

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SNM/ACNP Symposium to Cover SPECT/PET for Practitioners

A two-day symposium on positron emission tomography (PET) and single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), to be held in Washington, DC, on September 16-17, 1987, will cover the aspects that are practical for clinicians.

Jointly sponsored by The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) and the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP), the symposium will cover instrumentation, new radiopharmaceuticals, neurologic imaging, and physiologic measurements.

"This meeting is designed to answer fundamental questions that clinicians have about SPECT and PET. It will not be a forum for the experts in these modalities to exchange information among themselves," explained Robert W. Burt, MD, cochairman of the meeting.

Invited speakers, said Dr. Burt, have been instructed to gear their lectures toward an audience that needs answers to such questions as: Is PET likely to become clinically important in the near future? Can my hospital handle PET, or does it require more expertise than a typical hospital would have? How necessary is SPECT? What does it take to do SPECT procedures in my nuclear medicine department?

"There was so much enthusiasm about the SNM/ACNP joint SPECT symposium last year that we decided to expand the topic this year, particularly since three-dimensional imaging has become such an integral part of clinical practice," said William D. Kaplan, MD, cochairman for the symposium.

[Hotel reservations must be made as soon as possible, with a deadline

of August 15. Because of a concurrent meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, thousands of hotel rooms in Washington are already booked for the dates of the symposium, warned Dr. Burt.] ■

### SNM Expands Criteria for Berson-Yalow Award

Several branches of nuclear medicine research grew from the development of radioimmunoassay (RIA), and The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) Scientific Program Committee has expanded its criteria for the Berson-Yalow Award so that all research making use of the indicator-dilution method will be considered.

Named for Rosalyn S. Yalow, PhD, and the late Solomon A. Berson, MD, who developed the RIA technique in the 1950s (see *Newsline*, June 1986, pp. 745-748), the SNM Berson-Yalow Award was given to investigators who submitted "the most original scientific abstracts in, and the most significant contributions to, basic or clinical radioassay" to the SNM annual meetings.

Under the new eligibility requirements, abstracts that summarize research on receptor-based radiopharmaceuticals, for example, will be judged for the Berson-Yalow Award, explained Richard C. Reba, MD, of the Scientific Program Committee. "Beginning with the 1988 SNM Annual Meeting, we will scan several categories (such as neurology, oncology, and radiopharmaceuticals) in addition to the radioassay sessions for abstracts worthy of the Berson-Yalow Award," said Dr. Reba.

The SNM established the Berson-Yalow Award in 1977—the year that Dr. Yalow received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the

RIA technique—and the most recent recipient was selected from the program of the 1986 SNM Annual Meeting (see *Newsline*, June 1986, p. 742).

"We hope that investigators will keep this award in mind as they submit their abstracts for next year's meeting, and they should alert the Scientific Program Committee to any abstracts that would qualify," said Dr. Reba. ■

### Used Nuclear Medicine Equipment Needed in Developing Countries

The National Pacemaker Foundation has contacted The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) to request assistance in obtaining donations of used nuclear medicine equipment for hospitals in developing countries. The Nuclear Medical Department in the Hospital San Juan de Dios, a 1,110-bed facility in San Jose, Costa Rica, needs two gamma cameras, a rectilinear scanner, and a bone densitometer.

The Pan American Development Foundation has also contacted the SNM about similar contributions to hospitals in Latin America and the Caribbean. Equipment for diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy is in high demand in these regions. "The scanners and cobalt-60 machines that may be considered obsolete in developed countries may be the most sophisticated equipment available in many areas of our hemisphere," said the Pan American Group.

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