

agent is a modification of HIPDM, which was reported some years ago as accumulating in the pancreas. We will await its commercial development.

Another report that illustrates the value of nuclear medicine procedures in containing costs is that of Parker and others from Boston who found that administering the very expensive drug urokinase for a period of 2 hours was just as effective as giving it over a 24 hour period (#105). Treatment with 3 million units of urokinase over 2 hours was as effective as the FDA approved treatment with much higher doses. This study also shows that nuclear medicine procedures could play a major role in drug design, development and assessment.

Medical problems should be solved with the least expensive and least complex methods available. Simple devices are under development to take advantage of the many new positron and single photon-emitting radiotracers. Makino and others from Tokyo described a small detector that consists of a miniature photodiode only 0.5 cm across (#759). Ricard and others from Villejuif, France, described an interoperative probe using  $^{125}\text{I}$  MIBG to take advantage of the short range of the radionuclide in searching for lesions at the operating

table (#827). Among the animal scanners designed to facilitate studies in neurosciences, pharmacology, and nuclear medicine was a device described by Green and colleagues at the NIH, which is a camera based on the use of position-sensitive photomultiplier tubes with rotation of the animal in front of the crystal detector (#117). The device costs about \$30,000 and provides high spatial resolution images of the guinea pig brain. One could see the bones of the head of a guinea pig imaged with high spatial resolution. Although the instruments of nuclear medicine are great, the real utility is in the tracers. Many different types of instruments can be used to study them.

For the 15th consecutive year of having the honor of presenting the highlights of the Annual Meeting of The Society of Nuclear Medicine, I am excited by the mounting evidence that nuclear medicine has added in situ biochemistry to regional physiology in its domain. The field continues to move science into service in a manner that not only helps the patient and the public, but also the economy.

*Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD*  
The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions  
Baltimore, Maryland

## SNM Trustees Favor Central Office Move to Nation's Capital

The Board of Trustees of The Society of Nuclear Medicine in June approved plans to move the Society's central office to the suburban Washington, D.C. area by July 31, 1995, when the lease expires on the current office space in New York City.

Although several cities had been considered for potential cost-savings over New York, Washington emerged as the winner because of the widely held belief that an expanded presence in the Capital will be needed to gain funding for nuclear medicine research, and to represent nuclear medicine before the government officials who make regulatory, reimbursement, and technology assessment decisions.

"We as a discipline now have an opportunity to increase our strength and effectiveness with strong collaboration with the American College of Nuclear Physicians," said Leon S. Malmud, MD, then president of SNM, who presided over the trustees meeting. "We'll see opportunities available to us now which have not been available for the last decade."

The board of trustees met on June 8, 1992 at the SNM Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California. A digest of some of the other actions of the board follows:

### SPECT PROJECT

The trustees approved SNM participation

in an industry-sponsored program, provisionally referred to as the "SPECT Project," that will promote the diagnostic and prognostic use of single photon emission computed tomography. The project will be funded by the radiopharmaceutical and instrument manufacturers and managed by the Joint Government Relations Office of the ACNP and SNM. According to its mission statement, the project will encourage clinical and research utilization of SPECT, advocate "equitable" reimbursement for clinical SPECT, and facilitate the education and training of physicians and technologists in clinical SPECT imaging. A steering committee comprising three representatives from ACNP, three from SNM, and three from industry will select projects to support from an anticipated first-year budget of \$300,000.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

The board approved a strategic plan for the Society, with further refinements to be made as the strategic planning process continues. Directed by a "vision statement" (To improve the health of mankind through the use of nuclear techniques), the strategic plan lists a series of objectives for the advancement of nuclear medicine education, research, and clinical practice. The plan calls for SNM staff, committee chairpersons, and ultimately the executive committee and board of trustees

to annually assess progress and reexamine goals and objectives. The Society will also sponsor a meeting each year with ACNP and industry to assess strategic planning for the entire discipline of nuclear medicine.

### OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE POLICY

The Society's new Office of Health Care Policy (OHCP) proposed a mission statement, which the board unanimously approved. The mission of OHCP is "to establish a forum through which nuclear medicine physicians, scientists, and technologists may contribute to the national effort to improve health care." OHCP will coordinate the establishment of quality standards for nuclear medicine and represent nuclear medicine in the inter-specialty development of practice policies. The office also intends to make recommendations for increasing the cost-effectiveness of medical care.

### ACNP MEMBERSHIP

The American College of Nuclear Physicians has launched a membership drive and is encouraging SNM members who are not also ACNP members to consider the benefits of dual membership. The SNM board of trustees unanimously endorsed the concept that membership in both the Society and the College is a desirable goal for all nuclear medicine physicians and scientists.