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SUMMERTIME

"Summertime and the Living is Easy"
Gershwin: *Porgy and Bess*

Yes, it is summertime again, and as Bess sings, "*the living is easy.*" At least, it is supposed to be. So, why is it that I am so busy every summer?

Those of us who long ago cast our lots with academic medical centers are bound to the cycle of these centers. Each July, new postdoctoral trainees arrive to begin a year of residency training not only in nuclear medicine but in all of the specialties who refer patients for nuclear medicine procedures. So not only do we have the task of a new round of lectures and practical demonstrations on how to conduct nuclear medicine, what to do, when to do it and how the procedure is interpreted after it has been done, but it is also necessary to once again train the referring staff in each specialty to appreciate the role of nuclear medicine.

Happily, a degree of continuity exists. Not everyone leaves at once. Some nuclear medicine residents return. Only one-fourth of the radiology class left. Hopefully, only this same fraction of them will be naive.

But, the process is never easy. The nuclear medicine syllabus needs to be refreshed each year to reflect growth in the field. Furthermore, each annual effort should reflect lessons learned from the previous schedule. Additionally, should a different sequence of lectures be used? What should be dropped? What new ideas should be added? What subjects deserve more time? Which ones deserve less time? Which lecturers bore their responsibilities well? Which ones need "guidance" or feedback? Which ones need to be replaced?

I realized several years ago that if one remains in an academic setting, he or she should find gratification in this annual renewal. Fortunately, I have always found it to be an exciting and refreshing restart—a summertime renaissance.

So, while others will sail under a clear blue sky this weekend, jog along a shady country road or play tennis during the cooler morning hours and relax poolside with a good book during the afternoon, some of us will be "going in to make rounds with the residents," an obligatory task which will take longer this month, as it does each summer, because a new resident training year has begun.

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