

NUCLEAR MEDICINE

1896 – 1996

HONORING THE PAST

100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

PRESERVING THE FUTURE



SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE



Nuclear medicine has had many giants – we've honored a few, we thank them all.

Nuclear Medicine

100
YEARS
IN THE MAKING

Nuclear medicine from 1896 through 1996.

One hundred years in the making. I felt committed

to publish at least one historical paper during 1996. Trusted friends advised me against it. Boring, they said. Besides, they added, many historical pieces have been published already over the last two years.

I decided to reprint four historical articles from *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. I hope to pass on a small part of our legacy to those who have not read them before. Many of us consider these stories to be among our favorites. Like a child's treasured bedtime stories, these papers seem meant to be read and reread. The history of nuclear medicine is both enlightening and amusing. It is something we all share, no matter where we practice.

Dr. Asa Seeds was the second president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 1955. He was one of the founders of the society and he practiced in Vancouver, Washington, not far from the present *JNMT* office. Dr. Seeds served as SNM historian following his presidency. The second annual meeting of the SNM was held in Portland in 1955. Dr. Seeds asked Dr. John H. Lawrence to present the early history of nuclear medicine during the after-dinner speech on June 18, 1955. The first paper reprinted here contains excerpts from that address (1-2).

Georg C. de Hevesy presented the Second Annual Address in the Nuclear Pioneer Series at the SNM's eighth annual meeting in Pittsburgh on June 15, 1961. Dr. Seeds, as

historian, prepared a brochure of this presentation (1) that was reprinted in *JNM* during 1984 (3) and again here.

No nuclear medicine historical series would be complete without a contribution from Marshall Brucer. "Nuclear Medicine Begins with a Boa Constrictor" (4) was first printed in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Society in 1978.

In 1979, *JNM* celebrated its 25th anniversary. That year the commemorative presentation at the annual meeting was designated the Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Lecture. Dr. William G. Myers, who succeeded Dr. Seeds as SNM historian, wrote the final paper, "Georg Charles de Hevesy: The Father of Nuclear Medicine" (5).

The history of nuclear medicine doesn't lose its luster in the retelling. I hope you enjoy these milestones that mark our shared progress, whether this is the first time you read them or the tenth. They remain bright spots that light our path.

Susan Gilbert, CNMT
Editor

Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology

REFERENCES

1. Myers WG. Historian's note. *J Nucl Med* 1979; 20:560-575.
2. Lawrence JH. Early experiences in nuclear medicine. *J Nucl Med* 1979; 20: 561-564.
3. de Hevesy GC. Marie Curie and her contemporaries. *J Nucl Med* 1984; 25:118-131.
4. Brucer M. Nuclear medicine begins with a boa constrictor. *J Nucl Med* 1978; 19: 581-605.
5. Myers WG. Georg Charles de Hevesy: the father of nuclear medicine. *J Nucl Med* 1979;20:590-594.