

Members of Congress Respond to NAS-IOM Report

As progress continues on the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine (NAS-IOM) report titled "Radiation in Medicine: A Need for Regulatory Reform," several major stakeholders have begun to take positions on the report. On April 26, 1996 six members of Congress sent a letter to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Shirley Jackson. They highlighted the need for appropriate risk assessment by the NRC, in light of the low risk associated with ionizing radiation. The six members, Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Bill Baker (R-CA), Steve Largent (R-OK), Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), and Matt Salmon (R-AZ), asked the NRC to evaluate the section of the report dealing with risk assessment and regulation and provide comments to Congress. Specifically, the members asked that the NRC provide a response including concrete examples of recurring incidents which indicate that public health and safety would be jeopardized by the elimination of NRC jurisdiction and the assumption of regulation by the States.

The Conference of Radiation Control Pro-

gram Directors (CRCPD) also released a position on May 8, 1996. The CRCPD expressed concern about turning the program completely over to the states and supported the notion that a single federal agency should provide strong leadership for all forms of ionizing radiation. The Conference also agreed with the NAS-IOM recommendation to relax enforcement and inspection related to the Quality Management Rule. ■

Health Physics Society Issues Position on Low Doses of Radiation

The Health Physics Society in McLean, VA recently adopted the position that quantitative estimates of health risks should be limited to individuals receiving a dose of 5 rem [0.05 Sv] in one year or a lifetime dose of 10 rem in addition to natural background radiation. Risk estimates for doses below these levels should be expressed only qualitatively and should emphasize the likelihood of no adverse health effects. This position statement was published in the society's March 1996 newsletter.

The Health Physics Society is advocating

changes in how the government regulates at very low doses of carcinogens, according to Kenneth Mossman, PhD, of Arizona State University and former chairman of the Scientific and Public Issues Committee which wrote the society's position statement. He points out that the public can save billions of dollars by changing regulations so industry does not have to provide protection against very low radiation levels which do not create a health risk.

The Health Physics Society's position statement explains that the linear, no-threshold model is an oversimplification of the dose-response relationship and results in an overestimation of health risks in the low dose range. This model for estimating health effects is based on the two assumptions that radiation exposure at any dose is a health risk and that the effects of even low doses are in direct proportion to the dose received. The statement points out that predictions of adverse health effects for exposures below 10 rem are only extrapolated risk estimates based on epidemiological studies of humans exposed to relatively high doses at high dose rates, such as Japanese atomic bomb survivors and medical patients. ■

1996-1997 SNM Election Results

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report the 1996 Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) Election results. The results of the SNM Election are as follows:

Vice President-Elect

- VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR 1996-1997
 - PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR 1997-1998
 - PRESIDENT FOR 1998-1999
- James W. Fletcher, MD**

House of Delegates positions, four year terms (1996-2000):

- DELEGATES-AT-LARGE
- David R. Brill, MD**
Tom R. Miller, MD, PhD
Martin P. Sandler, MD
Jack A. Ziffer, MD, PhD

Elected Chapter Delegates Positions; presented and confirmed at the 1996 Mid-Winter Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, four year term (1996-2000):

- CHAPTER DELEGATES
- Southeastern Chapter
J. Randolph Perry, MD
 Central Chapter
Michael A. Wilson, MD
 Mideastern Chapter
Harvey Zeissman, MD

1995-1996 Technologist Section Election Results

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report the 1996 Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNMTS) Election results. The results of the SNMTS Election are as follows:

■ PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Kathy S. Thomas, CNMT

■ SECRETARY/HISTORIAN:

Kristen M. Waterstram-Rich, CNMT

■ TREASURER:

John M. Kohler, CNMT

■ DELEGATE:

Art J. Hall, CNMT
Cardiff "Mickey" Williams, CNMT

■ FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Christina M. Carlson, CNMT

■ NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Lori L. Collins, CNMT
Nancy A. Price, CNMT
Carole A. South-Winter, CNMT
Randy R. Wilder, CNMT

■ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Kathleen A. Jones, CNMT