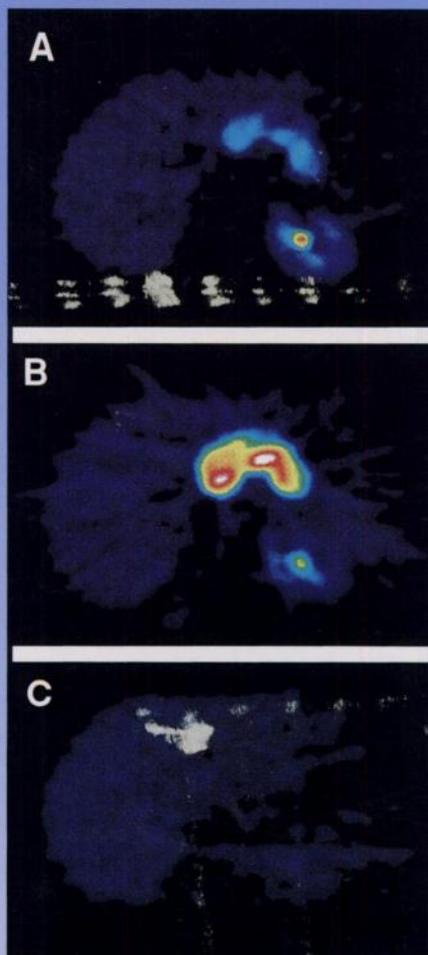

The Journal of Nuclear Medicine

JNM

Volume 37, Number 1 • January 1996



PET images with ^{11}C -L-DOPA labeled in the beta-position (A,B) and carboxy-position in (C) a patient with gastrinoma. Study A was performed prior to the beginning of therapy, Study B after 6 mo of therapy with somatuline and Study C on the same day as Study B. See pages 32-37.



The Official Publication of
the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc.

THE JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE (ISSN 0161-5505) is published monthly by The Society of Nuclear Medicine Inc., 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 22090-5316. Second Class Postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. *Postmaster*, send address changes to *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston VA 22090-5316.

EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS should be sent to the Editor: Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, 402 E. 64th St., Suite 1A, New York, NY 10021; (212) 906-9060, Fax: (212) 906-9056. *Books and monographs* covering the use of nuclear medicine and its allied disciplines will be reviewed as space is available. *Send review copies to the Editor.*

BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS concerning advertising and permission requests should be sent to the publisher, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 22090-5316; (703) 708-9000. Subscription requests and change of address should be sent to: Membership Department, Society of Nuclear Medicine at the address above. Notify the Society of change of address and telephone number at least 30 days before date of issue by sending both the old and the new addresses. Claims for copies lost in the mails are allowed within 90 days of the date of issue. Claims are not allowed for issues lost as a result of insufficient notice of change of address. Advertisements are subject to editorial approval and are restricted to products or services pertinent to nuclear medicine. Advertising rates are available from the publisher. Closing date is the first of the month preceding the date of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES for 1996 calendar year (effective Sept. 1, 1995) are \$140 within the United States; \$155 for Canada and Pan American countries; \$185 elsewhere. Student subscriptions are \$80 (with proof of student status). Single copies \$15.00; foreign \$18.00; convention issue (May) \$18.00; foreign \$20.00. Make checks payable to Society of Nuclear Medicine. Sales of individual back copies of 1992 through the current issue of *JNM* are available through Matthews Medical Books, 11559 Rock Island Court, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, 1(800)633-2665 or (314) 432-1401. *JNM* is also available in machine-readable format from University Microfilms Intl., 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106, 1(800)521-0600.

COPYRIGHT © 1996 by the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or translated without permission from the copyright owner. Because the copyright on articles published in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* is held by the Society, each author of accepted manuscripts must sign a statement transferring copyright. See Information for Authors for further explanation.

January

January is the first month of the new year. It is named for the mythological Greek god Janus, a two-faced figure with one face looking back at the past and the other facing the future. Our emphasis each January has been on the new beginnings and opportunities available in the year ahead. There is, however, no need to ignore the other aspect of Janus: to examine and summarize the past year's "near" accomplishments, the "might-have-beens" and the personal and professional disappointments.

The merit in this exercise is not simply to reexamine our failures or a morbid opportunity to simmer in our disappointments. Rather, by reviewing the less than satisfactory episodes, we can ask ourselves "why?" and determine a course of action or response to events and challenges which may produce the result we think we would prefer. In both professional and personal activities, the outcomes we seek may not always have been simply dependent on our response. By reviewing these disappointments, we may find that we have not failed and that no other outcome was feasible. Alternately, perhaps we can identify what we might have done differently. After all, it is our own performance that we are most likely to influence.

I recall with some amusement a recurrent scenario during my earlier training days. Some of my fellow students and trainees would inquire if "such and such" would be on the exam. They would ask the instructor or perhaps one another, "Do we need to know this?" This wish, expressed as a question, represents "magical thinking," as if asking the question aloud would somehow produce the desired result. Despite their own good judgment telling them that an informed person should know this or that collection of facts, their wish was that it was not so. When the signs clearly point to one conclusion, but we hope or perhaps believe that we will get a different result without changing our effort or response, we are simply engaged in magical thinking. Rather than change what we are doing, we simply hope that events around us were different. Are we really likely to attain our goals if we follow directions that we know go elsewhere?

Perhaps by examining our disappointments in the past year, we can identify what could have made a difference had we heeded the evidence available to us but which we chose to ignore. Possibly, the next time we confront a challenge, we will recognize the realities of the situation better and appreciate what we must do to obtain the preferred outcome. Perhaps, as a result of this review of the past, the next time we confront a crisis, the outcome will be more satisfying to us. We will recognize what we need to do and hopefully have no regrets about the result.

— Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD
Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine
January 1996