

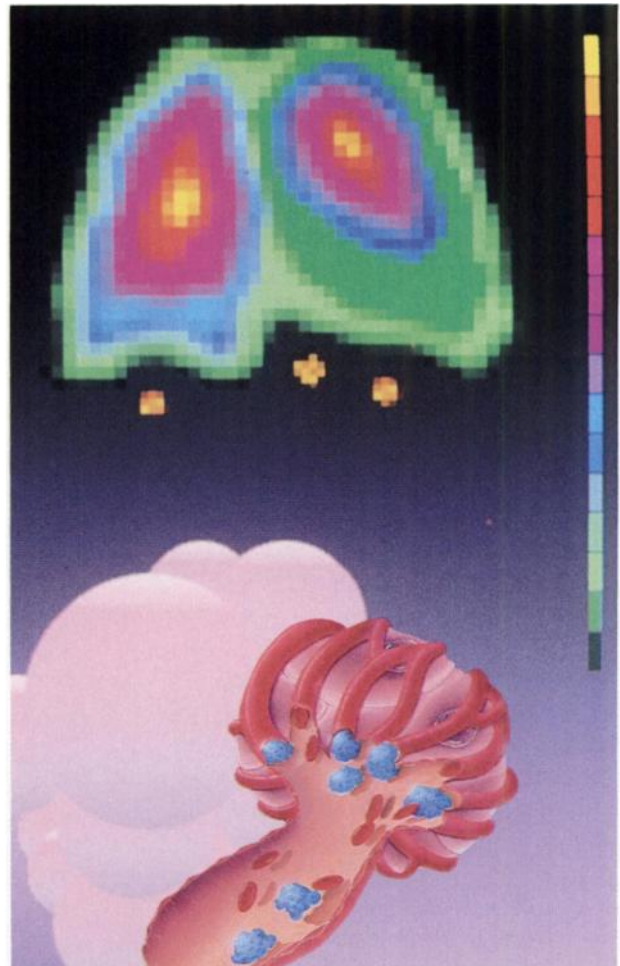
NATIONAL NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK BECOMES A U.S. LAW WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SIGNATURE

Culminating 18 months of a concerted effort by the nuclear medicine community, US President Ronald Reagan signed National Nuclear Medicine Week into law on July 7, 1986—mandating that the people of the United States observe the week of July 27 through August 2, 1986, with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Hundreds of nuclear medicine professionals requested promotional guidelines, as well as posters and buttons, from The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) Central Office in New York.

"I think the week was valuable in bringing nuclear medicine to the attention of both the public and other health professionals," said James J. Wirrell, CNMT, immediate past president of the SNM Technologist Section. The idea for the nation-wide occasion originated about two years ago in the Technologist Section. Congressman James H. Scheuer (D-NY) first introduced the bill in the House of Representatives on May 23, 1985. Maria V. Nagel, CNMT, then president of the Technologist Section, urged SNM members to write their representatives in Congress and ask for their support. Mr. Wirrell and Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, immediate past president of the SNM, reiterated Ms. Nagel's appeal during the subsequent months, and letters from SNM members eventually persuaded 218 congressmen to cosponsor the bill. On March 28, 1986, Senator Dan Quayle (R-IN) introduced the bill in the Senate, and the last of the 25 required cosponsors signed the legislation at the time of the SNM Annual Meeting last June in Washington, DC.

Rep. Scheuer attended the president's reception held for Dr. Goldsmith during the Annual Meeting, and received a plaque from the Society for his contributions to nuclear medicine. Dr. Goldsmith also read a letter of welcome to the SNM from the White House. "Your association of physicians, scientists, and nuclear medicine technologists has contributed greatly to the public welfare. . . The future of your specialty holds great promise. Research on positron emission tomography as a potential research tool for unlocking the secrets of crippling neurologic disease is progressing. The use of monoclonal antibodies as 'smart bombs' for selectively hitting cancer cells deep within the body also constitutes advances," said Mr. Reagan.

At Mr. Wirrell's request, the artwork for the official National Nuclear Medicine Week poster was created by Brenda Q. Kester, a medical illustrator at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Representing her interpretation of a lung scan, the capillaries surrounding the alveoli in



This artist's version of a lung scan was created for the official National Nuclear Medicine Week poster by medical illustrator Brenda Q. Kester. "I combined as much imagination and accuracy as possible after a crash course on biochemistry as it relates to nuclear medicine," she said.

the lower, air-brushed portion show trapped molecules of technetium-99m macroaggregated albumin (MAA). The gold spheres made of pyramidal components shooting upward toward the digitized scan represent the radiation emitted from the radiopharmaceutical, and were also incorporated into the National Nuclear Medicine Week buttons. The lung scan, generated by computer graphics, was produced by Visual Graphic Services of Indianapolis from an actual radionuclide image. "It is not a diagnostically accurate reproduction because we decided to take some artistic license with the areas of increased activity," explained Mr. Wirrell. ■