

## SNM House of Delegates Approves Agenda Items

At its February 1, 1998, session at the 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting in Las Vegas, NV, the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) House of Delegates approved the following agenda items:

1. Approval of the Publications Committee's final candidate, Martin P. Sandler, MD, as new editor for *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.
2. Approval of SNM's response to the Health Care Financing Administration's proposed rule regarding physician supervision guidelines.
3. Review and approval of the Performance and Responsibility Guidelines for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist as revised.
4. Review and approval of the resolution supporting the shipment of highly enriched uranium to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.
5. Review and approval of the SNM president-appointed task force charged with preparing a response to the NRC draft rewrite of 10 CFR Part 35.
6. Charge to the SNM president-appointed task force (see Item 5) to consider having the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine develop a radiation protection examination for use by the NRC agreement states.
7. Review and approval of SNM and other member organizations of the Intersocietal Commission for Accreditation of Nuclear Cardiology Laboratories inviting the American College of Nuclear Physicians to become a member.
8. Review and approval of formal written reports of the SNM Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. Voting members of the House of Delegates will receive a report of the actions taken by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

In addition, discussion of the submitted motion for the consolidation effort of nuclear medicine organizations (the American College of Nuclear Physicians, the American College of Nuclear Medicine, the Institute for Clinical PET and the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology) was postponed until the next House of Delegates meeting at the SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in June 1998.



Martin P. Sandler, MD

## SNM House of Delegates Elects New *JNM* Editor

Martin P. Sandler, MD, of Vanderbilt University, was elected as the next Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* by the Society of Nuclear Medicine's House of Delegates at its 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting. Sandler will begin his 5-year term as editor in January 1999.

Sandler received his medical degree from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and trained as a resident physician in internal medicine. He began his affiliation with Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1980 as a postdoctoral fellow in the division of endocrinology and metabolism. He subsequently pursued a fellowship in the division of nuclear medicine and joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the departments of radiology and medicine. Sandler was appointed to his present position as chief of the section of nuclear medicine and PET in 1987. He also serves as professor of radiology and medicine and vice-chair of Vanderbilt's department of radiology and radiological sciences.

Sandler has been a consultant and site visitor for the National Institutes of Health for ischemic heart disease. He is co-principal investigator with James A. Patton, PhD, in the develop-

ment of 511-KeV SPECT (including cardiac, oncologic and brain applications) and 511-KeV dual-isotope simultaneous acquisition SPECT for cardiac disease and dual-head coincidence imaging in patients with oncologic disease. In addition to coediting five textbooks, Sandler has acted as a reviewer for many journals and has served on the editorial boards of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and *The European Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

Sandler joined the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 1983. He is a member of the House of Delegates and past president of the Society's southeastern chapter and of the Correlative Imaging Council.

## Education and Research Foundation Selects Award Recipients

At its board of directors meeting at the Society of Nuclear Medicine's Mid-Winter Meeting in Las Vegas, NV, the Education and Research Foundation (ERF) approved the following awards:

### Pilot Research Grants

Stephen L. Eck, MD, PhD  
*Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*

Richard Freifelder, PhD  
*Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*

Hong-Gang Liu, MS  
*University Hospital, The University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL*

Alan B. Packard, MD  
*Children's Hospital, Boston, MA*

Chyng-Yann Shiue, PhD  
*Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*

### Student Fellowship Awards

Douglas A. Dougherty  
*Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY*

Sean Shahram Erami-Avedon  
*Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

Matthew Arkin  
*Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*

Nida Totonchian  
*Hospital of the University of  
 Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*  
 Christine O'Neill  
*Winthrop University Hospital,  
 Mineola, NY*

Additionally, the ERF announces its new home page at [www.pet.upenn.edu/snmerf/](http://www.pet.upenn.edu/snmerf/).

## ABNM Announces Change in Officers

With the retirement of Joseph F. Ross, MD, as president, the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) has announced new officers. Dr. Ross, who now serves as senior president, was succeeded by William H. Blahd, MD, Los Angeles VA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA. Richard L. Wahl, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, is chair, and Eva Dubovsky, MD, University of Alabama-Birmingham, is vice-chair. Edward B. Silberstein, MD, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH, and Robert F. Carretta, MD, Roseville Community Hospital, Roseville, CA, are secretary and treasurer, respectively. Officers serve 1-year terms and may be reelected. The ABNM consists of 12 elected members, who serve 3-year terms. Members may be reelected for a second term.

The ABNM, which was incorporated in July 1971, was formed to establish education standards and evaluate the competence of physicians in nuclear medicine. The ABNM meets these objectives by establishing certification requirements, conducting certifying examinations and issuing certificates to those who successfully fulfill its requirements. Of those who sat for the ABNM examination in September 1997, 67 diplomates were certified, increasing the total number of certified nuclear medicine specialists to 4384. Fifty-six diplomates have been recertified. In 2002, recertification will be required for diplomates certified in 1992.

As for the ABNM's future plans, according to Dr. Blahd, the ABNM will be implementing the following

policy changes:

- To comply with the current policy of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), training requirements will be changed so that the clinical postdoctoral year must precede the 2-year nuclear medicine training program. Residents recruited for the 1999–2000 academic year must adhere to this policy.
- A new pathway leading to certification in cardiac disease and nuclear medicine, which has been approved by both the ABNM and the American Board of Internal Medicine, will be implemented. Residents may apply for certification in nuclear medicine if they complete 4 to 6 months of noninvasive training (the majority being in nuclear medicine) as part of the standard 3-year training requirement in cardiovascular disease and satisfactorily complete an additional year of training in an ACGME-accredited nuclear medicine program. Presumably, the course curriculum during the year of nuclear medicine training will focus on areas other than cardiovascular disease.
- To maintain the quality of the certifying in-training examination, digital image reproduction will be incorporated into the examination. Additionally, a new psychometric firm has been retained to ensure the high standards of the certifying examination.

## Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act Approved

In November 1997, the U.S. Senate approved S. 537, the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act (MQSA), which renews a 1992 law that established national quality

standards for all facilities that perform mammograms. The legislation establishes Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspection schedules for mammography equipment and training recommendations for mammography technicians.

Before the MQSA, many patients were misdiagnosed because of a lack of consistent standards. The new legislation, which has the support of breast cancer advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology as well as the White House, will retain the national quality standards established in 1992 and strengthen inspection requirements. Without reauthorization, the 1992 law would have expired at the end of 1997.

A General Accounting Office (GAO) report on the FDA's mammography inspection program found that the program had a positive effect on mammography facilities and that more facilities were complying with the new standards. The GAO report also noted several areas of improvement for the inspection program, which the FDA has addressed. These include strengthening the inspection process to ensure consistent reporting of violations nationwide, strengthening procedures to assess the quality of mammograms and protect patients and ensuring that violations are corrected in a timely manner.

Under the current act, standards will be set to ensure that qualified physicians interpret mammogram results, facilities use only imaging equipment designed specifically for mammography, facilities are approved by an accrediting body certified by the FDA, facilities undergo yearly inspections and facilities have sufficient funding for certification and inspection.