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

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New highs have been reached by The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) and the SNM Technologist Section (SNM-TS): 8,091 attendees in Toronto, 1,458 of whom were technologists, contributed to the largest meeting to date. Society membership is also at a new peak, with 13,234 total members, a hearty 6,422 of those in the Technologist Section. Paul Hanson, immediate past president, led the Section admirably, creating a platform for an excellent meeting. Mr. Hanson, the SNM-TS leadership and committees, and the SNM staff office are commended for their outstanding achievements this past year!

This year, many important internal issues face us. The SNM office is preparing for relocation by fall of 1994. The Society has also approved a restructuring document, which will increase Technologist Section participation at several levels of leadership within the Society. SNM bylaws will be created for this new structure, with completion and approval targeted for spring of 1995. We will need to review the SNM-TS bylaws and determine how our additional SNM-TS leaders will be selected.

Externally, emerging U.S. government policies may place nuclear medicine in a vulnerable position. Managed care may limit access to our procedures. The leaning toward multi-skilled/multidisciplined health care may affect our practice. While it is impossible to predict the future playing field of nuclear medicine, change is inevitable. We need to develop a flexible response to this challenge that is proactive and ensures that the many benefits of nuclear medicine are available to those who need them. We also need to develop practice standards to effectively communicate essential requirements of high quality nuclear medicine practice. I will be working with various SNM-TS leaders to develop strategies that will help shape our position for health care in the 1990s. Additionally, the issue regarding our participation with the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) and its new structure needs to be resolved.

Indisputably, the emerging changes in both the internal SNM environment and the external medical climate will make this year especially challenging. By focusing on the big picture, the Section leadership will make great strides

A great team of standing, special, and subcommittees are in place and preparing for a high level of activity. The following committee chairs have been selected: Academic Affairs, Miriam K. Miller; Audiovisual, Michele A. Ganske; Awards, Lynne T. Roy; Bylaws, Sharon A. Surrel; Commercial Affairs, Thomas W. Crucitti; Continuing Education, Julia S. Blust; Ethics, Marcia R. Boyd; Finance, Martha W. Pickett; Government Relations, Bradley K. Pounds; International Af-



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fairs, Judith M. Hempel; Nuclear Medicine Week, Nanci A. Burchell; Public Awareness, Becky M. Cacciatore; Public Education and Professional Enhancement, Terri M. Boyce; Publications, James J. Wirrell; Recruitment and Retention, Miriam K. Miller; Scientific and Teaching, Jacqueline A. Bridges; Socio-Economic Affairs, Debra Higgins; and Supervisory and Management, Donna Marciano.

Three new special committees have been formed. Marcia R. Boyd, her Strategic Planning Committee, and the National Council of Delegates (NCD) are challenged with determining the future direction of the Section. Her committee is reaching out to technolo-

gists at the grass roots level for their input and concerns about the SNM-TS focus. Through the NCD and SNM-TS chapter presidents, each chapter will create a survey and guidelines on strategic planning, with a stringent survey return deadline of November 1, 1993. I appeal to each of you to participate and make your voice heard in this process. The committee will meet this fall to review the material received from the chapters and determine our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to nuclear medicine (SWOT analysis). At the SNM Midwinter Meeting, the NCD will determine objectives for the strategic plan. Final approval of the plan by the NCD is targeted for the SNM Annual Meeting in June 1994.

Kenneth J. Lafferty, and his Manpower Data Committee will be collecting information to contribute to an allied health database. The U.S. Bureau of Health Professions provided a grant to the American Society of Allied Health Professionals (ASAHP) to establish this database in response to health care reform issues. Rick Bearden and his NCD Review Committee will be investigating the administrative structure and procedures for the NCD meeting in an effort to improve the exchange of ideas and the efficiency of the meeting.

SNM President Richard C. Reba, MD, demonstrating his support for the Technologist Section, appointed many more technologists to SNM committees than have been appointed in previous years. Dr. Reba also made clear his intent to work closely with the Section to promote good communication and assist wherever possible. I appreciate this and look forward to working closely with the Society leadership.

This year, in addition to the usual administration duties of the SNM and the SNM-TS leadership, we are faced with internal changes and an unprecedented potential change in the overall U.S. health care system, which will affect the world of nuclear medicine. Maintaining and improving our position in light of these changes will be our challenge.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your leader; thank you for your support. Please contact me with your suggestions and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.