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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During my visits to Chapter meetings, I have been impressed with the generally positive attitude expressed by many members of the Society about the future of nuclear medicine. However, many members have also commented on the changes brought about by or facing nuclear medicine in relation to the prospective payment system. There is a need for all nuclear medicine technologists to be aware of the changes taking place in health care delivery. One change in particular is the increasing demand by hospital administrators (especially in rural areas) for the multi-skilled practitioner. At the ASAHP meeting in Dallas during November, discussion about the establishment of training programs and which skills should be included was one of the prime topics amongst educators in attendance. In addition, a meeting, scheduled for the latter part of February at the University of Alabama, is being co-sponsored by the American Hospital Association to address this same issue. The dean of the allied health programs at UAB informed me that a number of people have already registered for the meeting. The fact that college deans and hospital administrators will be making decisions on which programs to lump together is a sobering thought. The Section, however, will be represented at that meeting. The era of the

multi-skilled practitioner is upon us and we cannot afford to ignore it.

Although we must remain adaptable, maintaining our hard won identity as nuclear medicine technologists is our primary goal. At the Palm Beach meeting, I plan to meet with various members of the Section to discuss this issue and, if necessary, present a plan of action based on recommendations from this group to the National Council. We as nuclear medicine technologists must be proactive in dealing with this issue.

I want to thank the many members who have written their representatives in Congress to request co-sponsorship of H.J. Resolution 297. We are almost there, but we still need more co-sponsors. Write now, ask for their support to establish a "National Nuclear Medicine Week." Contact your Chapter President, NCD, or legislative network member to see if your representative has agreed to co-sponsor the resolution. If so—write a letter of thanks. If not—write a letter asking for support of this resolution by co-sponsoring H.J. Resolution 297.

National Nuclear Medicine Week will only come about with the active support of the entire membership. I look forward to seeing many of you in Palm Beach and hope somewhat belatedly that all of you have a happy and prosperous New Year.