

## ■ Annual Meeting Highlights

As members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine arrived in Orlando for the 41st Annual Meeting, it soon became apparent that this year's meeting was going to be a little different.

Unfortunately for those in attendance, the Sunshine State did not live up to its name as it rained virtually every day the meeting was in progress. The soggy week was good news to Floridians who suffered through a particularly dry Spring, but that was little consolation for SNMers who were hoping for at least a little "fun in the sun." It should be noted, however, that even though it often rained in torrents, the sun continued to shine brightly, so technically Florida was still the Sunshine State. One soaked attendee was heard to say: "Only in Florida do you have to wear sunglasses in a thunderstorm!"

Aside from slightly dampened spirits, the collapse of the ballroom ceilings in the Orlando Peabody Hotel, the annual meeting's headquarters, was another nuisance. What could have been a potential nightmare was deftly handled by SNM's Meetings Department. Luncheons, parties and meetings had to be moved to other locations in the hotel and some were even moved across the street to the Clarion Plaza Hotel. It is still not known whether the collapse was related to the daily downpours, but all events took place as scheduled.

Inclement weather was once again the culprit at the president's reception at the Mere Bella estate in Windemere. Not only did rain move the festivities indoors, but a lightning bolt knocked out the spacious mansion's air condi-

tioning system, making the soiree hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Reba somewhat muggy, but those who attended were impressed by the man-



Dr. and Mrs. Richard Reba greeting guests at the president's reception at the lovely Mere Bella estate.

sion's palatial, Spanish beauty.

### Triumphant Technologist Program

Despite the aforementioned mishaps, the 41st Annual Meeting fared strongly otherwise, with over 7,000 nuclear medicine professionals in attendance: over 1,400 of whom were technologists. The Technologist Program was a roaring success according to Jackie Bridges, CNMT, Technologist Program Chair. "This was our best program yet," she said. "The Total Quality Management session was fantastic and right on target, and I feel that all the attendees got what they came for because the information presented was very timely."

Bridges says that even though the Technologist Program at the Orlando meeting was great, she feels that next year's program can be even better. "After each program, we learn more and more about what to do for next year's sessions," she said. "One of our future goals

is to get VOICE credit for time spent in the exhibit hall because it is energy and time expended in a learning process and continuing education is so important."

Bridges credits the committee sub-chairs and the SNM Meetings Department for most of the program's success. "Raj Mohar and Jim Spellos did a wonderful job for us this year and I know we really put some demands on them," Bridges said. "They helped us meet the needs of the members, which we were able to do but we couldn't have done it without the Meetings Department." Bridges cited as an example a meeting room that was too small and too warm for a particular session, but by the time there was a break, the problems were solved.

"I can't say enough about the cooperation we got from the national office," she said. "I'm very thankful to have worked on such a great team and it was very satisfying to see the goals I had set as the program chair become a reality."

### National Council Notes

The National Council of the Technologist Section held its day-long meeting on June 2 and passed a number of resolutions which will serve to benefit members in a variety of ways. One of the most important items passed was the Technologist Section's balanced budget, according to Becky Cacciatore, CNMT, Tech Section President. "We were able to get a budget approved that would allow us to do a lot of exciting things next year without having to raise membership dues," Cacciatore said. "We accomplished everything we wanted including a new manpower survey, the technologist fellowship, the newsletter and a fifth issue of *JNMT*."

According to Cacciatore, a budget was originally submitted which allotted the funds needed for the new projects, but a hike in membership fees was also included. The National Council balked at the idea of a dues increase so it was decided to use money from the Technologist's Section Reserve Fund, thus preventing members from paying any more money than they did last year.

**Official Description of a Nuclear Medicine Technologist**

Another important resolution was the adoption of a comprehensive professional description of a "nuclear medicine technologist" proposed by the Socioeconomic Affairs Committee at the request of SNM President Richard Reba, MD.

The official description is as follows: "The nuclear medicine technologist is a certified allied health professional who, under the direction of an authorized user, is committed to applying the art and skill of diagnostic imaging and therapeutics through the safe and effective use of radionuclides. Responsibilities include but are not limited to direct patient contact, the preparation and administration of radioactive processing and image enhancement, laboratory testing, patient preparation for radioactive tracers and radioactive therapy, quality control and radiation safety. The technologist's growth and development is maintained through ongoing medical and technical education and research and ultimately contributes to the delivery of quality patient care."

