

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; home page address: www.snm.org. 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 Int'l., 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. (See pages 38A-39 in this issue.)

The Editor at Halftime

This issue of the *Journal* is the 30th since I began my term as Editor-in-Chief, marking the midpoint in a five-year term. Anniversaries, even contrived ones such as this, cause me to reflect on where I have been and what might lie ahead. Early in the term, I entitled a Scatter column "The Editor." In it, I mused about the emotional and intellectual response to the editorial process, the sense of responsibility and the gratification involved. At the end of each of the first two years, I used the literary device of being lost in a forest and encountering a wise man with whom I discussed the tribulations of editing a medical journal. The "fables" were intended to treat some serious issues in a lighthearted, self-mocking manner. They helped me to ventilate, in a hopefully amusing fashion, some of the serious issues involved in the editorial process. It seems appropriate now to consider what has changed in the way I think about this position.

One change for the better is that I have grown accustomed to the pace. Initially, despite my enthusiasm for the position and the immediate gratification it gave me, I felt I was on a roller coaster or bobsled ride. I felt as if I was hurtling through time at a too-fast pace, reading manuscripts and making decisions about them while wishing that I had more time with each one. Another image is that of a professional quarterback who has only a few seconds after the snap from center to assess the positions of his teammates before the opposing defensive players terminate his decision making interval. The improvement, after 2.5 years, is that I feel like a better, more experienced quarterback. I can see the field and locate the players better and in less time. Time seems to move more slowly. Thus, I have "more time." What remains is the same brief period to assess situations and make and execute decisions, but, like the professional quarterback who has survived and prospered for a few years, I accomplish more in that brief interval.

To maintain this analogy a bit, I have also enjoyed great satisfaction when my teammates, the associate editors, editorial board, reviewers and authors, have executed their assignments as planned. However, when a player misses a block, drops a pass, or back, in the real world, ignores a deadline or request to shorten a manuscript, the quarterback and the editor wind up on the ground, sometimes covered with mud. Even when he gets up, the quarterback is the worse for wear.

Nor do I wish to imply that the editor executes perfectly: No one is immune to adversity. Unanticipated expenses creating budget shortfalls and inexplicable production difficulties are part of the game. The quarterback and the editor have to "take their shots," but it helps to know that a team is behind you prepared to do their part.

Now, let's go for the second half!

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