



Robert Wagner, MD

A Stronger Voice to Influence Changes

The nuclear medicine specialty suffers from being squeezed on both sides. The increasing number of regulations being forced upon us by federal bureaucracies add burdens of time and expense while health care reform decreases the reimbursement of our procedures. The process of getting a new radiopharmaceutical or device to market takes close to a decade and tens of millions of dollars. Nuclear medicine cannot continue to survive, let alone thrive, under such a system. The government affairs committee of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) is working to address these problems, but they cannot be solved without your help.

To effect congressional reform in the regulatory areas, we must first educate and then convince the leaders of Congress that change is needed. A single letter from both organizations carries significant weight, but not as much as 1000 letters from interested members. To achieve this goal, Dr. Terry Beven is resurrecting the Key Contact program of the SNM and the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP). To be successful in implementing Congressional change, we are relying on the concerted efforts of our membership.

As you may know, the Government Relations Committee has been reorganized and is now a joint committee of both the SNM, ACNP and SNM-Technologist Section. The newly organized Key Contact program is part of the new Government Rela-

tions Committee. The government relations efforts have changed significantly to become more active in the legislative arena. This means that instead of taking our fight to the regulators, we are going to their bosses—the U.S. congressmen and senators. We believe that while we have made significant strides in the past, this shift will effect more changes in how we are regulated than ever before. With the current anti-regulatory mood in Congress, we believe we can have a much greater impact than was possible in the past.

If you decide to join the Key Contact program, you will start receiving regular updates on the various subcommittees of the joint Government Relations Committee. Occasionally, you may receive a form letter reflecting the position of the Society and the College. If you agree with the views expressed, you will be asked to sign it and send it to your Representative and Senators. The program can also help arrange meetings with your legislators.

Physician, technologist and scientist members of the SNM or the ACNP are encouraged to join the Key Contact program. You can join by simply filling out the information below and faxing or mailing it to Dr. Beven who is coordinating the Key Contact Program. Before you turn this page, think for a moment. If you are not interested in helping your own field grow and survive, who will be?

You can join the Key Contact program by faxing or mailing:

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Name _____

Position _____

Department _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Fax # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Preferred method of communication

Letter _____

FAX _____

E Mail _____

Who are your congressmen?

Senator _____

Senator: _____

Representative: _____

District: _____