

grams take candidates with one year and preferably two or more years training in some other clinical specialty. Fellowship programs in nuclear medicine provide support for up to three years training. It is the consensus of the directors of these Fellowship programs, that two years in the program is the ideal minimum training for a physician planning a major time-involvement in nuclear medicine. However a number of the Fellows in Nuclear Medicine Programs are hired out of the program after one year.

The initial guideline statement on training should be judged in view of the present circumstances and future goals, based both on probable technical developments in nuclear medicine and observing standards analagous to other specialty Boards. The Board of Trustees has asked that written commentary and reactions to this statement be solicited from the membership and any other interested parties. Comments on this guideline statement should be directed to the President or Secretary.

**SNM Board of Trustees**

#### **DEFINING NUCLEAR MEDICINE**

We all have experienced the difficulty of explaining what nuclear medicine is, to colleagues as well as laymen. It is certainly time that a generally acceptable definition be developed. The Board of Trustees tentatively approved a first attempt at defining nuclear medicine at the 14th Annual Meeting in Seattle:

“Nuclear Medicine is the scientific and clinical discipline concerned with the diagnostic, therapeutic (exclusive of sealed radiation sources) and investigative use of radionuclides.”

The desire was to have the definition simple and general with only essential exclusions. As set down, it was thought to encompass *in vivo* and *in vitro* uses, the use of sealed sources for diagnostic purposes (including transmission photoscans), and preventative medical uses either within investigative or diagnostic uses. The term investigative uses was considered referring mainly to clinical investigative uses, but by intent includes studies in animals. The term radionuclides was meant to include those induced during activation for diagnostic purposes. The Board of Trustees specifically is requesting comments and critique of this definition from the membership as well as any other interested individual or organization. Such comments should be mailed to the President or Secretary. After considering such commentary, it is hoped the Board of Trustees can affirm a definition for the Society, at the 15th annual meeting.

**SNM Board of Trustees**