

Some of the more rewarding seasonal rites are the annual meetings of this and other scientific medical societies. The results of hibernal efforts are presented and new ideas are germinated. This year the freshet of submitted communications has been especially copious and the resulting harvest of new or more extensive radionuclide procedures, such as myocardial scanning and reconstruction tomography presented at the plenary sessions, should be a bumper one.

But the introduction of advanced methodology in the expanding field of nuclear medicine may be attended by increasingly restrictive curbs to its application, both regulatory and economic. Justification for new equipment will require certificates of need in many state jurisdictions and medical practices will be subjected to increasing surveillance by legally required peer-review mechanisms. Introduction of transmission scanning capability into many medical centers as soon as funds can be obtained and availability can be achieved will alter the demands for procedures utilizing radionuclides.

With some or all of these factors operating to some degree even in the larger Nuclear Medicine Services, the maturation process of the newer methodology, from conception and birth to full utilization, may be considerably extended. This will present a challenge to those interested in the educational process in nuclear medicine and places greater emphasis than ever on the importance of the scientific and teaching sessions at the annual meetings and the publications of the Society.

Because of the increasing number of submitted manuscripts, which have doubled in the past four years, and the increased costs of publication, a continuing re-evaluation of published articles is in order as a guide to future utilization of our necessarily limited editorial pages. Our readership is always invited and encouraged to submit to the editor their comments and criticisms with a view toward improving the editorial process and thereby the important communication functions of the Journal.

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