

## **nm/ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I would like to summarize for you some recent actions by the Society.

The Board of Trustees has authorized the incorporation of The Society of Nuclear Medicine Education and Research Foundation "to increase knowledge . . . encourage research . . . manage funds contributed . . . convey awards to those . . . who . . . contribute to the advance of nuclear medicine."

The preliminary application for approval of an American Board of Nuclear Medicine, sponsored by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and the American Boards of Internal Medicine, Pathology and Radiology, has been submitted to the Advisory Board for Medical Specialties. The application was initially considered by the Liaison Committee for Specialty Boards in early February. It will be brought up for action at the next meeting of the Liaison Committee in July, 1969.

As a part of the meeting of the American Medical Association in New York, July 13-17, a Session of Nuclear Medicine will be held under the Section on Special Topics. Drs. Eugene Saenger and Richard Peterson have organized a broadly interesting program. Your attendance and support of this activity should be enjoyable and worthwhile.

There have been offered for your consideration some further amendments to our Bylaws. Most of the changes are additional delineation of structure and function. A substantive change concerns the constituency of the Board of Trustees, and is directed at compatibility between Trustees' terms and membership on standing committees. Another proposal is that a Standing Committee on Competence and Certification be added. Your attention and study of these proposals is invited.

As my term of office draws to a close, I would like to share with you some observations on our Society.

In the near future, the Society of Nuclear Medicine may be required to make a conscious choice. Should it attempt to become more active and robust to accomplish all that is being asked of it? Or should it define itself as an avocationally operated scientific forum with no official opinions on standards of technique and practice, on standards of education and certification of competence, on legislation and regulation or on socioeconomic concerns?

The Society has accomplished much in its short life. By necessity most of the work has been done by the relatively few, for spare-time efforts are prohibitively expensive and time-consuming to organize on a large scale. Actions such as those noted in the first part of this letter can happen only after considerably more-than-avocational effort by a small number of people.

The Society and the mission it is being asked to fulfill, both by its members and by outside entities, have grown to the degree that spare-time or avocational efforts no longer are adequate. If the Society is to carry out its scientific and educational responsibilities to its members, if it is to fulfill the responsibilities that would be placed on it by governments, by organized medicine and science and by its inherent obligations to the public that nuclear medicine serves, it must enlarge its means of action.

Should we have a full-time Executive Director? Should we have funded task groups defining standards and compiling data and expert opinion? Should we have an active effort in continuing education? We may soon be required to answer these questions.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president this year. I hope you find the 16th annual meeting rewarding and enjoyable. If you do, please express yourself to those who made it possible.

**C. CRAIG HARRIS**  
Duke University Medical Center