

## MESSAGE FROM THE P R E S I D E N T

**T**he events of 1993 will, without a doubt, have a profound impact on the delivery of health care in America. As nuclear medicine technologists, we must strive to stay current with the events and issues that will affect allied health professionals in the months ahead. I would like to present a brief summary of some of the events and issues from the past few months that will impact our future.

In October of 1992, the American Medical Association introduced the concept of a new free-standing agency to carry out the accreditation responsibilities discharged by CAHEA since 1977. A task force was formed to develop a plan for this new agency and to draft new bylaws. As a collaborating organization, we hope to have an opportunity to comment on the structure of the new agency once the bylaws draft is circulated in early 1993. Final review and action is expected to be taken in May. The Joint Review Committee representatives from the Technologist Section, Maria Nagel and Shelia Rosenfeld, along with Sue Weiss and Jim Wirrel, have been monitoring this situation. I would like to express my appreciation for the information they have provided.

The Summit on Manpower has moved to broaden its focus from the initial manpower issues of recruitment and retention to emerging issues in radiography, diagnostic imaging, and therapy. Future activities of the Summit will be programmed for three-year cycles, based on the continued collaboration and support of the participating organizations. The recommended change in the Summit's mission will be brought before the boards of all member organizations for endorsement, so that the Summit may continue along this new course of action. A report on Summit activities will be presented to the National Council at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting in Atlanta.

The SNM/ACNP government relations office in Washington, D.C. recently reported on the U.S.-Canada Free Trade



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Agreement (FTA) and funding for Title VII of the Public Health Services Act. It was reported that Canada has declined to accept the addition of certain allied health professions to the FTA, fearing the loss of technologist health professionals to the U.S. The Technologist Section and the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) had advocated the addition of the professions of nuclear medicine technology, diagnostic radiology, and radiation therapy to the agreement. Title VII funding for 1993 is intended to encourage more students to train

for health care professions. The appropriations for fiscal year 1993 include \$5 million for allied health education programs and \$5 million for allied health projects grants and contracts each year for the next three years.

President Bush signed the Health Profession Education Extension Amendments into law in October 1992. This law authorized the establishment of a National Commission on Allied Health. The purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce with respect to the supply and distribution of allied health professionals, current and future shortages of personnel, and the educational needs of allied health. The Technologist Section was able to nominate five candidates for consideration as Commission members. A report from the Commission is to be submitted to the Secretary of HHS by April 1, 1994.

Last, the SNM Committee on Relocation is in the process of planning the move of the SNM central office to suburban Washington, D.C. At its meeting in October, the SNM Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the SNM Relocation Committee to focus on Alexandria, Virginia and Bethesda/Rockville, Maryland as potential sites for relocation.