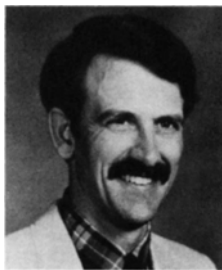


# Message From The Acting President

The March issue of the *Journal* reflects a change in Editor. To Paul Christian, who has served as *Journal* editor for the last six years, we say thank you. We look forward to an equally gratifying and successful editorship with Sue Weiss at the helm.



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The manpower shortage has been the topic of most concern in recent months as evidenced by the following activities:

Recently, I met with members of the ACNP Corporate Subcommittee to discuss technologist training. Much of the discussion focused upon the current shortage—specifically, how to recruit students and how to retain the technologists currently working in the field. Of particular interest was the fact that the number of technologists taking examinations continues to decrease while the supply of technologists continues to decrease.

The second manpower summit, attended by 17 professional organizations, was held in Chicago in November. The goals of the summit are to develop and implement programs in the areas of edu-

cation, government relations, recruitment, and retention. At the Summit, it was reported that schools of nuclear medicine technology are currently operating at 60% capacity and the number of first-time examinees for certification is down by 40% since 1985. Our problem is to fill the current schools to capacity.

The second meeting of all imaging societies met in Chicago during the RSNA meeting. In a session, sponsored by the Tech Section and chaired by Sue Weiss, enhancing the image of the profession was emphasized. Projects discussed to achieve this included: developing a roster of schools that have re-entry programs, developing articles on retention, and working with RSNA to access the press at its meeting next year. Also at RSNA, Sheila Rosenfeld addressed multi-competency to the Associated Science Group.

Factors affecting allied health professions were discussed at a November ASAHP meeting. Kevin Brooks and Virginia Pappas attended the meeting at which development of a licensure position statement to be released by ASAHP later in the year was discussed. I believe that the technologist input on this issue has been valuable.

Problems of staffing and personnel as it relates to the health care providers

were discussed at the AHA meeting in Washington. In addition, solutions to dealing with the supply/demand dilemma were addressed.

Radworks is still available from AHRA for those in management. The book can be helpful in calculating the number of FTEs as well as determining the labor cost of exams being performed.

The NRC has awarded a contract to a private consulting company to conduct a study on "Training and Experience Criteria for Personnel Involved in the Medical Use of By-Product Material." This study will assess the radiation safety training and experience criteria currently in place to aid the NRC in determining whether changes in the criteria are necessary. Virginia Pappas and I will be contacts for the Section during development of the study.

Other items of importance include the following:

July 30–August 5 is Nuclear Medicine Week. Mickey Williams and committee are working to complete ideas for this year's campaign. Let's show our support this year. Remember that posters and buttons can be purchased at the June meeting in St. Louis.

Finally, I want to thank the Southeast Chapter and Bob Bowen for hosting me at the chapter meeting in Charleston, SC.