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The New Residents

Each July, the new residents arrive at teaching hospitals. They come to apprentice at the side of more senior physicians—to learn the craft, the art and the science of nuclear medicine and other specialties.

Each year, they appear to be younger by a year. Of course, that is an illusion; it is we who are older, but we do not notice that. Rather, we mark the start of each academic year by the arrival of new faces eager to climb up the ladder of postdoctoral training, to acquire knowledge and skill and to assume their place in the medical community.

As we swore to do when we took the Hippocratic oath, we accept the responsibility to train them. We appreciate their labors. We rejoice in their progress as we wonder: Will they be able to withstand the physical rigors of the training? Do they possess the ethical standards they will need for the issues that will confront them? Will they successfully complete the specialty board examination and become certified as diplomates? Will they be able to take on the responsibilities of becoming a member of the attending staff, or will they make other career choices?

Who among them will become our colleagues or successful investigators? Who will make a significant contribution to their area of specialization? Who among them will interpret the procedure performed on us when we become a patient? Who among them will become a Service Chief or Department Director?

Of course, we do not know the answers to these questions. We do, however, commit ourselves to doing our best to help the new residents do their best.

Here they come again.

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, Editor-in-Chief
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