

It is a time for thanks. As we enter the holiday season, our thoughts turn outward, to those to whom we owe so much. In addition to a very dedicated and loyal professional staff in Boston and New York, there are many others who play important roles in our monthly drama. We begin with the authors who seek publication of the fruits of their investigations. These tireless individuals put in long hours of work, usually in addition to their major clinical or teaching responsibilities. Spreading the word, their word, is the reason the *Journal* exists. Not so visible, but of equal importance are the reviewers. Each reviewer plays a critical, dual role: they are responsible both for evaluating the quality of the science while encouraging authors to improve and clarify their articles. This core of unsung individuals contribute considerable time and effort so that we can virtually guarantee our readers that the material published in the *Journal* meets the criteria of being new, true, clear, and significant.

All decisions regarding a manuscript are arrived at by the editor-in-chief in consultation with the reviewers, associate editors, and members of the editorial board. In spite of its complexity, the process usually works in a timely fashion. In the past 12 months, it required an average of 39 days from the date of initial receipt of a manuscript until an author received the initial editorial review (revise, reject, or rarely, accept) from the *Journal*. Presently, the acceptance rate is 40% for Human Studies, 51% for Laboratory Studies, and 39% for all others.

Most manuscripts submitted to the *Journal* originated in North America (65%), with Western Europe providing 20%, and the Pacific Rim an impressive (considering their membership in the Society) 11%. Cardiology continues to be the focus of a plurality of articles (18%), followed by neurology (13%), oncology (10%), and bone studies (7%). Radionuclides of technetium (36%), iodine (18%), indium (14%), and thallium (10%) were used most often for the research. The Anger camera was the primary instrument in 60% of studies submitted to *JNM*, followed by PET (10%).

From the time the manuscript is placed in an envelope and entrusted to the postal service by the author, until a final decision regarding publication is made, the manuscript will pass through a minimum of seven pairs of hands in the course of the review process. Over the 12 months from July 1989 through June 1990, 740 manuscripts were subjected to this process. In addition to an initial pre-review, over 1200 outside reviews were sought for these manuscripts, after which additional review by members of the Editorial Board was not uncommon.

From an author's perspective, the major work is done when they receive notice that their article has been accepted. For our publication staff, however, that's when the task really begins. In what will be a nearly 90-day process, artwork and photographs are sized, the article edited for language and expression, decisions about type sizes, fonts and styles made, and the material sent to the printer to be set in type. The printer returns galleys and photos which must be checked for accuracy by both the authors and proofreading staff. In point of fact, the production office and the printer may exchange versions of articles up to *three* times before all of the editorial material for a given issue is ready for the final phase. The final "approved" document is then set as a page in the *Journal* at which the editorial staff takes one last look.

Our major goal in this process is to please you, our readers, by having something of interest for all members of the nuclear medicine community in every issue. To accomplish this task during the past year, we have made many changes in format and editorial philosophy,

including the addition of Clinico-Pathologic Conferences and historical vignettes in the form of 15/30. Future plans include upgrading the calendar and new product announcements. We hope that we have succeeded, but we understand that this is an ongoing process. If you have suggestions, criticisms, or just want to communicate, please write or call our offices in Charlestown.

As a special salute to our reviewers, it is my pleasure to acknowledge each of them for their special service to the *Journal*. To my dedicated staff, both in Charlestown and New York, a special thanks for the hours, the laughter, and the tears that go into each issue.

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