



Stanley J. Goldsmith,
M.D.

“Overall, I feel really delighted about my responsibilities in having had two major leadership positions in the SNM,” Goldsmith observed.

Exacting Standards Maintain JNM’s High Quality

When he assumed the editorship of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (JNM) more than five years ago, Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, certainly had a daunting task: maintaining the exceptional standards of quality set by the journal’s previous editors. “My predecessors

had done an excellent job in expanding the journal,” Goldsmith said in a recent interview, “and my goal was to continue and maintain those standards.”

In a career filled with honors and achievements, Goldsmith brought another perspective to the journal editorship: that of a past president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), who was well-acquainted with balancing the needs of its research and practitioner constituencies. Goldsmith maintains, however, that his experience as an SNM president did not significantly affect his decisions as editor-in-chief. Sometimes, Goldsmith noted, presidents may have difficulty in identifying accomplishments and assessing one’s own impact as president, but the hands-on, day-to-day efforts involved in producing the journal—resulting in regular, tangible evidence of his work—was very gratifying.

“Overall, I feel really delighted about my responsibilities in having had two major leadership positions in the SNM,” Goldsmith observed.

Diverse Background

The variety of skills and the knowledge needed to create and interpret diagnostic images and target therapy were what attracted Goldsmith to nuclear medicine. He also was intrigued by the potential for precision in characterizing physiological processes in health and disease.

Goldsmith became involved with imaging in the late 1960s. He received his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, trained at State University-Kings County Hospital Center in internal medicine, and in endocrinology and metabolism at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. With Nobel-laureate Roslyn Yalow, PhD, and Solomon Berson, MD, he studied radioimmunoassay and radioisotope techniques. During this time, he also worked with Donald Towe, MD, currently chief of nuclear medicine at the Roxbury VA in Massachusetts. Having studied under Henry Wagner, Jr., MD, Towe had come from Johns Hopkins to the Bronx VA to create an imaging service.

Currently Goldsmith serves as the director of the

division of nuclear medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York and as professor of radiology at Cornell University Medical College. A fellow of the American College of Nuclear Physicians, American College of Physicians, American College of Cardiology and the Radiologic Society of North America, Goldsmith is a former director and treasurer of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and served as Commissioner of the New York State Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission from 1987 to 1994. From 1984 to 1987, he was a member of the FDA’s Medical Imaging Drugs Advisory Committee.

As the author of more than 100 scientific articles, several hundred abstracts, and 15 book chapters, and as an editorial board member of the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and *Radiology*, Goldsmith has significant editorial experience from which to draw. In fact, prior to becoming JNM editor-in-chief, Goldsmith was for many years the editor of *Newsline*, when it was mailed separately as a tabloid-style newspaper and after its successful incorporation into the journal in 1985. “*Newsline* had immediacy, and I wanted to bring that same quality to the journal articles,” said Goldsmith. “I’m really pleased with the direction *Newsline* has taken under Conrad Nagle’s leadership.”

Goals for JNM

“I wanted the journal to have content in every issue that would be accessible for all members,” said Goldsmith, “without sacrificing space for the research articles.” He concedes that one tactic he employed to accomplish this goal, dedicating issues of the journal to a single topic, was not widely embraced by the readership. Another objective that was not fulfilled was incorporation of continuing medical education articles in the journal. Part of the problem, Goldsmith acknowledged, was that the experts in the field were already involved with books as well as other projects and were not available to prepare CME articles for the journal.

Despite these minor setbacks, Goldsmith’s overall achievements are significant. He continued the work of his predecessors in terms of maintaining the depth and scope of articles published in the journal. Literature citations support this fact: an average JNM article is cited four times per year, a high for journals in radiological imaging. Additionally, advertising in JNM hit record highs, and article reprint orders by industry have been staggering. Moreover, JNM has retained its ranking

(Continued on page 29N)

History Corner*(Continued from page 26N)*

the antiproton. He also played a role in the discovery of slow neutrons, astatine, plutonium, and nuclear isomerism. Element 43 may be the only element to have been discovered in a pile of junk—in this case, the discarded molybdenum heat shields.

