

## **nm/ LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

Another milestone in the progress of the *Journal* has been passed with the recent publication of our *Style Manual for Authors*. Although it is primarily intended to expedite the process of editing and publishing accepted manuscripts, it should also be a boon to contributors and their secretaries struggling to anticipate the *Journal's* preference in style and format. It may even serve to reduce the number of manuscripts that are sent back for revision, which is currently approximately ninety percent!

The most noteworthy innovation is the use of an abstract at the beginning of the article at the index page instead of a summary at the end. This may be the first step towards the goal of more effective information retrieval for our busy readership; the next could be the development of a key word vocabulary similar to that used by other medical journals for library purposes.

Another important aspect of preparation of manuscripts is an accurate standardized bibliography. Secretaries require more than a few cryptic annotations on old envelopes and other nondescript jottings to prepare accurate references, which should be checked before submission. It is a rare manuscript that does not require some corrections in the references that are available to the editorial office, and there are many to which we do not have access. A correct bibliography will be a requirement for an accepted manuscript.

Aside from such details, the *Style Manual* also sets forth a policy of permitting authors all possible freedom of style and individual expression consistent with the simplicity and clarity required by our readership. Assuredly, the end and purpose of improved scientific communications in nuclear medicine will now be better served.

BELTON A. BURROWS  
Boston University School of Medicine