This issue of the Journal marks my completion of 12 years of service as editor of Newsline. It is hard for me to believe that I have been responsible for, overseen, contributed to, perhaps inspired, and certainly meddled in 12 issues of Newsline's stand-alone version and 108 issues of the Journal.

I first became the editor of Newsline in 1982, when it was still the quarterly Society newsletter published in tabloid form. It was clear to me from the start that in order to be a more useful and informative report mechanism, more frequent and hence more timely publication was necessary. I realized, too, that in order to have an impact on the membership, Newsline had to evolve into a monthly publication, ideally as a news section within the Journal. As a regular reader of Science and JAMA, I had come to believe that it was not inappropriate for a reputable scientific journal to have a news section. I'm grateful that Dr. Thomas Haynie, who became JNM editor-in-chief in 1985, shared this view and agreed that Newsline should become a component of the official publication of the Society. Subsequently, I was particularly pleased when senior members of the Society and the Publications Committee, some of whom had resisted a change of this sort, applauded Newsline as a feature of the Journal. Reader response cards have consequently shown a high degree of readership, and advertisers have consequently sought placement in the section. This has been most gratifying.

I have been fortunate in the roster of news editors, the full-time SNM staff persons who have worked with me and turned idea and leads into substantive reports. In the beginning, Meg Phalen helped invigorate the tabloid version of Newsline from 1982-1985. Linda Ketchum was the first news editor of Newsline within the Journal. She shared my view of Newsline as a vibrant creative report of the news of nuclear medicine science and of issues of all kinds that affected the science and practice of nuclear medicine: interaction with regulatory agencies, legislation, industry, radionuclide production and availability, waste disposal, and the story behind some of the personalities. Linda recorded and typed a transcript within hours of Dr. Henry Wagner's Meeting Review presentation at the close of the Annual Scientific Session while many of us were returning home from the meeting. This enabled Newsline to publish an edited version of the presentation within weeks of the meeting. Overall, Linda was simply wonderful, and Newsline was defined by her performance. I am proud of many of the Newsline articles as well as my behind-the-scenes role. I am particularly proud of the August 1985 issue which was our effort at a Hiroshima memorial. Like a movie director, I had a special vision of what I had hoped we could achieve. I must say that Linda succeeded in creating the performance that I had hoped for.

I had been director of an academic nuclear medicine service for over 10 years and had come to appreciate that the most wonderful and loyal staff member will some day leave, always too soon for me. The relationship which had once taken much effort had become more reward than effort. With growth in skills and confidence, Linda sought new challenges and greater rewards. I was confronted with a new challenge and again was fortunate in selecting Karla Harby, who learned quickly and continued the fine tradition established by her predecessor. Just as things were becoming easy again, history repeated itself. Sarah Tilyou was the next staff News Editor, and I began to think that I was either lucky or good at finding young talent; probably lucky. In any event, Sarah, too, adopted to the Newsline style, learned the personalities and issues and continued the tradition, including moving on just as I thought how comfortable it had become.

How many times can you be hit by lightning? When I first met Joseph Rojas-Burke, I was impressed by his educational background and work experience, including having worked in a research lab at the Rockefeller University. I was concerned that he was just trying to keep busy before going to medical school, which he seemed capable of doing. He told me he didn't want to go to medical or graduate school in the sciences. He wanted to write about science. And he did! At one point early in our relationship, to inspire him, I said that if he worked hard his name would become a household word in nuclear medicine throughout the world. Well, that was a pretty good half-time speech, because Joseph went on, in my estimation, to achieve that position. He became a resource on many issues, most notably the complex economic, political, and scientific issues involved in radionuclide and radiopharmaceutical production. I suppose I should not have been surprised when he told me he was leaving to be a science writer for a daily newspaper in Oregon. I certainly wished him well but was a little disappointed that we never did that book which we had talked about. I prophesize, however, that the medical science community has not seen or read the last of Joseph Rojas-Burke.

