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## NEWS BRIEFS

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and Measurements (ICRU) to be formally instituted and accepted. "But it is very hard for a new unit to be accepted," says W. Roger Ney, executive director of the NCRP and technical secretary of the ICRU. "There's a tendency among these bodies to resist the institution of new radiation units because there is a feeling that more units are unnecessary and would complicate things." Mr. Ney further points out that for international acceptance, any new scientific unit must be approved by The General Conference of Weights and Measures, an international scientific organization formed by an 1897 treaty. "It took nearly three years for them to formally adopt the milliSievert unit," he adds.

In preliminary, informal discussions with NCRP concerning his unit, Dr. Cameron says that they "were unenthusiastic." For the time being, he says, "I want to promulgate the use of the BERT unit throughout the radiation sciences community in this country."

### National Research Council Releases Updated Monograph on $^{18}\text{F}$ Labeling

The National Research Council has released a monograph entitled *Fluorine-18 Labeling of Radiopharmaceuticals*, a comprehensive review of fluorine-18 ( $^{18}\text{F}$ ) radiochemistry. Written by Michael R. Kilbourn, PhD, associate professor of internal medicine and director of positron emission tomography (PET) chemistry, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, the publication will assist experienced chemists in evaluating the current status of  $^{18}\text{F}$  radiochemistry and provide a thorough review of this rapidly growing specialty within radiopharmaceutical chemistry. "There was

quite a need to update the literature, since the last review was written in 1986," Dr. Kilbourn told *Newsline*. "Since fluorine-18 is a leading positron emitter, the field has grown tremendously in the past three or four years, as new reagents are quickly emerging. I attempted to include as many reports of syntheses with  $^{18}\text{F}$  as possible."

The monograph represents the latest in a series of Department of Energy-sponsored publications produced by the National Research Council's Committee on Nuclear and Radiochemistry that revises and updates the literature on radiochemistry, radiochemical techniques, and nuclear medicine.

"Dr. Kilbourn has done a great service by providing us with a timely, well-referenced monograph," says Joanna Fowler, PhD, senior chemist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, a member of the Committee. "It is extensive, well tabulated, and contains an interesting historical account of the development of fluorine-18 labeling."

Capt. William H. Briner, (USPHS, ret.), director of the radiopharmacy and the nuclear medicine laboratory, associate professor of radiology, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, says that the monograph's publication "augurs well for PET chemistry and for nuclear medicine in general." Stephen Yates, PhD, department of chemistry, University of Kentucky, Lexington, a member of the Committee, notes, "There is a tremendous amount of interest in fluorine-18 labeling, and we expect to publish more updates on its chemistry in the next few years."

Those interested can obtain copies of the 149-page monograph by contacting: Committee on Nuclear and Radiochemistry, Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution

Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20418; (202) 334-2156.

### SNM and ACNP Propose Revisions to CLIA

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) and the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) have responded to the proposed rule on regulations to implement the Medicare and Medicaid Clinical Laboratory Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), which the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) proposed last May. The SNM and the ACNP have requested that HCFA modify its proposed personnel requirements for directors or technical supervisors of in vitro radioassay laboratory facilities to state that American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) or American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine (ABSNM) certification is adequate qualification for the position.

In a written statement to HCFA dated August 20, 1990, SNM President Naomi P. Alazraki, MD, and ACNP President Robert E. Henkin, MD, outlined their organizations' position on the proposed revision. "For the purpose of performing or supervising radioassays, certification by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine or the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine is equivalent to certification by those boards explicitly listed in your proposed regulations. Therefore, certification by ABNM or ABSNM must be explicitly listed as satisfactory qualification in order to allow nuclear medicine physicians to continue to serve as the laboratory director and/or technical supervisor of services that are primarily radioisotopic, specifically, the radioassay laboratories."

The SNM and ACNP comments on  
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