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## A Belated Birthday Wish

I'm sorry I missed your birthday. I was so busy last April that your 100th birthday just came and went without my having had a chance to acknowledge it. I can truly say that you have lit up my life. In fact, you have brought light into all our lives. You have brought much joy into our lives, too: radio, television, telecommunications and modern transportation.

Yes, without you, I can truly say that not only would my life, as well as the lives of millions of others, have been dull, but I probably would not be here today if it were not for you. Well, I might "be here," but I would not be the same. I would not be practicing nuclear medicine; I would not be editing a journal dedicated to that specialty and science; nor would I be sitting and creating this little note on a word processor.

Yes, my dear, if it were not for you, there would be no nuclear medicine nor would there even be radiology. Medical practice would be far different from what it is today, and it would be the worse for the difference. For as much as we can complain about some of the things that you have made possible, like computer monitoring of income tax and computerized rejection of insurance claims and modern weapons of destruction, I think, overall, you have done much more good than harm. In fact, it is probably our endless pursuit and exploitation of you that has led some of us to make a mess of the world so often. But, we cannot blame you for our shortcomings.

I know that it is not really the anniversary of your birthday, but actually the anniversary of our knowledge of you—the date when we met, so to speak. Well, that's worth celebrating too.

So, all in all, in 1997, on this, your 100th birthday, or our 100th anniversary, I want to say here and now, albeit belatedly,

Happy Birthday, Dear Electron.

**Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD**

*Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*

October 1997

**Editor's Note:** In April 1897, J.J. Thompson published his description of the electron recognizing its properties as a distinct particle with very little mass and a relatively powerful charge. Thompson identified the electron as the smallest component of the phenomenon that was already known as electricity. It is his characterization, however, that began the scientific understanding of the electron, giving rise to electrical engineering, electronics and particle physics. It would be remiss of us not to acknowledge Thompson's contribution and to say "Thank you."