**Technologist Fellow**

The National Council also approved the institution of a Fellow Member as a new category for membership. "We wanted to create a new category to recognize members of the Technologist Section who have made a significant contribution to the profession of nuclear medicine technology, as well as to their community," said Technologist Section President-Elect



With over 100 vendors, the Exhibit Hall at the Orange County Convention Center proved to be one of the most popular attractions at the Annual Meeting.

Lynn Fulk, CNMT, who has been integral in getting the word out about the new category. "We hope to place an ad in *JNMT* and *JNM* in order to let the members know about the Fellowship so all those technologists interested in applying may do so."

Interested members may submit an application for Fellow status using the evaluation point scale on the Fellow Application form. The applications are to be sent to the chairman of the Membership Committee of the Technologist Section with a \$100 fee. The fee is nonrefundable but is applicable to re-submission for up to three years should the applicant not be accepted on initial submission.

All applicants will be notified by the committee, and those who are qualified and approved by the National Council will be recognized at the Technologist Section Business Meeting at the SNM Annual Meeting. When submitting an application, it is important to include appropriate documentation to support various accomplishments and skills. A resume or curriculum vitae must be included, and

active membership in the Technologist Section for at least five years is required.

Applicants will be evaluated in five major categories: participation in Technologist Section activities, education, professional experience, professional contributions, and civic activities. Each of these sections has a maximum point limit with a total of 90 points required to achieve Fellow status.

A technologist's accomplishments must have been completed by the time the application is submitted in order to be eligible for consideration and the deadline is January 15 of each year.

**Technologist Newsletter**

A new newsletter aimed specifically toward nuclear medicine technologists will be published through the Technologist Section beginning Nov. 1, 1994. The newsletter, called *Uptake*, will be published every six weeks and was the brainchild of Mickey Clarke, CNMT, who will also be serving as the newsletter's editor.

"This newsletter will serve as a way to communicate what the Technologist



The new officers for the Technologist Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine were announced at the Business Meeting in Orlando. Pictured (l to r) above are (front row): Becky Cacciatore, CNMT, President and Miriam Miller, CNMT, Secretary; (second row) Lois Padellford, CNMT, Treasurer; Lynn Fulk, CNMT, President-Elect; Terri Boyce, CNMT, Immediate Past President; and Kathy Thomas, CNMT, Finance Committee. Not pictured are John Reilley, CNMT, Trustee; Cynthia Wharton, CNMT, Finance Committee; Scott Young, CNMT, Membership Committee; and Rick Bearden, CNMT, Joni Herbst, CNMT, Debbi Merten, CNMT, and Gayle Thompson, CNMT, all of whom are on the Nominating Committee.

Section is doing on the behalf of members and nonmembers alike," Clarke said. "We feel that nuclear medicine technologists need to know what's going on and how it affects them in a timely fashion."

*Uptake* will not be the first newsletter to be published through the Society; before becoming a part of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, *Newsline* was once published as a separate newsletter. "I want to resurrect the idea of the old *Newsline*," Clarke said. "With all the changes taking place in the health care field, we need a voice for the nuclear medicine technologists, and I'm looking forward to being a part of that voice."

#### New JNMT Editor Announced

It was also formally announced at the National Council Meeting that Susan Gilbert, CNMT, would be the new editor of *JNMT* beginning in January 1995. Gilbert, Supervisor of Nuclear Medicine at the DVA Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, succeeds Sue Weiss, CNMT, editor since 1989, who has served two three-year terms.

Gilbert is enthusiastic about her new position. "*JNMT* is consistently rated as an important service provided to the membership of the Technologist

Section, and I would like the *Journal* to remain the professional periodical that the majority of nuclear medicine technologists read," she said. "The continuing education articles coordinated by the Continuing Education Committee have been very successful in the past, and they should continue to do so." Gilbert added that she would like to establish a similar relationship with the Academic Affairs Committee and offer articles of interest to educators and students.

Among her future goals as editor, Gilbert says, is broadening *JNMT's* audience. "Establishing an International Editor position would help support foreign membership in the Technologist Section and encourage submission of world-wide, scientific papers," she said.

According to Gilbert, work has already begun on computerizing most of *JNMT*. "Initially I'd like to computerize manuscript tracking and record-keeping," she said. "But I think we need to take a look at computerized graphics and the possibility of offering the *Journal* electronically."

These are just a few of the changes Gilbert has been considering, but she stresses that she is open to suggestions from the membership. "Since being

named Editor, I have received a lot of positive encouragement and support that is heartwarming," she said. "In working with Paul Christian and Sue Weiss on the *Journal*, I never planned to have the great opportunity to follow in their footsteps as Editor."

