

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

**F**or the first time in the history of the Society of Nuclear Medicine—Technologist Section (SNM-TS), a previously unscheduled National Council Meeting was called to address urgent issues. The events which led up to this meeting began last year:

**July 1993:** The Coalition for Allied Health is born during the Association of Schools for Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) meeting in Boston. Questions erupt in the process: Should we proactively participate in reform to assure that the quality of nuclear medicine practice is not adversely affected? Do we need a unified voice to address funding disparities? (allied health was appropriated \$3.6 million versus nursing's \$63 million, FY93 Bureau of Health Professionals (BHP) project grants). The SNM-TS leadership resoundingly answers: Yes.

**August 1993:** Members of the SNM-TS Health Care Reform (HCR) Task Force are identified.

**September 1993:** President Clinton's *Health Security Act* was late in delivery, but grows quickly to dominate the year's topics. • SNM-TS HCR Task Force members meet in Boston to determine specific reform-related objectives for each committee. The Socio-Economics and Government Relations Committees create the basic SNM-TS position paper on health care reform. It is approved by the National Council. • Meetings of the ASAHP's Accreditation Reform, the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) and Dupont's Technologist Advisory Board (TAB) reveal a consensus of opinion: health care reform will affect us.

**October 1993:** With the Commission on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) disbanding May 31, 1994, and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) not responding appropriately to accreditation reform initiatives, the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) meets to discuss options for future accreditation of NMT programs.

**November 1993:** The SNM-TS Strategic Planning Committee, grassroots surveys and leadership feedback repeatedly express concern over the possible effects of health care reform and the need for more communication. • The Summit on Manpower becomes the Summit on Radiologic Sciences and Sonography with a new focus: health care reform.

**December 1993:** The SNM reorganizes and refocuses the Office of Health Care Policy to become the Commission of Health Care Policy to "ensure the access of the public to quality nuclear medicine."

**January 1994:** The Coalition for Allied Health meets, determines its structure and identifies its leaders (two of whom



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are from the SNM-TS). • The JRCNMT meets and announces they will pursue independence until another viable accreditation confederation is identified.

**February 1994:** The National Council decides that we should continue our focus on the changes in the health care environment and work toward creating a unified voice for allied health. Academic Affairs presents concepts on multi-skilled, multi-level workers and an update on potential avenues for core curriculums. Socio-Economic Affairs presents a newly updated draft of NMT Practice Standards. The Socio-Economic Affairs and Government Relations Committees

jointly present a working draft of an in-depth HCR position statement.

**March 1994:** The BHP and Thomas Jefferson University sponsor a national two-day workshop on *The Role of Allied Health in the Delivery of Primary Care*. Educators, employers, professionals, government and the Pew Health Commission are represented. Current functioning models of hybrid technologists and nurse generalists are actively discussed. The need for licensure, certification and accreditation is questioned. • The Coalition for Allied Health meets and modifies its structure and a forum meeting is planned. • The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) produces an interim position statement opening accreditation up to "programs using standards endorsed by the ARRT." • I am approached by individual NMTs confronted with changes in their work environment.

**April 1994:** The first Special National Council Meeting is called to address changes in the workplace that may affect NMT practice. An educational program with four speakers representing Pew, BHP, educators and human resources provide their perspectives on the current changes in the health care environment. An interactive discussion leads to the formation of objectives and action plans incorporated into our strategic plan. Each National Council delegate and committee chair is directed to provide a status report on their specific short-term and long-term responsibilities during the June National Council Meeting.

**May 1994:** What a year! No doubt, many past presidents have experienced the same culmination of feelings I do now: relief; anticipation of weekends with my family and friends; a sense of accomplishment; sadness; and a sincere heartfelt appreciation for all of the hard work and achievements of the SNM-TS leadership, Virginia Pappas and all of the SNM office.

**June 1994:** Becky Cacciatore, President Elect, and the leaders she has designated have identified objectives that will surely lead to further progress in the health care reform arena and elsewhere. Good luck and best wishes.