

SNM Urges US Congress to Require Peer Review for Research Grants

SNM BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPTS STATEMENT ON CREDENTIALING AND DELINEATION OF PRIVILEGES

A five-page "Statement on Credentialing and Delineation of Privileges" for nuclear medicine physicians was adopted by the SNM Board of Trustees at its semiannual meeting on June 1, 1987, in Toronto, Canada. Introduced by the SNM Competence and Certification Committee, the statement provides guidelines to help hospitals establish a system for determining physician privileges, as required by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAH, formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals).

Under the chairmanship of William J. MacIntyre, PhD, the committee documented alternative routes to board certification that demonstrate physician competence. Over the past few months, the SNM worked with the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) so that the main organizations representing nuclear medicine physicians could present a more uniform credentialing statement to hospitals (see *Newsline*, April 1987, p. 428).

Earmarked Research Funds

In response to earmarked, or "pork barrel," research funds recently added to the United States (US) federal budget, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution, introduced by the Scientific Affairs Committee, stating: "The SNM strongly reaffirms the time-honored and proven peer-review process of determining which scientific research projects are the most meritorious and deserving of federal support; and be it further resolved

that the SNM encourages the Congress of the US to allocate federal research dollars only through funding mechanisms that insure that scientific projects are competitively reviewed by a jury of the applicants' peers."

The SNM's role in providing position statements on research funding also surfaced when the Board of Trustees discussed the SNM's involvement in socioeconomic affairs. Howard J. Dworkin, MD, then president of the SNM, organized the discussion, and most participants agreed that involvement in socioeconomic issues is essential to the SNM's primary mission as a scientific, medical, and educational organization.

Although one member said that it caused confusion to have several organizations in the US speaking for nuclear medicine, board members noted that the SNM is working more closely now with the ACNP and ACR on socioeconomic issues. Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, past president of the SNM (1985-86), pointed out that last year the Board of Trustees approved a bylaws change that added socioeconomic affairs to the SNM mission. [All bylaws changes described in the 1987 SNM Election Bulletin were approved by the general membership at the SNM Business Meeting, held in Toronto on June 2, 1987.]

Rules for Scientific Exhibits

The Scientific Exhibits Subcommittee introduced a resolution, adopted by the Board of Trustees, giving responsibility for judging the appropriateness of material displayed in scientific exhibits, posters, and oral presentations, to chairpersons of the

Scientific Program Committee, the Scientific Exhibits Subcommittee, and the Technical Exhibits Committee. "The SNM recognizes the large contributions that our industrial colleagues have made to the science of nuclear medicine. However, no overt commercial utilization of scientific exhibits, poster sessions, and scientific presentations at SNM meetings will be permitted," said the subcommittee.

Examples of prohibited activities include: use of sales brochures and tapes; unnecessary physical display of equipment and trade names; and use of sales personnel in the scientific exhibit area. Examples of permitted activities include: acknowledgment of the exhibitor's or presenter's institution or company; and presentation of illustrations, equipment, radiopharmaceuticals, or trade names as necessary to convey the message of the exhibit or presentation.

With respect to SNM finances, Martin L. Nusynowitz, MD, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the proposed budget for fiscal year 1987-88, approved by the Board, includes excess revenue of about \$30,000, in contrast to this year's deficit budget. Treasurer Edward V. Staab, MD, reported that the SNM has reached its goal, set seven years ago, of putting aside monies equal to 50% of the annual operating budget in a Capital Reserve Fund.

[For more information on resolutions adopted by the SNM Board of Trustees or other SNM activities, contact: The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016-6760 (212)889-0717.] ■