

The basic premises for Congressional action remain: the Federal budget is badly out of balance, the Medicare Part B expenditures are costing the government money, and physicians' professional charges have varied extremely from one practice and one geographic region to the next.

The Society's Government Relations Committee is continuing to work with the NRC on 10CFR Part 35, which concerns the medical uses by product material; we hope to have a petition for a new Part 35 soon. When it comes out, I hope that everyone will write the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with comments on it.

The Society and the ACNP formally requested HCFA to review the issue of reimbursement for certain positron emission tomography studies in early March.

The Food and Drug Administration continues to examine a number of New Drug Application submissions. The "Group" NDA for fluorine-18 fluorodeoxyglucose (<sup>18</sup>F-FDG) continues under consideration, while the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention, Inc. (USP) monograph on FDG is to come out in June. Those interested can obtain copies through the Society's Government Relations Committee or by addressing requests to Fatima Johnson, PhD, Drug Standards Division, The United States Pharmacopoeial Convention, Inc., 12601 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852.

*Barbara Y. Croft  
President, The Society of Nuclear Medicine*

### SNM Executive Director Resigns for Education Post

Henry Ernstthal, CAE, our Executive Director, has submitted his resignation to the Executive Committee to be effective as of the end of the summer. Henry will become Executive Director of the Masters in Association Management Program at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He also plans to consult in association management. To ensure a smooth transition, Virginia Pappas, CAE, currently Deputy Executive Director, will assume the day-to-day direction of the office on June 19, 1989, after the June meeting. She will be Acting Executive Director until Henry Ernstthal's replacement is named. During the summer, Henry will continue to participate in some very necessary special projects. At its June meeting, the Board of Trustees will be asked to concur with the subsequent choice of the Executive Committee, since there will not be another Board meeting for timely ratification of the choice. The timetable that has been decided upon has interviews taking place in the latter two weeks of July, with the choice following quickly thereafter.

The mechanism of the search process is that the President has appointed a Search Committee composed of Barbara Y. Croft, PhD, president, 1988-1989; Richard A. Holmes, MD, president, 1989-1990; recent past presidents, Howard J. Dworkin, MD, and Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD; two candidates for office in the 1989-1990 elections, Naomi Alazraki, MD, and Leon S. Malmud, MD; Capt. William H. Briner (ret.); and President of the Technologist Section, SNM, Author J. Hall, CNMT. The Executive Committee, at its April meeting, discussed the search and made suggestions. A consultant, or search firm, was chosen to consult with the committee and to do the more mechanical tasks such as advertising, receiving the inquiries and applications, winnowing the applications, and setting up interviews for the committee with the most promising candidates.

Henry Ernstthal has served as Executive Director of the Society for the past 10 years. This has been a period of greatly improved financial stability, thanks to Henry's efforts together with the Finance Committee's and Board of Trustees' dedication. Ten years ago, there was 12 days' worth of operating expenses in the bank; we now have about six months and could much more easily withstand a financial storm. Henry has provided budgets with strict accountability for each detail so that each effort can be examined microscopically.

Henry has proved successful as a manager in the central office as well as a diplomat in SNM Committee Meetings. He is turned to for legal advice very often and his sense of the political realities is very keen. He has very skillfully avoided becoming enmeshed in the members' political discussions, a terrible trap for society administrators.

We all wish Henry well in his new career and expect that we can continue to see him occasionally in his new roles.

*Barbara Y. Croft*