
NEWS BRIEFS

ABNM Offers Diplomates Nuclear Medicine Recertification Examination in 1988

In response to a bill proposing a requirement that physicians in the United States (US) must demonstrate evidence of continued competency in order to receive reimbursement for services rendered to Medicare and Medicaid patients, the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. (ABNM) will offer a recertification examination for nuclear medicine physicians. The objective type examination will be given on September 10, 1988 at three sites in the US: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; St. Louis, Missouri; and Stanford, California.

The bill, which proposes that recertification by an accredited specialty board will be accepted as evidence of continued competency, was introduced into the US House of Representatives and is currently awaiting consideration.

The ABNM offers the voluntary recertification examination as a service to its diplomates, and application forms may be obtained from the ABNM office. The fee for the examination is \$500, and recertification will be valid for a period of 10 years. Diplomates currently holding an ABNM certificate are not required to become recertified, the ABNM said, but may want to take the examination to provide evidence of continued competency.

[For more information, contact: The American Board of Nuclear Medicine, Inc., 900 Veteran Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 825-6787.] ■

FDA Puts Drugs and Biologics in Separate Centers

The United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has divided the Center for Drugs and Biologics into two separate centers. In a

Federal Register notice (October 15, 1987, p. 38275), the FDA explained that the "crises and public pressures" generated by the new drug review process and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) make them unmanageable by one center within the organization.

The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research will focus on the new-drug review process. The Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research will concentrate on the development of AIDS vaccines and diagnostic tests, and coordinate all other AIDS activities.

Carl C. Peck, MD, was named director of the agency's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, and will be responsible for research, drug standards, and post-marketing surveillance, in addition to new-drug review and compliance. Paul D. Parkman, MD, who served as acting director of the Center for Drugs and Biologics since 1986, was appointed director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and coordinator of the agency's AIDS program. ■

(continued from page 145)

ed to Boulder and continued his active involvement as consultant in nuclear medicine instrumentation.

A fighter for technological progress, Dr. Hine never really retired. He worked as a consultant for the Bureau of Radiological Health, and he participated in the research of gamma camera performance. It was during these later years that I became better acquainted with the man whom I had admired since my student years. I was privileged to work with Jerry on various committees and profited greatly from his selflessness and vast experience. He set high quality standards and demanded the same from his collaborators. Jerry was an untiring, methodical, and dynamic person with a passion for science. His guidance and influence will sorely be missed.

Dr. Hine is survived by his wife Giulia; two sons, Peter

and Harvey; a daughter, Madeline Raetz; a brother, Mark; and six grandchildren.

Jerry's friends and The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), through the Education and Research (E&R) Foundation, have established a memorial fund to serve as a lasting testimonial of our love and respect for this unique man. This fund will provide for an annual award to a young investigator in the area of physical science in nuclear medicine. Contributions designated for the Gerald J. Hine Memorial Award now being accepted and may be sent to: The Education and Research Foundation, The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Peter Paras, PhD
Assistant Director of Nuclear Medicine
Center for Devices and Radiological Health