

Letter from the Editor

At the 21st Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, June 11–14, 1974 in San Diego, California, a questionnaire drawn up by the editorial staff of the *JNMT* was placed in the registration area and throughout the Convention Center. The purpose of this questionnaire was to assess the impact of the *Journal* within the Society. Furthermore, the information provided by the individuals completing the questionnaires will be used to plan, organize, and implement new ideas in future issues.

To date, 70 questionnaires have been received. Although I do not feel it is necessary to publish the total results of the questionnaires, I would like to bring to your attention several specific areas of interest. These areas are: (A) number of satisfied readers, (B) overall rating of the *Journal*, (C) news items, (D) scientific articles, (E) submission of articles for publication, (F) on-time publication.

Number of satisfied readers. Of the 70 questionnaires received, 85% acknowledged the existence of the *Journal*. Of this 85%, 83% indicated that: (A) the information contained within was definitely of value to them, (B) they did look forward to receiving the *Journal*, and (C) the news section kept them informed and up-to-date on nuclear medicine technology. Those who were not familiar with the *Journal* (15%) consisted of nonmember physicians and nonmember technologists.

Overall rating of the *Journal*. In the questionnaire, 12.5% rated the *Journal* as excellent, 42.5% above average, 42.5% average, and 2.5% below average. I feel these ratings are good considering that we have only been in publication for 20 months. Hopefully, in the future, these ratings will increase as the editorial staff gains more experience in publishing and as the technologists continue to provide the input.

News articles. Many readers indicated that this is an area of great importance by rating the news section 4.5 on a 1.0 – 5.0 scale. The editorial staff also feels that this section is very necessary and, in order to maintain it, depends upon the input of the technologists. With such a small staff, it is very difficult to obtain all of the news around the country. The editorial and news staff is six in number and has many responsibilities. We need the assistance of everyone to keep us abreast of current activities, i.e. unionizations, seminars, legislative, workshops, etc., throughout the country. We also welcome editorials on specific topics. After gathering such information, forward it to: The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Submission of articles. Forty-three percent of the individuals who completed the questionnaire indicated that they had considered writing an article for submission and publication. Of these, approximately 20% had already submitted such articles. The remaining (80%) stated that they were not experienced in writing a paper and were uncertain of writing or the publication process. Before the existence of the *JNMT* many technologists had not even considered writing a paper; therefore they were probably unfamiliar with manuscript styles. Now we have a publication to which the technologists are invited to submit their ideas. I encourage program chairmen at the chapter and local levels to provide an educational session at future meetings on how to write a technical paper and manuscript styles. If you are unfamiliar with the process and need some assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Scientific paper writing should be a part of the nuclear medicine technologist's education.

On-time publication. Some individuals, both through the questionnaire and personal phone calls, have expressed concern that the *Journal* had not been published on time. Due to some difficulties such as late receipt of articles and unexpected events, such as the home office explosion, we had experienced delays with the June and September editions. Hopefully, beginning with this issue, we can once again resume on-time publication. I might also add that it would be most helpful if individuals submitting chapter, local, and general news send the information in at least 3 months before publication date. All chapter news should be sent to Sheri Pasternak, Div. of Nuclear Medicine, Mallinckrodt Institute, St. Louis, Mo. 63110, and general news items should be sent to the home office.

In closing, I wish to thank all individuals who completed the questionnaires. From the questionnaires received it is quite obvious that the *JNMT* has had a great input within the Society. I urge everyone to continue their efforts and support.

L. DAVID WELLS
Editor