#### Fifth Issue of JNMT in 1995

*Uptake* will not be the only new Technologist Section publication on the horizon; the National Council also approved the publication of a fifth issue of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* in 1995. This extra issue will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Technologist Section which was founded on July 7, 1970.

The anniversary issue will be coordinated by Gilbert and Weiss. "We have invited a number of prominent authors to contribute articles," Gilbert said. "This issue will provide a 25-year historical perspective, the current state of the art and future directions for the various areas in nuclear medicine technology."

The Society's 42nd Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place June 12-15, 1995 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Mark A. Newman**  
Executive Editor, *JNMT*

## ■ SNM Headquarters Leaving Manhattan

This will be the last issue of *JNMT* published from the SNM central office in the heart of midtown Manhattan. The doors of the New York office will officially close at 5 p.m. on Friday, September 30th and will reopen for business at 9 a.m. on Monday, October 3rd in Reston, Virginia.

Moving the SNM headquarters was first considered in 1991, in order to minimize long-term costs and to enable the Society to be actively involved with the various legislative and regulating agencies with which nuclear medicine and nuclear science must interact. "Being in such close proximity to regulatory, legislative and professional organizations in Washington DC will enable the Society to serve as a resource to stress the importance of nuclear medicine as a crucial and viable medical specialty," says SNM Executive Director Torry Mark Sansone. "Since nuclear medicine is such a specialized discipline with a more modest membership base than other organizations, it can't afford to have offices in New York and Washington DC."

### Relocation Committee Formed

Soon after the decision to move was made, a Relocation Committee was formed, headed by former SNM president Leon Malmud, PhD, who played an integral role in the relocation process. After a number of studies were conducted to determine the most likely locations for the Society, five metropolitan areas were pinpointed: Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City and the greater Washington DC area. Once a detailed cost analysis on each city was performed, the committee agreed that the most likely choice was the Washington DC area, including Baltimore, Maryland, Alexandria and Reston, Virginia.

Sansone and other committee members spent the bulk of last summer identifying suitable properties in Reston and Alexandria. Two locations



The building which will house the new Society of Nuclear Medicine headquarters in Reston, Virginia as of October 3, 1994.

were found in Alexandria, but all the committee members agreed unanimously that the building in Reston was the best choice.

### A Team Effort

Although Sansone was heavily involved in the relocation efforts, he stresses that it was the hard work of the committee and several SNM staff members that made relocation a reality.

The daunting task of managing the new building's construction buildout (i.e., remodeling) has been put in the hands of John S. Childs, PhD, Director of Publications. One of the highlights of the new space is its openness, as both levels have an expanse of windows. The second floor has windows on all four sides and the first floor has windows on three sides.

"One of the things that we are aiming for in the process of filling out the interior is to light the interior space," Childs said. "One way is to have a lot of open areas without having enclosed cubicles and walls that go from ceiling to floor." The interior walls of the offices that border the exterior walls have about two feet of glass at the top, thus spreading the natural light further into the building and enhancing the unobstructed feeling.

Other staff members involved in the planning include Mark Rogers, Director of Information Systems, who has been coordinating and managing all engineering aspects of the buildout, including telephone and computer ca-

bling; Art Director Ellie Nigretto will be in charge of external signage for the new building; Financial Services Director Chris Brogna has been coordinating property management and legal matters for the buildout, as well as current efforts to sublet the New York office space (lease expires on July 31, 1995); Robert Amoroso, Director of Membership Services, has been involved—along with Sansone and Rogers—in coordinating the new building's security system, external lighting and any renovations that might be needed on the grounds or parking lot; and inventory of files and office furniture has been overseen by Ernesto Aponte, Manager of Office Services, and David Ramos, Associate Coordinator of Leadership Services.

The actual moving of office furniture, files and other equipment, as well as staff members' own belongings, has been aided by the assistance of Steve Klein, Publications Production Manager, who has been coordinating bids from various moving companies; getting the word out about the Society's move southward has been coordinated by Associate Executive Director Virginia Pappas, who will be in constant contact with various media and external organizations. Pappas is also in charge of coordinating the headquarters' opening ceremony in the fall, as well as identifying options to recognize contributions towards the new building's purchase.

## Putting It Together

The new headquarters, currently called Sunset Centre, is a two-story, brick building with 22,000 square feet nestled on little over an acre. Construction buildout on the 12-year-old building began in early June and is scheduled for completion on or before the end of August.

