

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

When Brad Pounds handed over his gavel and deftly rearranged the contours of my necktie with a pair of scissors in Cincinnati last June, little did I know that my life as a nuclear medicine technologist would take on an added dimension—the likes of which I had never suspected. My desk at work and my dining table at home disappeared from view. My mail box shrunk and my telephone assumed a life of its own. Only then was I informed that the above conditions afflict most Technologist Section presidents, especially during their first six months in office. However, undaunted in my enthusiasm to undertake the many responsibilities bestowed on me, I plunged my body and soul into the business of fulfilling my pledge.

1991 was a satisfying year for the Technologist Section, in many respects. Legislative, socio-economic, educational, and professional issues have all been ongoing projects. Most of these projects seek to alleviate two major problems facing our profession—recruitment and retention of qualified technologists and public awareness of our profession. In conversations with a number of nuclear medicine program directors around the nation, I have learned that in their collective opinion, the shortage of nuclear medicine technologists is beginning to abate. Not only is there a significant increase in the number of students enrolled, but there is also a noted improvement in the quality of the applicants.

Work is continuing on structuring the Public Education and Professional Enhancement (PEPE) committee. Committee members have been chosen and will be formally appointed at the Mid-Winter Meeting in Dallas. The PEPE



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committee's plans and goals will be outlined at this time.

On the legislative front, U.S. and Canadian immigration officials will meet this spring to discuss whether nuclear medicine technology and other allied health professions will be specifically recognized as professions in the U.S. - Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA). A decision is expected soon after this meeting. The Section, as you are well aware, supports the addition of our profession to the FTA, in order to facilitate the bilateral movement of nuclear medicine technologists between the two countries.

Congress has appropriated \$2,830,000 for allied health project grants and contracts, in fiscal year 1992. This represents a 70% increase from fiscal year 1991. The success of this project is a result of the tremendous effort put forth by the various allied health organizations, including The Society of Nuclear Medicine—Technologist Section.

The first draft of the SNM-TS fellowship membership category is ready for presentation to the National Council of Delegates, for its review. Thanks go to Jim Wirrell and his committee for their hard work.

My first visit to the Radiological Society of North America's (RSNA) Annual Meeting, in Chicago, was both pleasurable and memorable. It was an honor to meet and address members of other allied health organizations. They all readily expressed their desire to continue to work with us toward achievement of our common goals, including collaboration on the development of professional standards and educational programs.