

Journal of Nuclear Cardiology Nuclear Cardiology News Update

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ASNC NEWS

At the outset, I would like to thank Frans J. Th. Wackers, MD, our immediate past president, for his marvelous leadership, insight, energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Society. I am painfully aware of the extraordinarily difficult task to follow in his footsteps. In the March issue of the ASNC Newsletter, Frans wrote about the goals, accomplishments, and unfinished business during his term. His message, "look back, look forward," addressed the following issues: growth in membership, training and credentialing, standardization of acquisition and instrumentation, healthcare policy, Corporate Council, International Council, and the JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY. The last part of his message outlined the work that remains to be done. I am grateful that Frans has accepted the responsibility of continuing to oversee the important functions that he started during his term. Last year we had 58% growth in our membership. Our members reflect the broad spectrum of practitioners of nuclear cardiology: cardiology, nuclear medicine, radiology, internal medicine, and others both from within and outside the United States. There has also been an unprecedented growth in the number of local working groups that are the grassroots of our profession and vitally important to keep local practitioners updated about new developments and to improve quality. The relationship between ASNC and international societies and working groups is strengthened with the establishment of the International Council. The education committee programs at ACC, AHA, SNM (Robert O. Bonow, MD, chairman) and ICNC-II are examples of our commitment to move ahead in the dissemination of

The Society is seriously considering a certification process to include a credentialing process for nuclear cardiologists and an accreditation program for laboratories some time in the near future. Initial surveys show a moderate-to-strong membership support for both programs. Parenthetically, the American Society of Echocardiography is planning a similar certification process. There will be more to be said about this item in the future.

One of the most serious issues being addressed by ASNC is the uniformity of quality of the studies and their interpretation. The Quality Assurance Committee headed by Ernest Garcia, PhD, is working diligently to complete the first drafts on guidelines for the acquisition and computer processing and reporting of various nuclear cardiology procedures. These guidelines expand those developed by our European colleagues who have been active in this field for some time. We owe them a great deal of thanks and acknowledgement for their support. The Health Care Policy Committee headed by Raymond J. Gibbons, MD, is working on a cooperative project on perfusion imaging. The results of this project are likely to provide important outcome data based on a large population study—as many as 150,000 patients in approximately 40 institutions! The Corporate Committee was created from ASNC and industry to promote the product "nuclear cardiology." The Committee has had a couple of meetings and is well on its way to coming up with suggestions for short-term and long-term implementation.

The ASNC committees have been restructured and many new members have been added to serve on these committees. These were also published in the March issue