

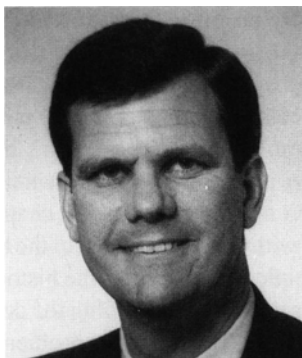
MESSAGE FROM THE P R E S I D E N T

In January 1988, an agreement was made between the American Healthcare Radiology Administrators (AHRA) and the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNM-TS), wherein the SNM-TS agreed to contribute \$11,000.00 to the AHRA/RADWORKS project for the completion of data collection and analysis for five nuclear medicine procedures to be included as a part of the RADWORKS manual. I am happy to report that the study has been completed and the results of the five nuclear medicine procedures were recently (Aug. 1990) included in the RADWORKS manual.

The RADWORKS manual is the result of several years of AHRA-sponsored research and is designed as a resource to assist radiology and nuclear medicine department managers in making intelligent decisions regarding time management of their technical staff. The RADWORKS project originated in 1984 and was developed as a uniform workload measurement system for the diverse environment of radiology. At the initiation of the project, several allied radiology organizations participated in the workload measurement study and assisted with the data collection. Under the direction of the AHRA, the SNM-TS was joined by the American College of Radiology, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Hospital Management Systems Society, Radiology Business Managers Association, and the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Throughout the course of the data collection for Phase I and Phase II of the study, there averaged 44 hospitals nationwide participating in data submission.

The nuclear medicine procedures that have been studied include bone scan, stress-thallium scan (planar and SPECT), lung scan, thyroid scan with uptake, hepatobiliary scan, gated blood-pool imaging (with and without exercise), first-pass cardiac imaging, and inflammatory imaging (^{67}Ga and ^{111}In -WBC). The RADWORKS manual documents the time required to perform these procedures with individual variables such as whether the radiopharmaceutical was prepared in the department or supplied by a commercial radiopharmacy, hospital bed size, age of the patient, patient mode of transport, and the number of views acquired. Study results demonstrate that it requires 60 min to perform a lung scan consisting of 10-16 views in a 400-600-bed hospital; of the 172 hepatobiliary studies submitted for analysis, there was an average of 93.8 min required for procedure completion.

The complete contents of the RADWORKS manual includes a variety of radiologic imaging procedures, but



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it is based on the management engineering rule, which states 80% of the department's examination volume is comprised of only 20% of its examination types. SNM-TS members may purchase the complete RADWORKS manual and software program for \$300.00 (AHRA, P.O. Box 334, Sudbury, MA 01776).

Negotiations to produce a single certification examination for nuclear medicine technology have been revived. At the recent RSNA meeting (Nov. 1990), the American College of Radiology hosted a meeting between the negotiating representatives of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) during which a number of critical issues were discussed. At the close of the meeting, each group agreed to determine whether their respective Board of Directors were in approval of continued negotiation, and if the Boards approved, in what time frame this should be accomplished. The Board of Directors of the NMTCB and ARRT meet in February and March, and hopefully we will have a sense of direction at that time.

I am delighted to report that the strategic planning process the National Council and other members of the SNM-TS leadership participated in last summer is currently evolving. The individual components of the six major areas to be addressed have been assigned to standing or appointed SNM-TS committees, and action plans on how the committees will address or resolve the issues will be defined at the Mid-Winter meeting. The financial impact of the individual programs will determine whether they can be accommodated in FY91, FY92, or FY93. Again, I encourage your input, comments, and criticisms of the operation and function of the Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologist Section. If you have a suggestion on how to do things better or a request for a new member service, I would like to hear about it. One outcome of the strategic plan is to provide a membership questionnaire on satisfaction with services and benefits. Unfortunately, that cannot be accomplished until next fiscal year (10/91), but you don't have to wait till next year. Let me know about it now.

At the writing of this report, war has just commenced in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. The collective thoughts and prayers of all members of the SNM-TS are extended to the men, women, and families of those affected by this conflict. If you know a member of the Society of Nuclear Medicine who is serving in the Middle East or has been called to active duty, please notify me so that they may be appropriately recognized.