



## LETTERS

### TO THE NEWSLINE EDITOR:

The recent and brief note in Newsline (*Journal of Nuclear Medicine* 1999;40(12):24N) highlighting the election of Dr. Michael J. Welch to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) omitted the names of several SNM members who have achieved this distinction—and a noteworthy distinction it is.

Dr. Welch is one of 55 new members elected to the IOM, raising the total active membership to only 588. Candidates are chosen for their major contributions to health and medicine or to related fields. The private, nonprofit organizations that make up the National Academies, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the IOM, and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) work under an 1863 congressional charter. Election is both an honor and an obligation to work on behalf of the organization in its governance and in studies designed to provide independent advice to Congress and to government departments and agencies. This advice helps to focus federal efforts toward defining realistic national goals on matters of science, technology, and medicine.

A more complete list of SNM scientist members of the various National Academies includes:

S. James Adelstein, MD	IOM
Thomas F. Budinger, MD, PhD	IOM and NAE
R. Edward Coleman, MD	IOM
William C. Eckelman, PhD	IOM
David E. Kuhl, MD	IOM
Barbara J. McNeil, MD	IOM
Michael E. Phelps, MD, PhD	IOM and NAS
Marcus E. Raichle, MD	IOM and NAS
Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD	IOM
Michael J. Welch, PhD	IOM
Rosalyn S. Yalow, MD, PhD	NAS

The Society should take great pride in their accomplishments and the recognition they bring to themselves and to our discipline.

*Richard C. Reba, MD*  
*Professor of Radiology and Chief, Nuclear Medicine Section*  
*University of Chicago Hospital*  
*Chicago, Illinois*

### THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE: A UNIQUE MISSION

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and its associated organizations, including the Institute of Medicine (IOM), occupy a unique territory, connecting the governmental need to know with a broad spectrum of scientific research and practice in the United States. Under its original charter, now more than 135 years old, the Academy is a private organization and receives no direct federal funding. It is an independent body, located in a complex of buildings in northwest Washington, DC. The mission of the IOM is "to advance and disseminate scientific knowledge to improve human health" by providing "objective, timely, authoritative information and advice concerning health and science policy to government, the corporate sector, the professions and the public."

Many of the reports and studies carried out by the IOM are requested by government agencies. Funding for these studies is usually from appropriations made available to the agencies by Congress—but not supplied directly from Congress to the IOM, a distinction that allows IOM a greater degree of freedom from both political control and public scrutiny. Other sponsoring institutions sometimes recommend study topics. Through a tightly-monitored committee system, the IOM addresses issues ranging from social aspects of health care to clinical problems. Most of its reports are authored by unpaid volunteer experts, only a percentage of whom have been elected to prestigious membership in the organization.

#### Reporting by Consensus: The Committee System

According to IOM reports, committees are formed both for deliberation on general issues and for authorship of specific studies. A committee is formed by identifying the expertise and perspectives necessary to address the study topic, soliciting and receiving nominations for candidates from a wide number of sources, presenting a proposed slate and alternatives to IOM leadership, receiving approval from the IOM president (currently Kenneth I. Shine, MD), and formally seeking appointment to the committee. An individual may be disqualified in this process because of biases or potential conflicts of interest. A number of members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine have donated their expertise to the IOM through service on the Committee on Biomedical Isotopes under the Division of Health Sciences Policy. This group issued the report *Isotopes for Medicine and the Life Sciences* under the editorship of committee chair S. James Adelstein, MD, and committee staff Frederick J. Manning in 1995.

#### What's New at the IOM

Recent changes in the bylaws call for the election of 60 new members each year, in addition to 5 foreign associates and 5 senior members. New guidelines in the process promise to allow more flexibility in the election of individuals.  
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**J-1 Bind** (Continued from page 20N)

CVs and cover letters to interview techniques and follow-through advice. Subscribers can access an HPSA site introduction to every facility featured in any month's listings. Subscription terms are for 6, 9, or 12 months and come with a full money-back guarantee.

The program is currently adding a group of attorneys with nationwide experience in immigration and nat-

uralization regulations. This addition is designed to guide each subscriber to the right attorney for his or her individual needs, usually after a written employment agreement has been reached between the J-1 physician and an HPSA facility.

For more information about the program, contact Paul Harris or Renée Olita at [doctorsincharge@hotmail.com](mailto:doctorsincharge@hotmail.com) or 970-884-7017.

**Annual Meeting** (Continued from page 16N)

Other topics addressed in this track include attenuation correction in cardiac studies, cost effectiveness in oncology/cardiology, and multi-head gamma coincidence imaging.

**Legislative/Regulatory**

The Legislative/Regulatory track includes courses with emphases on legislative and regulatory matters in nuclear medicine. These are designed to give nuclear medicine professionals an understanding of current legislation and effects on the field. Future legislation and what nuclear medicine professionals can expect from regulatory organizations will

be addressed in several continuing education courses and categorical seminars.

**Educators/Business**

The Educators/Business track addresses the reality that many nuclear medicine professionals have varied roles and need continuing education in nonclinical areas, such as marketing and business management. Also included in this track are courses for nuclear medicine educators and students.

—Lauren M. Parr  
SNM Course Manager

**IOM** (Continued from page 23N)

als who work at interdisciplinary interfaces and do not fall into the traditional silos of the membership sections. Leadership of the IOM is especially concerned about the 'coastal-skewing' of membership: the Midwest is under-represented in comparison with the east and west coasts. Efforts are underway to encourage the nomination of distinguished scientists from the country's midsection.

In 1999 the NAS broke ground for a new building, located in the block formed by E and F and 5th and 6th

Streets in northwest Washington. This eleven-story building will house almost all of the program staff of the Academies and will have two floors of state-of-the-art conference areas, auditoria, and lecture rooms. The IOM will occupy the 7th and 8th floors of the building, scheduled for completion by fall of 2001.

**For More Information**

For information on the IOM and its programs, projects, and special events, visit the Web site at [www4.nas.edu/IOM](http://www4.nas.edu/IOM).

## In Memoriam Dov Front, MD

Stanley Goldsmith, MD, past editor of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, reported to Newsline the January 16 death of Dov Front, MD, PhD, in Haifa, Israel. Front was the Director of Nuclear Medicine at the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa. He held the Dr. Paul and Rose N. Geysler chair in clinical radiology at that center and was on the Technion medical faculty.

He was a frequent contributor to the nuclear medicine literature and a past member of the Society of Nuclear

Medicine. He is probably best known for his imaging studies of lymphoma using  $^{67}\text{Ga}$  scintigraphy, with a recent focus on this technology as a predictor of response to therapy. Front trained many physicians who went on to make significant contributions in nuclear medicine, including Ora Israel, MD, his successor at the Rambam Medical Center, and Ruth Hardoff, MD, Director of Nuclear Medicine at the Beilinson Hospital of the Rabin Medical Center near Tel Aviv.