

**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](http://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 577-578 in the March 1998 issue.)

## The Saga of Nuclear Medicine

*(with apologies to Homer and Virgil)*

I speak, o muse, of the people,  
the men and women of nuclear medicine,  
who embarked on a journey many years ago  
to bring to mankind, to patients,  
a new discipline, a method to quantify  
organ function in health and disease;  
to develop also a magic bullet  
so that they may treat  
some of these maladies.

I sing of these people,  
these men and women of nuclear medicine,  
who grew to adulthood  
like their brethren, seemingly normal,  
but when exposed to this mystique,  
this science, this medical specialty,  
forsook their goals and chose instead  
to deal with the mysteries of this science,  
this discipline that dares  
to understand and control  
the emissions from the nucleus  
so as to provide better diagnoses,  
better patient management, therapy  
and greater wisdom  
in choosing therapeutic options.

Their fate was defined a hundred years ago  
when Henri Becquerel first saw  
the invisible light,  
the mysterious rays,  
that like Roentgen's ray  
could penetrate matter  
and show themselves to film emulsion.  
The Curies, a man and a woman,  
purified the first of nature's radioactive elements.  
Later, the man observed the effects  
of the invisible light on his skin.  
The light could destroy tissue  
and perhaps disease.

The daughter of the Curies  
created a method to make versions of elements  
that usually did not emit this light do so.  
And so, years later, after the big war  
east of the Atlantic and west of the Pacific,  
people began to use these materials  
that emitted this invisible light.

*(Continued on page 4A)*

Scientists, physicians, technologists  
from many disciplines were intrigued,  
perhaps infected, by an interest in these substances,  
by this light, and the challenge to harness it,  
to control it so that  
it could be used as medicine,  
in medicine, for medicine.

During their struggles,  
they have encountered resistance and roadblocks,  
at times from governments,  
at times from their profession.  
But lo, though fifty years have passed,  
they labor on, these people,  
these men and women of nuclear medicine,  
as scientists, physicians, technologists,  
to diagnose, to manage, to treat.

Muse, I speak of these people  
and I sing their praises  
for their commitment, for their effort,  
for all that they have done,  
for all that they do,  
for all that remains to be done.

**Stanley J. Goldsmith**

Editor-in-Chief, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*  
August 1998