

President's Letter

Speaking for the Executive Committee, I wish to extend our greeting to the membership and pledge that these officers will do everything possible to further the principles upon which the Society of Nuclear Medicine is founded.

I wish to acknowledge the Society's debt of gratitude to the retiring officers for their excellent stewardship which culminated in the outstanding annual meeting in Berkeley.

In keeping with past policies, we shall continue the use of the President's Letter to disseminate committee reports and other information to our members. The first of these is an abstract of the report of the Committee on International Relations under the chairmanship of Joseph Sternberg, M.D., Montreal, Canada.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

With the rapid development of Nuclear Medicine throughout the world, the problem of establishing a unifying link between the workers in this field has become very complex. The nuclear physician or biologist can be an isolated person in a region where too few colleagues in the same field of interest are unable to organize their group; he could be a member of a section of another society, where nuclear medicine procedures are used within the framework of another discipline. Finally, in the few countries where the number of workers is large enough, he could be a member of a national or regional society.

There are at present at least four large organized bodies of nuclear physicians and biologist, besides our own Society of Nuclear Medicine. These are the Italian Society of Nuclear Biology and Medicine, the German Society of Nuclear Medicine, and the Association of the Radiobiologists of the Euratom. Other groups are being contemplated, or exist at present within the framework of the national societies of Radiologists or other medical specialties.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine is the largest organized body in the field of Nuclear Medicine and Biology; its charter and by-laws are conceived for a natural development both in geographic distribution of membership as well as initial professional training of the member. There are more than 25 countries represented in the membership of the Society, a fact which emphasizes more than anything else its international character.

The creation of the Committee on International Relations of the Society of Nuclear Medicine stemmed from the analysis of the complex situation, to be expected in a heterogeneous group. The first objective of the Committee on International Relations is the study of the ways and means available to us for the establishment of a link between the workers in Nuclear Medicine outside our Society and our own group.

Dr. Sternberg's committee is actively investigating these ways and means and the forthcoming year should be fruitful in the area of international understanding and cooperation.