

EDITOR'S PAGE

Susan Gilbert, CNMT



The Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine is an exciting event in our lives every year. It serves many different functions. For everyone, it is a time of learning. We learn from others through the oral presentation of scientific papers, posters, the teaching sessions and the commercial displays. The usual complaint is that too many good things are happening at the same time. One of my mentors always said that the annual meeting is where we learn how others in our profession think. Every technologist should attend an annual meeting within the first few years of beginning their career and at regular intervals thereafter. The annual meeting is a great motivator and it widens our experience.

Starting the annual meeting on the weekend allows local technologists to attend part of the meeting without taking time away from their work schedules. In addition, the road shows are being developed to support local continuing education activities.

The annual meeting is a time for us to listen to what other nuclear medicine technologists are experiencing. Is the work load up or down? Who's hiring? What new procedures are catching on? What issues are we facing in the profession? How are other departments dealing with changes in health care? How do departments perform competency evaluations?

It is a time for us to meet other people from around the world who share our profession and it is a time to renew friendships. We may spend a quiet evening catching up with a close friend whom we haven't seen for a year or two. Or we might have fun at the Chapter Bowl or one of the other social events. The scientific experts are usually available for introductions and discussions. Dr. Henry Wagner's review of the meeting highlights has become a popular session. One of the greatest functions of the annual meeting is the opportunity for us to get to know other members on a per-

sonal level. The Technologist Section has an active mentoring program at the meeting and throughout the year.

It is a time for us to participate when the Society of Nuclear Medicine conducts its official business, such as committee meetings, National Council or the House of Delegates. We report on accomplishments and assign work for the future. We honor outstanding achievements and we install new national officers.

It is a time for us to get a hands-on look at the products of all the major manufacturers at the equipment exhibition. New innovations are showcased. If we are in the market for new equipment, this is where we can see what is being offered, from phantoms to scintillation cameras and computers to cyclotrons. We are all waiting to see how the coincidence circuits and 511-keV collimators change the way we work. Widespread ^{18}F -FDG oncology imaging may be in our future without a PET center.

For us at the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, it is a time to encourage abstract authors to submit full manuscripts of their work. As this issue of *JNMT* goes into production, all the abstracts have been accepted and the authors are busy preparing their oral presentations and posters. All of the 1997

Technologist Section abstracts appear in this issue. Many papers in *JNMT* first appeared as abstracts. For example, the paper by L.K. Dunnwald, S.D. Hartnett and D.A. Mankoff, titled *The Utility and Reproducibility of Semi-Quantitative Analysis of Sestamibi Breast Images*, originally was accepted as an abstract for oral presentation. Following the presentation, this paper was selected by the Technologist Section Awards Committee as the first place scientific paper at the 1996 SNM Annual Meeting. It was with great pleasure that we received, reviewed, accepted and published the full manuscript in *JNMT*.

Each annual meeting abstract that is published as a full manuscript enhances the quality of *JNMT*. Each of these abstracts has already been peer reviewed and accepted based upon their utility, originality and scientific content. Most of the work has already been done. Full publication of a paper in *JNMT* allows a much wider audience to read the work, as most technologists cannot attend the annual meeting every year. We invite every abstract author to submit their paper to *JNMT*. We hope each and every one of you responds to this invitation.