The SNM Technologist Services will be on the second floor and all of the work areas have been designed so that those departments that work closely with one another will be in close proximity. "In designing each department's area, we have tried to come up with a configuration that reflects the function of that department," Childs said. "Each department will be designed around the things that people do in their department." As an example, Childs cited that Membership Services will be in an open area to allow for easier information sharing while the Publications Department will have a little more isolation, away from the hustle and bustle of the office.

According to Sansone, each department director had input into the design of their department's new work area. "By having our new offices custom-made, each department's specific needs have been met," Sansone said. "This will allow each unit to be more effective and efficient at what they do best."

According to Childs, one of the most important aspects about the new building is that it will allow the Society to grow, a trait not present in the offices in the middle of New York City. "The building has plenty of space for a variety of options," he said. "We can build more offices or new kinds of function areas so there is room to accommodate more people and activities if necessary, while still retaining the building's openness."

## Parting Glances

Only about half of the current SNM staff members are making the transition to Virginia. "I wish all of the staff were going with us to our new offices," Sansone said. "The success of the So-

ciety has been due to the excellent work of all of the staff members." An executive search effort is currently underway to fill those vacated positions so there will be no disruption of service during the transition.

Anticipation of the move and enthusiasm for the Society's new offices are mixed with the bittersweetness of leaving long-time friends and colleagues. "I will definitely miss those staffers not going to Virginia and I'm certain we'll be able to successfully fill their positions, but we will never be able to replace them," Sansone said. "Although SNM is getting a fantastic new office, I'm afraid we'll lose a little of our personality along the way."

**Mark A. Newman**  
Executive Editor, *JNMT*

## News Briefs

### SNM Unhappy With NRC NUREG

The SNM and the American College of Nuclear Physicians have expressed their concern over a NUREG issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning the safe handling of radioactive materials at medical facilities.

A NUREG, a set of guidelines issued by the NRC garnered from outside reports, is in no way binding for licensees and compliance is not mandatory, although it is desired.

In a letter drafted by the SNM and ACNP dated May 4, 1994, both organizations expressed their disappointment in the NUREG, saying it oversteps its bounds in providing guidance and information on how to operate a radiation safety program. Most of the sections that the SNM and ACNP found objectionable related to the training and requirements for a radiation safety officer (RSO), a position often held by nuclear medicine technologists.

"This NUREG is not in any way the collective work of knowledgeable professionals involved in medical programs," Carol S. Marcus, PhD, MD, Director of the Nuclear Medicine Outpatient Clinic and Associate Professor

## SNM ELECTION RESULTS

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of Radiological Sciences at UCLA and SNM Vice-President, said. "It is exclusively the work of NRC staff who are in dire need of the scientific and medical expertise that should have come from outside professionals."

The NUREG discusses in detail the qualifications and interpersonal skills necessary for an RSO which the SNM and ACNP feel are arbitrary and should not be included since they are not mentioned in official NRC regulations. At one point in the document, the NUREG goes so far as to classify who would and would not make good RSOs. These specifications "suggest a psychological or psychosocial profile be applied and is purely speculative on the part of the NRC, as well as outside an explanation of existing regulations," according to the SNM/ACNP letter which further states that this entire section should be completely deleted.

**TECHNOLOGIST SECTION AWARDS**

The following were recipients of awards presented during the 41st Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida:

**Scientific Papers**

First Place (Tie)

**Simple Quality Control for Heat-Damaged Technetium-99m Tagged Human Erythrocytes**

M. Blais, J.P. O'Donoghue, G.J. Morrissey, D.R. Gravelle and A.G. Mattar  
*University of Western Ontario and Victoria Hospital, London, Ontario, Canada*

First Place (Tie)

**Effect of Carrier Gas on Distribution of Inhaled Radioaerosols**

T.A. Donaghy, S.P. Butler, R.C. Smart and R.J. Quinn  
*Department of Nuclear Medicine, St. George Hospital, Sydney, Australia*

Second Place

**Radiation Shielding/Safety Considerations for Strontium-89**

F.E. Turner and P.H. Brown  
*VA Medical Center and Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon*

Third Place

**Radiation Safety Considerations in a Positron Tomography Center**

T.F. Brown, N.J. Yasillo, S.L. Kronmal and J.R. Roemer  
*University of Chicago, Chicago, IL*

