

## *President's Letter*

From the first human application of radioisotopes in the late thirties, the field of Nuclear Medicine has made some considerable progress. The major progress sequence began in the late forties with the ready availability of radioisotopes from the nuclear reactors. Under the aegis of the Atomic Energy Commission, and with the courageous efforts of a few visionaries, the concept of medico-biological applications by byproduct material received great stimulation.

It would be presumptuous to attempt to designate and describe the relative values of these contributory forces. It is a matter of fact that we must recognize these efforts as the foundation for all that is now coming to pass. It would be sacrilegious to suggest that these workers could have foretold the fruits of their labors yielding such results in less than twenty years, but if it were not for their vision and imagination, we should not be as far along as we are.

Everything has kept pace in this development—new drugs, new instruments, new techniques and new regulations.

We may not indulge in smugness or conceit over the state of the present accomplishments, for we stand, as ever, on the threshold of the future. Many answers have been obtained but for every answer several new questions are raised.

Our greatest hazard lies in the present rate of progress and its attendant problem—communication. The field is growing so rapidly that we are seeing the emergence of increasing areas of specialization. The field is built upon de-specialization to the degree of permitting cross-insemination.

Let us do all we can to maintain the dialogues between disciplines and specialties and we will continue to reap the rewards.

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President