



added and old references deleted, as appropriate. Comments were collated and sent to the guideline's primary author for determination as to which comments should be incorporated into the new version of the guideline. Guidelines that were substantially revised were sent to the SNM Random Sample Review Group, a cross-section of over 100 physicians representing all areas of specialization within nuclear medicine.

Before presentation to the House of Delegates, the revised guidelines were approved unanimously by the Guidelines and Communications Reference Committee, the Commission on Health Care Policy and Practice and the SNM Board of Directors.

The 4 revised guidelines, as well as the 22 remaining SNM-approved guidelines, are available for download free of charge from the SNM web site at [www.snm.org](http://www.snm.org). A comment button was recently added to the SNM Procedure Guidelines page, allowing visitors to the site to submit comments or questions about the guidelines to the Guidelines Committee. The Guidelines Committee welcomes feedback as a means to continue to improve the quality of the procedure guidelines. For further information, contact Marie Davis, SNM procedure guidelines project manager, at (703) 708-9000, ext. 250, or by e-mail at [mdavis@snm.org](mailto:mdavis@snm.org).

—Marie Davis is the SNM procedure guidelines project manager.



## Government Relations Update

### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ACTIVITY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a briefing with the Advisory Committee for the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) on June 17, 1998, to discuss the pending proposed rule for 10 CFR 35. The NRC heard recommendations from the ACMUI on the medical policy statement, significant precursors and patient notification sections of the proposed rule. The ACMUI also asked that the NRC extend the time period for commenting on the proposed rule

from 75 to 120 days.

The NRC was expected to publish for public comment a proposed rule by mid-August 1998. The NRC is also expected to hold three public workshops to hear additional discussions on the proposed changes. These changes include (a) reducing the radiation safety training and experience required for physicians practicing nuclear medicine, (b) revamping the radiation safety committee requirements to focus on a program for radiation safety rather

than a prescriptive committee structure and (c) restructuring the quality management program to require only written directives and a program that ensures that the dose prescribed is the dose given. Other areas of the current 10 CFR 35 also will be changed.

The ACNP/SNM Government Relations Office has the associated document available on the SNM web site. Readers are encouraged to review the material and submit comments.

### PRODUCTION OF RESEARCH ISOTOPES

One of the four goals established by the ACNP/SNM Government Relations Committee in January 1998 was to increase funding for research isotope production through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Original requests to the House of Representatives and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committees were for a \$20 million increase. This was reduced to a site-specific request of \$10 million. This \$10 million request, although supported by Senators Larry Craig (R-ID), Connie Mack (R-FL), Slade Gorton (R-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA), was not included in either the House or Senate bills as of July 7, 1998. In addition, the House

bill removed an additional \$6 million slated for the construction of a beam spur of the LANSCE accelerator at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, which would have ensured that that national laboratory could continue to produce research isotopes. The ACNP/SNM Government Relations Office continues to press for the House to include funding for the beam spur during the Energy and Water Appropriations Committee Conference.

ACNP and SNM have nominated Richard C. Reba, MD; Michael D. Devous, PhD; Daniel J. Sullivan, MD; and Linda C. Knight, PhD, to serve on the Nuclear

Energy Research Advisory Committee, which would advise the Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy (currently, Bill Magwood is acting director) on those isotopes that the DOE should expend resources to produce. SNM is also looking at establishing a peer review committee to provide commentary to the DOE on which isotopes it feels the DOE should produce. This type of input from a federal advisory committee and a peer review group within SNM would help the DOE to focus on producing and ranking 5–10 isotopes and making them available to researchers at a reasonable cost year-round.

—David Nichols is the director of the ACNP/SNM government relations office.