

THE JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE (ISSN 0161-5505) is published monthly by the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc., 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20190-5316. Periodicals postage paid at Herndon, VA, and additional mailing offices. *Postmaster*, send address changes to *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20190-5316.

EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS dealing with articles currently in review or revision should be sent to the Editor, Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, 525 E. 68th Street, Box 311, New York, NY 10021. Phone: (212) 746-9066; Fax: (212) 746-9056. **Effective July 1, 1998**, articles submitted to *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* should be sent to the Editor, Martin P. Sandler, MD, at the following address: *Editor, JNM Office*, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20190-5316.

BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS concerning advertising and permission requests should be sent to the publisher, Society of Nuclear Medicine, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20190-5316; (703) 708-9000; home page address: www.snm.org. Subscription requests and address changes 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 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 the 1998 calendar year are \$170 within the United States; \$180 for Canada and Pan-American countries; \$210 elsewhere. Student subscriptions are \$70 (with proof of student status). Single copies are \$15; foreign \$18; the convention issue (May) is \$18; foreign \$20. Make checks payable to the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Sales of individual back copies from 1992 through the current issue are available through Matthews Medical Books, 11559 Rock Island Court, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, (800) 633-2665 or (314) 432-1401. *JNM* is also available in machine-readable format from University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, (800) 521-0600. Readers requesting back copies prior to 1992 should contact the Society Publications Department, (703) 708-9000, for availability and pricing information.

COPYRIGHT © 1998 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 1832-1834 in this issue.)

Microcosm

I have often thought of a nuclear medicine department as a microcosm, a miniature version of the medical center itself. The variety of tasks and activities in nuclear medicine is truly remarkable.

We make appointments, greet and provide hospitality for outpatients and inpatients. We need to provide restroom facilities and nursing care for these patients. We deal with their medical waste, contaminated instruments and needles and isolation problems. We deal with the elderly and demented patient, the perinatal and pediatric patient. Although we do not prepare meals, with the exception of ^{99m}Tc-sulfur colloid-labeled scrambled eggs to assess gastric emptying, we do deal with perishable supplies, the radioactive materials we need for the nuclear medicine procedures we perform. We have expensive equipment that needs regular quality control assessment and periodic maintenance. We need to monitor personnel radiation exposure. We keep patient reports and films. We have file room problems, and we need to expand and rely more on our PACS.

We maintain all kinds of personnel records and provide in-service training. We image patients, count patients and measure their bodily fluids. We draw blood and inject pharmaceuticals. We deal with medical gases, both radioactive and nonradioactive. We interact with medical students, technologist students, interns, residents, fellows, new and old attendings, surgeons, internists, cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons, gastroenterologists and abdominal surgeons, nephrologists and urologists, pulmonologists and thoracic surgeons, orthopedists and rheumatologists, infectious disease specialists, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, neurologists and neurosurgeons, pediatricians and gynecologists, oncologists, radiation oncologists, diagnostic and interventional radiologists and hematologists and blood bank specialists. We need and communicate with nurses, pharmacists, transport services staff and heating and cooling, computer support and telecommunications personnel.

We make diagnoses, monitor therapy and provide therapy and follow-up. We consult and seek consultation. We do billing, generate reports and maintain records of attendance at our conferences.

At the same time, we are a microcosm of the world around us. We are affected by the equity involved in the distribution of resources. We deal with issues of power and money. We create and justify budgets. We need to account for the past, deal with the present and plan for the future. We compete with others and we develop alliances and friends. We confront generosity, anger, envy and jealousy.

We work with people from various backgrounds and many different national origins. We are exposed to a variety of cultures. We both learn from these people and teach them our customs.

We are, and nuclear medicine is, a microcosm, a miniature version of the issues and problems confronting the entire medical center, and a reflection of the world around us.

Stanley J. Goldsmith

Editor-in-Chief, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*

October 1998