Segrè never expected that element 43 would find any useful application; after all, it had no stable isotopes. He said of it, “It

was a curiosity; it filled a blank space.” Segrè the physicist was delighted to have discovered a missing element, but Segrè the man was quite moved as he saw his “curiosity” become one of the most widely used and beneficial substances in medicine.

—Dennis D. Patton, MD, SNM historian, is professor of radiology and optical sciences at University Medical Center, Tucson, Arizona

State of the Journal*(Continued from page 11N)*

by John Childs, PhD, director of communication services for the SNM in Reston. He has reorganized the editorial support for the JNM by bringing Susan Alexander to Reston to support the new editor and his staff. This constellation of intelligence, energy and talent promises to provide the membership with excellent support in the months ahead.

I thank the Society for the privilege of having served as edi-

tor of its journal. In a conversation about nuclear medicine and the JNM, one of my friends defined “a good editor as the Editor of a good journal.” I believe that JNM is a good journal and will continue to reflect the best that the specialty has to offer.

Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD

Editor-in-Chief (1994–1998)

The Journal of Nuclear Medicine

Exacting Standards*(Continued from page 12N)*

as the leading peer-reviewed journal of its kind.

As importantly, Goldsmith maintained a level of total printed pages and articles published per year at a time when the SNM, as did other medical societies, had to do financial belt-tightening on a number of programs, including publication efforts, in response to the onslaught of managed care and increased manufacturing and production costs in the printing industry.

However, he is first to share the journal’s successes with his associate editors, editorial board members, reviewers, and with SNM publication department staff. “Some critics say I expect too much, but actually I’m delighted when I’m not disappointed,” Goldsmith observed. “And I’m thrilled to work with people who have similar standards. It makes the experience more delightful. I had really good people to work with at SNM, and I thank them all for their efforts.”

As for the journal’s role in reporting on developments in the specialty, Goldsmith feels that it will continue to grow and remain a strong presence. “The field has become more sophisticated,” said Goldsmith, “however, the day-to-day practice of nuclear medicine has not caught up to the science. The science is the beacon, and we’re moving ahead to the demands of the new equipment.”

One such example is image fusion, the superimposing of a radionuclide image with a CT image, continued Goldsmith. “When I started as editor, it was a novelty only occasionally appearing in articles, but now it is about to become routine.”

Scattered Thoughts

According to Goldsmith, he had no specific journalistic role models in mind when deciding whether to write a monthly col-

umn, although he did like the editorials in *Science*, especially the lighthearted ones. “At first, I was not going to do the column. I thought Bill [Strauss] had done such a good job with ‘Randoms’ and I did not think I would have the time.” But writing “Scatter,” his monthly editorial column, turned out to be more enjoyable than he had anticipated. After assessing the columns over the years, he found that some were purely whimsical pieces, others were “agitprop” or sermons, and some treated serious problems facing the specialty in a creative way. “I received numerous communications about Scatter—some were angry, but many of them were complimentary,” said Goldsmith.

And just what was the genesis for the “little man in the forest,” who always appeared in the December column? “Well,” Goldsmith recalled, “I came to realize one day what Dante meant about the symbolism of being lost in the forest and how it tied in with the complexities of balancing our personal, professional, and editorial requirements. Anyway, I found it an interesting literary device to illustrate the pleasantries and highpoints of being editor.”

New Directions

Although he will remain on the journal’s editorial board at the end of his editorship, Goldsmith has not quite decided what direction future journalistic endeavors may take. Currently, he is co-editing a textbook, “Nuclear Oncology,” with Iraj Khakali, MD, and Jean Maublant, MD. He may also take a stab at writing essays—those with a creative and nonscientific bent. And how does this outgoing editor-in-chief summarize this sometimes frustrating but always rewarding position? “Being editor of JNM is the most worthwhile job one can have in the SNM.”

—Eleanore Tapscott