

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

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I have enjoyed receiving responses from many of you here in the U.S. and from such distant places as Australia, England, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and Slovenia. Around the globe you voice the same concerns: recognition for the nuclear medicine technologist profession, regulatory issues, continuing education, basic educational requirements and salaries. In every country technologists are addressing these issues and making progress.

Since my December message, the following has occurred within the SNM-TS:

■ **NAFTA.** As reported in the last *JNMT*, the paperwork has been submitted to request professional status for NMTs. The SNM-TS is waiting for the decision of the U.S. Department of Labor.

■ **Health Care Reform.** Health Care Reform may have died and been carried off Capitol Hill on a stretcher, but it is alive and kicking at the state level. Each of you should closely monitor what's happening in your own state as it could affect you enormously. The SNM-TS will release the *Road Show* on health care reform at the Mid-Winter Meeting. This presentation covers topics such as multi-skilling, job redesign and employment changes as a result of managed care and health care reform. In the coming weeks you will be notified as to how your chapter, state, hospital or area can receive a copy of the *Road Show*.

■ **Uptake.** The first issue of *Uptake* was an overwhelming success. You should have already received the second issue.

■ **ACNP.** The SNM-TS has been helping to market the ACNP proficiency testing program. The phantom series is well-received with more than 350 facilities subscribing to the program. If you would like to sign up, please call Sharon Surrel, at the ACNP office at 202-857-1135, or contact Paul Christian, your TS representative on the committee at 801-501-2716. This series will help you demonstrate your proficiency in imaging.

■ **25th Anniversary.** Activities are proceeding strongly with Duffy Price at the helm. The festivities will start at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Our 25th anniversary logo will be displayed throughout the year on the many projects that the committee has planned.

■ **Allied Health Roundtable.** In January the SNM-TS, along with numerous other organizations, signed a letter sent to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. This fact sheet strongly supports the reauthorization of Section 767, the Allied Health Projects Grant and Section 766, Allied Health Advanced Training under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Allied Health received \$3.467 million

for grant programs in 1994. Since 1990, 47 projects were funded including grants to training programs in 33 allied health disciplines of which 9,107 students are being educated. Recently, proposals have been made to consolidate allied health programs with nonallied health programs. The SNM-TS Government Relations Committee, steered by Lynne Roy, CNMT, Los Angeles, will be monitoring this and other regulatory issues. Watch for reports in *Uptake* and please lend your support.

■ **Imaging Society.** The Imaging Society, comprised of AHRA, ASRT, AERS, SDMS and SNM-TS, met in November at the Radiological Society of North America Conference in Chicago. Members agreed to share legislative and regulatory information and to devel-

op a universal form for approving continuing education courses.

■ **National Commission on Allied Health.** As reported earlier, the commission is gathering information and hearing comments regarding the allied health industry. Their final report is due to Congress in April 1995. The committees formed are: Workforce Data, focusing on trends and staffing needs; Workplace Relationships, defining the relationship between allied health workers and other health care workers such as physicians as well as support personnel; Research; and Education. The commission is gathering information regarding how professions interact with each other to provide care. This information may have a major impact on third party payers. The SNM-TS has provided documentation and testimony to the commission and will continue to monitor and report to you.

■ **Legislative.** The ACNP and the SNM, with input from the the SNM-TS, have drafted a letter to the National Research Council defining the training, supervision and management, and continuing education of radiation safety officers. The outcomes will be reported in a later issue.

■ **Mandatory Continuing Education Credits.** There has been much discussion on this subject by members and committees of the SNM-TS. This topic will be discussed at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Look for resolutions in the next *Uptake* edition after the Mid-Winter Meeting.

■ **Japan.** Hiroyoshi Fukukita is the chairman of the foreign communication committee for the *Japanese Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. He has written to us to establish reciprocal articles to be published in both their *JJNMT* and in our *JNMT*. This exchange may open a new and exciting dimension in *JNMT*.

Until next time, I look forward to seeing you at the Mid-Winter Meeting.