

## *President's Letter*

In continuance of our policy of bringing Society efforts to the attention of the membership, we wish to direct attention to the work of the Committee on Technologists in Nuclear Medicine. As we all know, our technologists are the "backbone" of our laboratories and it is this committee's task to investigate the means by which these skills and talents can be uniformly recognized.

This committee, under the able direction of Dr. Ervin Kaplan, chairman, has vigorously attacked this problem and has made considerable progress as attested by Dr. Kaplan's report which follows:

It is the policy of the Society of Nuclear Medicine to advocate and promote a standard of excellence among the technologists in Nuclear Medicine. To establish standards, an Ad Hoc Committee of the Society has studied the problem for several years. After establishing a technical affiliate category of membership, this Committee has recommended the establishment of an acceptable curriculum to outline the course of study to be followed by technologists. This curriculum should be acceptable to the American Medical Association. In addition, the Committee has recommended that a certifying examination be given to technologists who have met recommended criteria for eligibility. The technologists successfully passing this examination would be carried by a Registry of certified Nuclear Medical Technologists. Finally, the Committee has deliberated upon criteria for suitable technical training facilities. In recognition of the importance of the technologist problem, the Committee on Technology is now a standing Committee of the Society. The membership of this Committee will represent the principal medical and scientific specialties in Nuclear Medicine. The Society of Nuclear Medicine must proceed with implementation of the above program as expeditiously as possible. It is anticipated that certifying examination will be given within a year.

The establishment of a single standard of proficiency for Nuclear Medical Technologists is clearly in order. Such a uniform program would require the closest coordination between the Society of Nuclear Medicine and the other organizations concerned with technologists in this specialty. These cooperating organizations should certainly include the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, The American Society of Medical Technologists, the American Society of X-Ray Technicians and the American Registry of Radiologic Technicians. Liaison between the Society of Nuclear Medicine and the above groups should exist outside of the organizational structure of any single society, and should be permissive of free and adequate exchange of information.

The day has arrived when the Certified Nuclear Medical Technologist will be a respected member of the Nuclear Medical Team with a known level of skill which will inspire confidence in his professional and technical colleagues.

JOHN U. HIDALGO, M.S.  
President