The difficulties encountered in the Scientific Program this past year, such as accurately relaying program acceptances to the authors, are being corrected and should not hap-

pen for the meeting next year in Washington, DC. Even in face of these problems, this year's meeting attendance fell only 350 registrants below the record-setting attendance at the 1988 San Francisco meeting. A highlight of the meeting was The Chapter Bowl Challenge conceived and directed by James C. Conway, MD. Jim's year-long planning and the cooperation he received from the chapters, the participants, their families, and Mrs. Conway made this a hilariously educational interlude that all of us hope will continue.

Scientific knowledge is the cornerstone of the SNM, and nowhere is this better emphasized than the annual summary of the meeting given by Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, professor of medicine, radiology, and environmental health sciences at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, a past president of the Society. Dr. Wagner's presentation showed that as PET remains our most intriguing and investigative scientific probe, the clinical relevance of many nuclear medicine procedures continues to expand.

*Richard A. (Dick) Holmes, MD*  
President, The Society of Nuclear Medicine

## E&R Foundation Awards Student Fellowships for 1989

The Education and Research (E&R) Foundation of The Society of Nuclear Medicine awarded 11 student fellowships of up to \$3,000 each to the following individuals:

- Asim Amin, MD, University of California at Davis, "Radioimmunotherapy and Diagnosis of B Cell Neoplasms."
- P. Duffy Cutler, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine, "Correction of Geometric Distortions in MR and PET Imaging for Structure-Function Image Registration."
- Debra D. Dahlen, University of Washington, "Accuracy of Parameter Estimation in PET Kinetic Models."
- Edgar Molina, University of Michigan, "Quantitative Evaluation of Cardiac Blood Flow and Metabolism by PET."
- Evan M. Kaminer, New York University Medical Center, "Windows-Based, Object-Oriented User Interface for the QSH Nuclear Medicine Image Processing System."
- Jeffrey Tabas, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, "Assessment of Regional Myocardial Metabolism by Positron Emission Tomography in Patients with Ischemic Heart Disease."
- Yong Choi, University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine, "Parametric Images of Myocardial Glucose Utilization Rate Generated from Dynamic Cardiac FDG-PET Studies."
- Lawrence S. Kegeles, PhD, Mount Sinai Medical Center, "Absolute Renal Blood Flow Determination from Scintigraphic Data in Circulatory Phantom and Clinical Studies."
- Michael A. Price, MD, Yale University School of Medicine, "Biliary Imaging and Excretory Dynamics After Papilotomy in Patients with Intact Gall Bladder."
- Latresia Ann Wilson, PhD, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, "A Radiation Dosimetry Model for Radio-labeled Monoclonal Antibodies: Indium-111 Labeled B72.3-GYK-DTPA for Colorectal Cancer."
- Thomas A. Bonasera, Washington University School of Medicine, "Synthesis of Fluorine-18 Labeled 1-(2-Nitro-1-Imidazolyl)-2-Propanol-3-Amines for Use as Hypoxic Cell Markers in PET Imaging."