**Scientific Poster/Exhibit**

First Place

**The Role of Some Chemical Parameters in the Labeling of DMSA with Technetium-99m**

G. Araya-Bravo, et al.  
*Comision Chelena De Energia Nuclear, Santiago, Chile*

Second Place

**PET Fluorine-18-FDG Whole-Body Scan and Indium-111 Monoclonal Antibody Considerations When Choosing an Imaging Technique for the Evaluation and Treatment of Patients with Metastatic Disease**

P. Galantowicz, H. Abdel-Nabi, J. Gona, A. Lockwood and A. Bixler  
*Center for PET, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Department of Nuclear Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York*

Third Place

**Technetium-99m-Labeled Muffin for Gastric Emptying Study**

B.M. Brown, M.L. Archambault, K.T. Cheng, L. Gordon, P.D. Meisner, C. Christian and M.S. Sheppard  
*Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina*

The NUREG goes on to address appropriate salaries for staff positions within the licensee's program which the SNM and ACNP feel is entirely outside the realm of the NRC's scope of existing regulations. The letter further states: "There is no evidence that the NRC has the expertise or jurisdiction to recommend salaries for positions within the radiation safety programs throughout the U.S."

Marcus feels that the NUREG is useless, exceedingly repetitive and contains gross errors. "The premises

upon which this document is developed are erroneous, and there is so much disinformation, false inference and spin doctoring, that it has no serious value," she said. "The authors obviously lack certain essential and virtually all quantitative knowledge of radiation physics, radiation biology and health physics, as well as a useful understanding of the practices of medicine and pharmacy or the management of medical institutions."

Descriptions contained in the NUREG overestimate the radiation

hazards of a nuclear medicine department and could actually be describing a weapons factory or a nuclear power plant, according to Marcus.

Aside from severe scientific and medical shortcomings, Marcus also feels that there is the potential for license abuse by imposing capricious requirements not subject to public scrutiny through the rule-making process and that the NRC further oversteps its regulatory bounds. "The FDA has jurisdiction of radiologic devices, not the NRC," she said. "The NRC's escalation of sealed source device evaluation authority into dual-regulation and super-regulation of the FDA is highly inappropriate."

The use of consultants, which is under the jurisdiction of individual licensees, has also been addressed in the NUREG in a manner that the SNM and ACNP feel that should be entirely deleted. Both organizations feel that the discussion of "contractual agreements and the role of consultants is unnecessary and intrusive."

Both organizations further state that the NRC should never be in a position to judge a consultant's performance, but should instead focus on the performance of the licensees. Specifically, "if a licensee chooses to use a consultant as an RSO, then that person would be judged under the same qualifications for any other person applying to be an RSO. There are no separate regulations concerning the use of consultants as RSOs."

The SNM and ACNP stress that the role of the NRC is to protect the public from the mishandling of radioactive material but that the NUREG will do little to enhance the current regulations and will more likely confuse licensees "as to what steps are necessary to be in full compliance."

Marcus feels that the NUREG "should be a profound embarrassment to the NRC management and the Commission" and recommends that it be discarded entirely while an investigation is launched into how and why it was written in the first place.

**New NMTCB Eligibility Requirements**

Beginning January 1, 1996, all first-time NMTCB examination applicants must have graduated from programs in nuclear medicine technology accredited by CAHEA/JRCNMT. For applicants pursuing an alternate route of eligibility, applications must be received before December 31, 1995 and all eligibility requirements must be completed within 30 days after the examination date.

These alternate eligibility candidates must be high school graduates (or equivalent) and have clinical experience supervised by a physician (MD/DO) board-certified in nuclear radiology, nuclear medicine (ABNM), isotopic pathology (ABP) or an authorized physician user of radioactive materials with special competency in nuclear medicine.

Applicants wishing to apply for the examination without completing a CAHEA/JRCNMT-accredited program must provide documented evidence of one of the following: A bachelor's or associate's degree in one of the physical or biological sciences; or national certification as a registered medical technologist (MT), a registered radiologic technologist (RT) or a registered nurse (RN).

If an applicant's clinical experience began before January 1, 1979, they must have 3 years or 6,000 hours of clinical experience in nuclear medicine technology. If an applicant began his or her clinical experience after January 1, 1979, they must have 4 years or 8,000 hours of clinical experience in nuclear medicine technology.

High school graduates (or equivalents) without one of the aforementioned degrees or certifications must have begun their clinical experience before January 1, 1987 and have completed 6 years or 12,000 hours of clinical experience in nuclear medicine technology by December 31, 1993.

