

# Something Borrowed, Something Blue

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J Nucl Med 1994; 35:168

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**W**ith this issue, I begin a term as the sixth Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

My distinguished predecessors, George Thoma, MD, the first Editor-in-Chief (1960–1969), Belton Burrows, MD (1970–1974), Frank DeLand, MD (1975–1984), Thomas Haynie, MD (1985–1989) and H. William Strauss, MD, who just completed a four-year term (1990–1993), have provided a chronicle of the science and art of nuclear medicine and in so doing have provided an enduring service to the Society of Nuclear Medicine and the larger biomedical community which uses these tools in patient care and medical research. As the sixth Editor-in-Chief, I am the beneficiary of the efforts of all who have preceded me. I am also pleased to be the recipient of so many offers of help and, even at this early date, of so much good will and hard work from many Society members and the national office staff.

As the *Journal* begins its 35th year of publication, its readership and contributors form a worldwide network of nuclear medicine physicians and scientists. Since the editorial office transition began in July 1993, I have been impressed by the high caliber of manuscripts submitted from all over the world. In keeping with this growth of science and practice, I have expanded the Editorial Board to ensure participation by the larger nuclear medicine community.

Drs. Abass Alavi, R. Edward Coleman, Steven M. Larson and Michael J. Welch have agreed to remain as Associate Editors and continue to provide their special expertise. Drs. John A. Correia, Alan J. Fischman, Ban An Khaw and James A. Scott, who assisted the editorial process so effectively in Boston, will continue as Editorial Board members. In the New York area, I have asked Drs. Gordon DePuey, Chaitan Divgi, Christopher J. Palestro and Shankar Vallabhajosula to serve as Associate Editors and Dr. Henry N. Wagner, Jr. has accepted the appointment as *Newsline* Editor.

Many of the innovations introduced by Dr. Strauss will

be retained. My goal is to add to his legacy, not substitute or “change for the sake of change.” There is one exception: *Randoms* will evolve into *Scatter* to denote a more generic and fundamental phenomenon inherent in the interaction of radiation and matter, even if it frequently goes undetected; not that I expect the contents of *Scatter* to be necessarily more generic or fundamental than *Randoms*. “Scatter,” as a physical phenomenon, can be meaningful even though it tends to degrade information unless dealt with appropriately. I have always thought of “randoms” as a detected event which either distorts information or is a problem which takes time to decipher and ultimately dismiss.

I also have chosen to select an image for the cover of each issue, usually from one of the articles within, which will provide that issue with a readily identifiable visual signature and make better use of the space available.

With this issue, the *Journal* will adopt a modified version of a structured abstract format to include a brief introductory statement of purpose and a defined method, result and conclusion component. In practice, most abstracts conform to this organization now and it has been a minor task for the editorial staff to insert headings for each component to date. With this announcement, authors are requested to comply with this format.

Other Straussian innovations, First Impressions, Clinico-pathological Conferences and a commitment to increased frequency of editorial comments and continuing education pieces will be maintained. All of these efforts, like the original manuscripts themselves and the peer-review process, require much effort on the editor’s part and the support and cooperation from the Society membership. Your continued support is appreciated; it is also necessary if we are to continue to publish a scientific journal of note.

I want to thank Dr. H. William Strauss and the staff of the Charlestown office, Francis F. Mand and Dianne M. Moschella, for a job well done and for their help in making a smooth transition to the new editorial offices in New York. I also appreciate the continuous commitment from Eleanore Tapscott, Eleanor Nigretto and John Childs, PhD, from the SNM Publications Department, as well as the good wishes and support of Dr. Robert Sonnemaker, Chairman of the Publications Committee and Torry Mark Sansone, Executive Director of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

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