

diseased skeletal state using region-of-interest technique and bone-seeking radiopharmaceuticals. *Nucl Med* 16: 104-112, 1977

3. LENTLE BC, RUSSELL AS, PERCY JS, et al: The scintigraphic investigation of sacroiliac disease. *J Nucl Med* 18: 529-533, 1977

### Reply

Dr. Buell's comments are indeed pertinent.

Suspecting that there might be an age-dependent factor, we selected a group in an appropriate age range (20-45 yr) as controls. We did analyze the data from this group for an age effect and found a trend like that reported by Dr. Buell. Perhaps because of smaller numbers and the shorter range this trend proved not to be significant ( $p > 0.01$ ).

Any technique such as the one we described must be sub-

ject to a number of variables, as is demonstrated by the range of observations in each of the groups we have reported. The trend described by Dr. Buell does, however, run counter to the effect of disease which increases rather than decreases the ratio. Thus the general validity of our observations is not in question, and we continue to find the technique of value in clinical practice.

Dr. Buell's observations reinforce the point that we made—we hope strongly enough—that in any quantitative technique there will be a need to determine the normal range for a particular laboratory, adjusted, as we now learn, for variables such as patient age.

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