Candidates with equivalent qualifications may petition the Credentials

**TECHNOLOGIST SECTION AWARDS**

The following were recipients of awards presented during the 41st Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida:

**Student Scientific Paper**

**The Use of Hetastarch Versus Dextran-70 to Settle Blood During White Blood Cell Labeling**

C. J. Manatt

*University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Charlottesville, Virginia*

**Student Scientific Poster**

**Quantitation of Urinary Bladder Activity by Anterior and Posterior Planar Imaging and a Simple Mathematical Approach**

M. Behar, D. Drabkin, M. Georgiou, M. Jabir and G.N. Sfakianakis

*Jackson Memorial Medical Center, Miami, Florida*

**Cardiovascular Council Awards**

First Place

**Technical Considerations for Simultaneous Transmission and Emission Myocardial Perfusion Imaging Utilizing Triple-Head SPECT**

R.J. Ackermann, S.R. Pitt, E.P. Ficaro and J.R. Corbett

*University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, Michigan*

Second Place

**Planar Versus SPECT Gated Blood Pool Imaging, Ejection Fraction and Volume Determination Using Backprojection Method**

J. Heo and A. Iskandrian

*Philadelphia Heart Institute, Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Third Place

**Simplification of Radionuclide Angiogram Dosage Adjustment Chart Using Linear Equations**

R.B. Glynn, J.C. Hung, D.W. Mahoney and P.C. Wollan

*Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota*

Committee for consideration, but they must be certain to include any supporting documentation.

**Congress Stressing Importance of Medical Technology**

All too often, medical technology is cited as one of the villains in increasing health care costs. In an effort to fight this negative perception, a group of Congressmen and industry representatives have combined their efforts to tout the numerous technological developments that reduce medical costs while enhancing treatment.

Leading this initiative are Reps. Tim Valentine (D) of North Carolina and Jim Ramstad (R) of Minnesota who noted during a recent discussion that the issue of new and emerging technology was not covered in any of the current health care proposals. Therefore, a 36-member Congression-

al medical technology caucus has been formed to act as a proactive resource in health care reform legislation being evaluated by the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Among the concerns discussed were a burdensome health care bureaucracy which might stifle new technological innovation, the need for comprehensive technology information and tactics which would encourage new technological developments.

The Congressional discussion raised several pertinent points, including the bottle-neck approach in the proposed National Health Board and National Quality Management Council that will make an already restrictive approval process even more restrictive; the Agency for Health Care Policy Research, useful for detailed, long-range patient consequences, but not able to establish a rapid approval

process for new technologies; and the attention needed for quality of life and short-term versus long-term benefits.

The caucus will stress the need to develop a federal clearinghouse of data in order to assist decision making, and to emphasize the need for a flexible system which encourages technology assessment at the local level.

**Most Americans Would Follow Doctors' Orders Despite Anger Over Radiation Tests**

According to a recent Gallup poll, nine out of ten Americans would have a diagnostic radiation test performed despite their anger over Cold War experiments where people were unwittingly exposed to radiation.

The national poll, conducted for the ACNP, also reported that 60% of those queried would undergo nuclear

medicine treatment if their doctor advised. Of those surveyed, 77% would have a diagnostic test that used radiation (x-ray, bone scan), while 8% would consent to have an illness treated with radioactive materials.

The survey, which was conducted at the height of the media coverage of the radiation tests, also reveals that few Americans had even heard of the experiments. Only about 3% of those polled may have been influenced by media reports not to undergo radiation treatments. The public's overall confidence in radiation tests seems to be high as 82% felt that standards for radiation procedures are much stricter today.

The Gallup Organization concluded its poll of 1,000 randomly selected adults in mid-February, with a margin of error or  $\pm 3\%$ .

**JNMT Best Paper of 1993**

The associate editors of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology selected Alberto J. Arroyo, CNMT, for the Outstanding Paper Award for 1993.

Arroyo's paper, "Effective Renal Plasma Flow Determination Using Technetium-99m-MAG3: Comparison of Two Techniques with the Tauxe Method," appeared in the September 1993 issue of JNMT. In this paper the author compared two camera techniques, which did not require blood samples, with the Tauxe method to determine their abilities to ascertain effective renal plasma flow in 50 patients with renal impairment. The paper presented comprehensive data which showed that by applying a camera method to  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -MAG3, effective renal plasma flow determinations similar to the Tauxe method could be obtained.

A \$100 check and a plaque commemorating the award was presented to Arroyo at the Technologist Section's Business Meeting in Orlando.