

**Government Relations Office***(Continued from page 30N)*

contract is part of a larger HCFA effort to revise the physician expense relative value component of the Medicare Fee Schedule. The purpose of the program is to estimate the variable practice costs of specific services and to develop profiles of practice inputs necessary to provide benchmark physician services.

**SNM Supports Ward Valley Legislation**

The committee members voiced their approval for various efforts that will expedite the building of a low-level radioactive waste site in Ward Valley, CA. They were encouraged by the recent decision by the Second District Court of Appeals in California to uphold the state's decision to issue a license for the facility. The project was licensed by the state in September 1993 but has not yet been developed due to lack of action by the Department of Interior, which has been asked to sell the site to the state. The disposal site is situated on federal land located in the California Mojave Desert's remote Ward Valley. Access to such a regional disposal facility is critical to the continued use of radioactive materials in medicine and industry.

The committee also discussed Congress's efforts to resolve the delays in the transfer of federal lands for the LLRW disposal facility. Representative Brian Bilbray, introduced a bill, which is now part of the Budget Reconciliation Act, that will force the Department of Interior to sell the land directly to California. Both the College and the Society support this development (see this month's *Newsline*, p. 24N).

Other agenda items reviewed included the radiopharmaceutical premarket review, Nuclear Regulatory Commission activities, technologist issues and isotope availability.

**LEGISLATIVE NETWORK MEETING SUCCESSFUL**

The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNM-TS) met at the end of September in Dallas, TX, to identify a group of technologists from each chapter who could serve as contacts with state legislators to communicate pressing issues in the nuclear medicine community. Representatives from the 12 Society chapters as well as members of the government relations committee learned about the role of the government and various issues that are affecting the nuclear medicine community.

Three guest consultants spoke at the meeting to about 20 attendees. Glenda Price, PhD, Provost, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, lectured on the governmental changes affecting healthcare today, as well as the socioeconomic forces involved with allied health professionals. Joe Gagen, Joe Gagen & Associates, Austin, TX, provided effective techniques for grassroots lobbying. Finally, Susie Tonymon from Epstein & Associates, Fort Worth, TX, discussed examples of how her organization successfully lobbied to affect positive change.

The next step is the development of an active grassroots lobbying team. Each chapter representative will identify technologists from each congressional district, who can be effective in communicating to legislators any key issues that may arise. "We hope to have a working network by the end of next year, but we realize that this will take time to develop, and will depend on identifying dedicated technologists who are willing to devote time and effort to the cause," said Lynne Roy, chair of the SNM-TS government relations committee (see this month's *Newsline*, p. 28N).

**DISABILITY INCOME PLAN AVAILABLE TO SNM MEMBERS**

A disability income insurance plan with monthly benefits up to \$2000 is now available to members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM). All SNM members and/or spouses under age 60, who have been actively working (at least 30 hours a week) for at least 90 days, and have not been hospitalized in the last six months may apply for the SNM disability income plan.

The plan provides the choice of a \$1000, \$1500 or \$2000 monthly benefit payable for up to five years when you are disabled by a covered accident or up to one year if disabled by a covered illness. The benefits received will coordinate with any other income sources to pay up to 70% of your monthly salary. Acceptance ends December 1995. For more information of the SNM disability income plan contact: Insurance Administrator, Albert H. Wohlers & Co., 1440 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068-1400. Phone: (800) 323-2106.

**Erratum**

Due to a production error, in the August issue of *JNM*, the person third from left in the photo caption accompanying the article, *Outstanding JNM Authors Awarded for Research* (*Sourceline*, p. 31N) was misidentified. His name is Kazuo Kubota, MD.