the population due to radiation from cosmic sources, radionuclides in the earth, internally deposited radionuclides, inhaled radioactivity, and fallout from nuclear weapons tests.

The primary usefulness of this report is seen to be in the areas of applied health physics and environmental health, most probably dealing with situations involving contamination from reactor releases.

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NMT AV Reviews

CUT THE QUABS and QUALITY ASSURANCE IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE

L. David Wells and Buck A. Rhodes, Educational Resource Center, Kansas City, Kansas University Medical Center, 1976, $60.00 (color video tape)

This package is a two-part program on common sources of errors in nuclear medicine procedures.

Part I is a brief overview of errors that usually result in a waste of time and money for the patient, hospital staff, and nuclear medicine technologist. Examples given are incompletely filled out requisitions, scheduling conflicts, and repeating nuclear medicine studies because of interference from previous diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

Part II gives examples of quality-assurance measurements which can be conducted on in vivo and in vitro studies. There is a good description of the principles of internal and external controls for in vitro laboratory procedures. Reference is made to the programs available through the College of American Pathologists and the Center for Disease Control. The in vivo studies can be evaluated by controlling the quantity and quality of radiopharmaceutical, and the performance of the instrumentation and the physician. The quality of patient positioning or machine operation by the technologist is not mentioned.

The quality of production of the video tape is very good relative to color and sound. Some of the narration, especially the interview in Part I, is obviously being read, but it is well articulated and not distracting. Video tape is an excellent medium for portraying dynamic situations. Except for the interview in Part I, the entire program consists of still pictures. As such, this program could also be made available in a slide/tape format.

In summary, this video-tape program is recommended as an introduction to the topic of quality assurance, and would serve well as an introduction to the subject to students.

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Letter to the Editor

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE NATIONAL EXAMINATION BOARD IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

During the past two years announcements or reviews of essentials in nuclear medicine technology have appeared with increasing frequency in the various newsletters or chapter journals. Their purpose: to update technologists and students in current theory and practice of their profession, and to guide them in the preparation for a certifying examination.

Most of such reviews end with a mock examination intended to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

The simplicity of modern computerized data analysis applied to these mock examinations, their reasonable cost, and the rapid distribution of the results to the participants make them a very desirable *annual* continuing education activity for the various areas in which they are offered. They also lend themselves to be offered on a national scale or, when adequately modified by experts in the fields of nuclear medicine and nuclear medicine technology, can be upgraded to the level of current registry examinations.

For the prestige of hosting similar nationwide examinations some University Computer Centers are willing to offer their facilities and expertise to analyze and score such tests at a minimal cost.

On the subject of nationwide examinations in nuclear medicine technology, two come immediately to mind: the ARRT and the ASCP "registries" which are offered twice yearly by those organizations. It should surprise no one if the legitimate question is asked why the Technologist Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine is not yet entrusted with the credentialing of its own members.

Certainly the reputation and long experience of the