

1986 Editor's Report: Improvement and Change

This month's issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* marks the beginning of the third year of my tenure as Editor. A number of changes have occurred during the past year, and as my guiding principle in performing my duties as Editor is reader interest and satisfaction, I want to keep you informed of these changes and continue to invite your input and ideas for improving the Journal.

Editorial Board

The masthead lists the names of the new Editorial Board members who will begin to work for you this month. There are 27 members, each responsible for a specific subject area: nine in basic science, nine in clinical science, and nine in special topics. Eighteen of the members are new; nine have been reappointed from the previous board. My thanks go to the retiring members of the board, who have served well.

Associate Editors

Three Associate Editors are appointed for the coming year, each responsible for a specific section of the Journal. Stanley Goldsmith will continue to edit Newsline with the assistance of Newsline Managing Editor, Linda Ketchum. Incidentally, Ms. Ketchum recently received recognition of her science writing abilities from the American College of Radiology for a story on nuclear cardiology—we congratulate her. Paul Murphy has been Associate Editor for Book Reviews for the past year and will continue in this position. Dr. Murphy and I appreciate your help with this important section. Leon Partain joins the editorial staff as Associate Editor for Continuing Education this month. These articles will appear occasionally as Special Contributions. Dr. Partain, as Chairman of the Continuing Education Subcommittee for the Annual Meeting, will be working to bring information from these popular sessions into the pages of the Journal.

Assistant Editors

The eight Assistant Editors are familiar to Journal readers. Without their invaluable assistance, the task of processing manuscripts would be impossible. Alfred Garza, Monroe Jahns, Leela Kasi, Ed Kim, Lamk Lamki, Donald Podoloff, and Roy Tilbury offer their invaluable expertise to the Journal, from their positions in the Department of Nuclear Medicine, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. Vincent Cherico continues to provide technologist input for Newsline.

Peer Review Process

In addition to the names listed on the masthead, more than 300 reviewers are appointed to advise the Editor and authors on submitted manuscripts. Their names are listed annually in the January issue of the Journal. Review consists of a four-step process toward acceptance.

1. On receipt, each article is checked by Office of Special Publications staff to ascertain if it meets basic requirements, as published in the Information for Authors and the *Style Manual*.

2. Articles determined to be suitable for review are sent to two experts in the manuscript subject area. These reviews are then evaluated by the Assistant Editor in that subject area.

3. Manuscripts recommended for further consideration, after revision by the author, are sent to a member of the Editorial Board in the manuscript subject area, for evaluation of the author's revision and response to the reviewers' criticisms and for publication prioritization.

4. Manuscripts recommended for publication by the Editorial Board are reviewed by the Editor, who with the help of the Assistant Editors, makes the final decision on publication. This final decision is based on the recommendations of the reviewers and the Editorial Board,

the number and quality of competing manuscripts under consideration at the time of decision, and the number of accepted manuscripts in that subject area.

Regrettably, we find it necessary at times to reject good manuscripts because of space limitations in the Journal. This four-step review process gives every author a fair chance to successfully compete for the limited editorial space in the Journal.

SNAP Award

At the Annual Meeting of the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP), June 18, 1986, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* received First Award, Most Improved Scholarly Journal. The citation read: "An improved design without sacrificing scholarly purpose. The cover is now much simpler and more unified. On the whole, the journal has achieved a more streamlined, less cluttered look but has kept the substantial, scientific content." All of us who work to produce the Journal are excited about this award, which recognizes the efforts of a great many people over the past two years. We truly stand on the shoulders of giants and must pay homage to our predecessors who worked to improve the Journal over its first 25 years. We hope to carry on in that tradition.

Thomas P. Haynie, MD
Editor