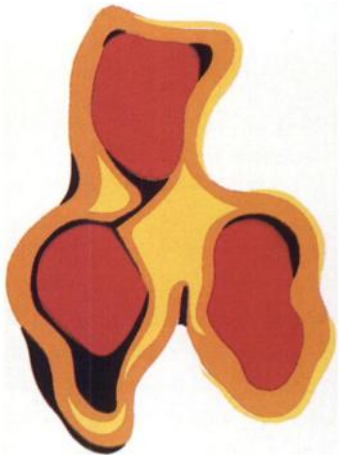

HEART OF THE MATTER

The growth and impact of Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine is recognized by this issue of the Journal *which is dedicated to clinical studies and basic investigations involving the use of radionuclides in cardiac physiology and disease. This area has grown enormously during the past twenty-five years and has had profound effects on research, training, and practice of both nuclear medicine and cardiology.*

The cover of the issue is highlighted by an original lithograph by Julie Sturman entitled Heart of the Matter, *an artistic representation of a gated blood-pool study (see Newsline, page 15N). The original scientific reports in this issue consist of human, laboratory and case studies of cardiovascular nuclear medicine, primarily involving myocardial perfusion imaging. In addition, there is an expanded Special Contribution Section on Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine: State-of-the-Art, containing updated versions of a continuing education program assembled by Dr. Jamshid Maddahi for the Cardiovascular Council at the 1993 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.*

A supplement entitled "Myocardial Viability Assessment" has been assembled by Drs. Abdulmassih S. Iskandrian and Heinrich R. Schelbert, who served as organizers of an IPPA Investigators Workshop on Iodine-123-Iodophenylpentadecanoic Acid (IPPA) in Desert Springs, CA, February 26-28, 1993.

The widespread use of cardiovascular nuclear medicine studies has created new challenges and opportunities for professional practice, training programs, certifying bodies, regulatory agencies, medical societies, and scientific publications.

This issue of the Journal *is possible because of the intense level of investigative activity in nuclear medicine and cardiology departments and the prominent role that nuclear cardiology studies have in nuclear medicine and cardiology practice. In addition to the robust activity reported regularly in the* Journal, *nuclear cardiology articles are also published in other journals. This calendar year will see two new journals, one dedicated to nuclear cardiology and the other to the broader field of cardiac imaging. Given the growth of nuclear cardiology studies, these developments are not surprising; they speak to the growth of the specialty, just as journals dedicated to focused applications have developed in other disciplines.*

The volume of cardiovascular nuclear medicine studies has stimulated the development of new radiotracers and instrumentation for better evaluation of patients with cardiac disease. Following the current reevaluation of clinical efficacy of diagnostic procedures in medical practice, it is likely that there will be even further growth of noninvasive procedures at the expense of more costly invasive ones. Furthermore, nuclear imaging studies can provide a more objective diagnosis and assessment of a clinical response than an undocumented, subjective clinical impression. Investigators and practitioners will have much to do and to evaluate. The Journal of Nuclear Medicine *will continue to provide a record of these advances.*

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD
Editor in Chief
Journal of Nuclear Medicine