

NEWS BRIEFS

ABNM Status Changes to Primary Board

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) will change its status from a conjoint to a primary Board. The Assembly of the American Board of Medical Specialties voted for the new status on March 21, and the ABNM plans to revise its bylaws this month.

Incorporated on July 28, 1971, to certify nuclear medicine physicians, the ABNM was a conjoint Board of the American Boards of Internal Medicine, Pathology, and Radiology, sponsored by The Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Joseph F. Ross, MD, president of the ABNM, said that "this change in status will make possible further advances in nuclear medicine and strengthen the specialty." ■

International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group

The International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) held its first meeting in Vienna on March 11-13 and selected three issues—source term, incident feedback, and human element—as its first projects.

Under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the new advisory group will provide a forum for the exchange of nuclear safety information. Composed of 13 experts in licensing and industrial research and development, INSAG will not formulate standards or carry out regulatory activities.

The next INSAG meeting is scheduled for October 1985. ■

Decision-Making in Coronary Artery Disease

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and the American College of Nuclear Physicians will hold an international symposium, The Role of Noninvasive Imaging Modalities in Clinical Decision-Making: Coronary Artery Disease, on September 9-10 in Washington, DC.

The meeting will include a general discussion of efficacy and specific applications of imaging modalities to this disease, according to program cochairmen Ismael G. Mena, MD, director of nuclear medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and H. William Strauss, MD, director of nuclear medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The cost-effectiveness of ultrasound, nuclear medicine, computed tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance, and positron emission tomography in coronary artery disease will be presented, as well as a review of reimbursement policies and diagnostic algorithms. ■

NCRP Publishes New Radiation Reports

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) has recently published six new reports, including "Protection in Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound Diagnostic Procedures in Children," and two reports on radon.

Future publications will include "Neutron Contamination from Medical Electron Accelerators," and "Induction of Thyroid Cancer by Ionizing Radiation."

The NCRP also plans to develop recommendations on: radiation protection for medical and allied health personnel; models used for assessing transport of low-level radioactive

waste; uptake of radionuclides by the embryo/fetus; and radiation emergency planning in academic, medical, and industrial institutions.

For more information, contact the NCRP, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1016, Bethesda, MD 20814. (301) 657-2652. ■

Don't Link Nuclear War to Radiation Sciences

In response to the *Journal of the American Medical Association's* (JAMA) solicitation of "original material on radiation biology, nuclear medicine, nuclear war and related topics" for its annual August issue that observes the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 (see *Newsline*, Mar. 1985, p. 217), a physician expressed his concern about linking nuclear war to nuclear medicine.

Albert A. Driedger, MD, PhD, FRCP(C), FACP, chief of nuclear medicine at the Victoria Hospital Corp. in London, Ontario, Canada, sent a letter to JAMA stating that he objects "to the facile concatenation of radiation science and all things nuclear to the spectre of nuclear war."

Dr. Driedger said that although he applauds George D. Lundberg, MD, JAMA's editor, for keeping the World War II event before the medical community, "I think the real issue arising out of Hiroshima is the threat of nuclear war and it should not be obscured by linkage to radiation sciences in general."

The wording of the request "suggests that you may also, in the future, propose to publish issues devoted to such topics as antimicrobial therapy and microbiological warfare," Dr. Driedger further explained.

Dr. Driedger is also the vice president of the Canadian Association of Nuclear Medicine. ■