

reduce duplication of effort; share information on new technology or methods, including devices, drugs, or other biologics for which regulations have not yet been developed or that are related to the other agency's mission; offer each other the opportunity to comment on notifications to manufacturers, operators, licensees, or patients and to comment on regulations, regulatory guides, or other communications that refer to activities, policies, or regulation of the other agency; and make the other agency aware of issues covered by the MOU.

▮ **NRC development of a NUREG dealing with Radiation Safety Programs:** Having made several presentations before organizations interested in radiation safety—like the Health Physics Society—in an effort to create a regulatory guide that will clarify the role of the radiation safety officer and radiation safety programs in medical facilities, the NRC will make presentations at both the ACNP Annual Meeting and the SNM Mid-Winter meeting. Without intending to create any

new regulations, the NRC primarily intends to develop a document that will allow the RSO to communicate and receive support from the hospital administration.

▮ **Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI):** The ACMUI met on November 1-2, 1993, in Washington for one of their bi-annual meetings, and covered topics like user fees, the radiopharmacy petition, the development of a Nuclear Regulatory Guide on radiation safety programs, and an update on all current rulemakings. The ACMUI also expressed concern over the implementation of the new 10 CFR Part 20 requirements on January 1, 1994, citing problems with certain parts of the public and patient dose limits. The committee will be making a presentation before the Commission in February, 1994.

*Sandy Bilko, Acting Director of Public Relations
David Nichols, Legislative Coordinator
Valerie Fedio, Assistant Director*

NEWS BRIEFS

Uterine Response to Sincalide

SNM's Pharmacopeia Committee wishes to communicate a previously unreported side effect of sincalide (KinevacR), the octapeptide moiety of cholecystokinin that is responsible for smooth muscle contraction in the gallbladder.

Within five minutes of sincalide injection, a patient who was six weeks pregnant noted vaginal bleeding and uterine contraction. Subsequent ultrasonographic examination showed the presence of a yolk sac, so the final diagnosis was "threatened abortion."

While sincalide's effects on the uterus have not been well documented, there is reason to believe that muscle contraction in this organ could be stimulated, similar to its effect on the smooth muscle of the gallbladder and intestine. There is no chemical analogy between sincalide and the nonapeptide oxytocin.

The manufacturer and the Food and Drug Administration were contacted and, after an investigation, this potentially significant problem with sincalide now appears in the package insert, in the *Precautions* section.

This side effect of sincalide has not been published heretofore in the nuclear medicine literature or, in fact, in any other material which we were able to examine in the textbooks or in the medical litera-

ture, even employing MedLine. We hope that this letter will alert physicians involved in any imaging technique that employs sincalide to exercise appropriate caution. ■

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New Publication

A new quarterly magazine, *Radwaste*, from the American Nuclear Society, is premiering this month to fill a niche in the growing radioactive waste management industry. Focusing on practical problems and solutions in all aspects of the industry, the articles will come primarily from managers and others in the field.

"This magazine was started because the people that run publications at ANS recognized that there's a whole segment of the industry that's not well represented in magazines," said *Radwaste* editor David

Schabes. "[Radwaste] is to represent people in low- and high-level radioactive waste areas—the DOD, weapons cleanup, etc. Also a good portion is addressing issues in nuclear medicine and environmental restoration."

To keep the information in the magazine practical and applicable, a staff of editorial advisors from all different fields of nuclear science will solicit manuscripts and serve as technical referees. And there will be plenty of material—a hefty 70 pages of editorial per issue. Starting with a controlled circulation of 13,000, the publishers would like to increase the regularity to monthly within five years. ■

Correction

In the December 1993, *Newsline*, "New York Gets another Reprieve on LLRW Disposal," Eugene Gleason, deputy commissioner of New York Energy Commission, was mistakenly named as "Gene Gleason, deputy commissioner of the New York State Environmental Office." We regret the error.

Announcement

Open Meeting on SNM Restructuring

All SNM members are invited to meet with an open reference committee that will hear comments and suggestions and answer questions on the proposed Society bylaws revision. The committee will be in session all day Saturday, February 5, 1994, prior to presentation of the restructuring and leadership responsibilities plan to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees at the winter meeting in Seattle. Comments and suggestions offered to the reference committee on Saturday will be forwarded to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees the next day. If you have comments but cannot attend, please send your remarks to Paul H. Murphy, Ph.D., at the New York Office of SNM, or contact your Chapter President or Trustee.