Council in 2004. The YPC had its roots in the Residents Committee, which prospered under the direction of Gina M. Caravaglia, DO, and Kelly H. Pham, DO. In August 2004, YPC members met with SNM leadership and Academic Council members to further define the role of the YPC within the Society. YPC members are residents, fellows, scientists, and physicians who are less than 10 years out of training. Among the goals of the group are better communication among young nuclear medicine professionals, promoting education and career development, and active participation in the continuing evolution of nuclear medicine. The YPC is also developing a survey of recent nuclear medicine graduates about their experiences in transitioning from training to practice positions.

All of our activities are designed to promote the Academic Council's goal of assuring the development of high-caliber individuals to lead in future clinical practice and research in nuclear medicine and to become tomorrow's leaders of the SNM.

Robert J. Lull, MD
President, SNM Academic Council

A Longer Look Back: The Computer and Instrumentation Council

The Newsline roundup provides an opportunity to look back at the accomplishments and challenges of the past year. The SNM Computer and Instrumentation Council (CaIC) recently took a much longer retrospective look in December 2004 by publishing a 14-year retrospective of the "best of the CaIC newsletter" since 1992. The CaIC's focus is on computers and nuclear instrumentation and their application in therapy, diagnosis, and nuclear medicine-based research. This focus has continued to evolve along with the rapid changes and new technologies that have radically altered nuclear medicine practice over the last decade. We continue to include original research and contributions as part of our newsletter, and, as outlined by this special issue's editor, Marke Madsen, PhD, the recent retrospective shows the range and quality of these articles. Among the "best of" the newsletter were Piotr Slomka's "RSNA '91–An Emerging Second Generation of Nuclear Medicine Computer Systems" (May 1992); Tom R. Miller and Jerold W. Wallis's "Thoughts about Iterative Reconstruction Algorithms" (March 1993); Mark D. Wittry, James W. Fletcher, J. Stephen Farris, and James L. Daly's "NIH Image as a Limited Nuclear Medicine Viewing Station" (May 1995); and Edward P. Ficaro's "Cardiac Quantitative Software" (April 2000). Under the able publication editorship of C. David Cooke, MSEE, our twice-yearly newsletter will uphold this tradition of excellence. We invite you to read through this "best of" newsletter; if you would be interested in receiving our semi-annual newsletter or would like to peruse the complete archive of newsletters, please join our Council to take advantage of this membership privilege.

The CaIC was active in 2004 and presented a full-day categorical session for continuing medical education credit at the SNM annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The course, titled "Modeling Cardiac Imaging: Building Scientific Advances into Clinical Application," was organized by S. James Cullom, PhD. The well-attended educational session included a mix of scientists from the field of image modeling and instrumentation and physician researchers. In addition, speakers from the National Institutes of Health outlined current initiatives for research.

Through the work of CaIC member Jerold Wallis, MD, the SNM has continued to work with the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) initiative to create a set of specifications that will enable more seamless connectivity and interoperability between nuclear medicine vendors and picture archiving and communications systems. This set of specifications is in the form of an IHE profile, titled the "NM Image Profile," and has been sent to vendors for implementation in a test environment.

The CaIC is also working as part of the steering committee for the Molecular Imaging and Radionuclide Therapy Trials Cooperative Group (formerly the Nuclear Medicine Clinical Trials Cooperative Group), to which we will provide advice on instrumentation, computer processing, and other technical issues.

Our Young Investigators' section continues to be active in attracting and recognizing new talent entering our technical field. The Computer and Instrumentation Young Investigators Symposium at the 2004 meeting showed once again the level of interest and ingenuity that a new generation of young researchers is bringing to nuclear medicine and its allied professions.

I. George Zubal, PhD
President, SNM CaIC