

President's Letter

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To conceive, give birth and lead to maturity, a new national scientific society is to accept a very great and long enduring responsibility. Such an effort is even more challenging when the membership is composed of persons who hold a variety of scholastic degrees, who are seeking variable objectives and who are working in a scientific field so recently established that it is identified with the atomic age of man.

Such a society cannot reach fruition save by the unwavering loyalty of its total membership. It must hold to the conviction that its aims are thrilling in prospect and worthy of the tasking; it must accept the proposition that whatever may be the present sphere of activity of any member, he shall make his contribution for the good of all.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine has done well in these regards. Our founders were men of vision who scarce could have visualized how rapidly we have grown. To begin with under fifty members and, in a decade, to approach 2500 is not less than remarkable. But growth alone is an incomplete criterion of worth. By what other indices have we done well?

We have found that our unique mixture of degrees and objectives is actually a significant part of our strength. Having no special precedents for the guidance of a new kind of society the Trustees, with great devotion and the expenditure of much time and personal funds, have worked unceasingly toward the establishment of sound policies. Our total attendance at meetings, our scientific programs, our exhibits both scientific and commercial, our social activities and our camaraderie have grown and improved with every annual meeting. I believe that the June 1964 meeting will be the most rewarding one to date.

Beginning with perhaps fifty members and little more than an idea some twelve years ago, what Society activities are *now* in progress as we start the year 1964? I think you will be agreeably surprised by their comprehensiveness. Besides the fact of our numerical growth, we have established a Journal of twelve yearly issues. We are about to present our Fifth Annual Lecture Honoring Great Scientists and given by eminent speakers. Eight of our members now serve on the AMA Committee of ten on Nuclear Medicine. We have men working on problems of liaison with the AMA looking toward recognition of nuclear medicine as a subsection. We now plan exhibits by the Nuclear Society at the June 1964 annual meeting of the AMA.

We have completed a survey of the teaching of nuclear medicine in 106 North American medical schools. We are studying means by which the classification of *Fellow of The Society of Nuclear Medicine* can be established. Committees are working on the matter of a sub-specialty Board leading to accreditation. Our bylaws are being revised and expanded. In June 1964 we will discuss the creation of a National Registry for the report of malignancies treated by radioisotopes. A training program, examination and registration for nuclear medical technicians, carried on as a joint effort with other societies, has about reached the stage of agreement.

We have received overtures for a cooperative association with similar societies in Europe and Japan. We have men reporting on national administrative regulations of isotopes. We have been consulted by the AEC on these matters. We have representatives on the National Research Council. We are cultivating Society traditions such as a Society Medal for outstanding achievement by members, the awarding of certificates, the gavel tradition, attention to necrology, etc. The special features planned for our ladies are prospering.

All this is in addition to our routine management of communications, finance, preparation of our Directory, and the extensive preplanning of annual meetings.

This is no paper program. Our people are working at it. Keep beating the drums. We are on our way. And the very best wishes to all of you for a splendid 1964.