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public comment period, until October 29, and is now evaluating the comments to decide on whether to return the exemption to universities. The commission will probably reach a decision by the end of this year, said the NRC attorney, who wished to remain anonymous.

“It looks like it will be *a fait accompli*,” said David Nichols, legislative coordinator at the Joint Government Relations Office of SNM and ACNP. “The NRC is under pressure from Congress and the Administration” to retain the exemption. The Government Relations Office sent letters to key members of the Clinton Administration, and also submitted comments to the NRC before October 29.

The fee would affect 38 reactors at 33 universities, many of which are so strapped for funds the fee could close them down. One reactor, at the university of Missouri, is key to nuclear medicine because its radioisotopes supply hospitals across the country. But the other university reactors are all indirectly crucial to nuclear medicine as they provide the means for training students headed into medical technology, medical school, physics and related fields. A steady replenishment of talent in these areas is necessary to further nuclear medicine (and all nuclear science) in the future. One argument that some supporters of the exemption have made contends that universities pay for their part of the fee by supplying such talent to the rest of the nuclear industry, which would otherwise receive those educational services essentially for “free.”

**Changes in the SNM/ACNP Joint Government Relations Office**

Kristen Morris, who served as director of government relations since April 1990 in the Joint SNM-ACNP Government Relations Office, has left a position with the Health Industries Manufacturer’s Association (HIMA) this fall, necessitating other changes at the Joint Office. Sandy Bilko, formerly assistant director of reimbursement, is now acting director of government relations, and will continue to handle reimbursement issues and health care, in addition to overseeing the entire office. David Nichols is now the legislative coordinator and will also concentrate on the NRC, DOE, EPA, and low-level radioactive waste questions. Valerie Fedio remains the assistant director, in charge of technical and FDA issues. The new administrative assistant is Carolyn Getchell.

As director of government relations at HIMA, concentrating on health care reform and Congressional legislative affairs for that organization, Ms. Morris expressed deep gratitude for her three and a half years at the Joint Office. “Without the guidance and support of the nuclear medicine community, I wouldn’t have been able to have this opportunity to contribute to health care reform on the front line,” she said.

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**That’s All, Folks**

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Each of these wonderful people have made the task of producing, directing, and editing a monthly segment of the *Journal* a pleasure. In each case, they added their own special skill and style. Although I miss each one of them, I am grateful for the experience of having worked with them. I expect that this tradition of excellence will be sustained by our most recent recruit, Lantz Miller, who has already grasped many of the complexities of his new appointment. His comprehensive article in this issue on Ward Valley, the proposed California low-level radioactive waste site, is a fine demonstration of his talent.

I have benefitted also from the good will, friendship, encouragement, and criticism of Directors of Publications: Laura A. Kosden, David Teisler, and John S. Childs, PhD, as well as the two Executive Directors during my tenure: Henry L. Ernstthal and Torry Mark Sansone. Finally, to all of the Society members, government officials, industry scientists, and executives who have cooperated with our efforts to report the news and the behind-the-scenes events which result in the news of nuclear medicine, thank you.

Since I am now taking up the chore of overall editor-in-chief of the *Journal* with ultimate responsibility for the peer review process and timely publication of the scientific articles submitted to the *Journal* by experts throughout the world, I have the complex task of selecting the next *Newsline* editor. I think most of the *Journal* readership will appreciate the pleasure and honor I feel in naming Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, to this position, and I am proud to announce that he has accepted this appointment. Henry Wagner has made so many wonderful and notable contributions to nuclear medicine for so many years that it would take a full *Newsline* section to review them (Ed. note: not a bad idea!). As the next editor-in-chief, I am again fortunate that someone as well informed in every aspect of nuclear medicine has agreed to take up the challenge of keeping the rest of us informed about the events which “alter and illuminate our lives.”

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD.
Associate Editor, *Newsline*