

# **nm/ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

This issue is devoted primarily to the forthcoming Annual Meeting at which the Board of Trustees and membership will be asked to approve several new policies. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize these proposals for you.

## **PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATION**

Considerable effort has been devoted to the development of an AMA-approved mechanism for certifying the competence of physicians practicing nuclear medicine. Representatives of SNM met with representatives of the American Boards of Internal Medicine, Pathology and Radiology on several occasions to explore the feasibility of establishing an American Board of Nuclear Medicine. At its Mid-Winter Meeting the Board of Trustees of SNM recommended that the Society make every effort to establish a primary board in this field. They further recommended that if this was impossible, the Society should then explore the possibility of establishing an affiliate board affiliated to the three primary boards mentioned above. Unlike a subspecialty board, an affiliate board would not require prior certification by a primary board. A tripartite affiliation would permit a continuing liaison with the primary boards, an obvious advantage considering the multidisciplinary character of nuclear medicine. A specific proposal for the creation of an American Board of Nuclear Medicine will be presented to the Board of Trustees and the membership at the Annual Meeting.

## **TECHNOLOGIST CERTIFICATION**

Dr. William Beierwaltes, representing SNM, has met with representatives of the AMA, the American College of Radiology and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists to develop an "essentials of an acceptable school for nuclear medical technologists." Representatives of these societies approved a curriculum of at least 12 months duration and detailed the administration, organization, faculty and admission requirements for such schools. In addition, the group considered technologist certification by two organizations, i.e., the American Registry of Radiological Technologists and the Registry of Medical Technologists of the ASCP. These two organizations would furnish uniform examinations that parallel the recommended curriculum.

## **BYLAWS**

Dr. Joseph Ross and his Bylaws Committee have recommended extensive changes in the SNM bylaws. These include changing the name of the Society, the structure of committees and the role of the Board of Trustees to strengthen the influence of the membership in the administration of the Society. The Board of Trustees has approved these proposed changes and, after review, the membership will be asked to approve them at the Annual Business Meeting.

Your response to my recent letter on the proposed FAA rule prohibiting the shipment of radioactive materials on passenger-carrying aircraft has been most gratifying. Hundreds of letters and telegrams were sent to the Hazardous Materials Regulation Board, and we believe this effort will result in withdrawal or modification of this rule.

**MERRILL A. BENDER**  
Roswell Park Memorial Institute