



BNCS Newsletter February 1999

BNCS Annual Scientific meeting. This was held on Monday 7th December at the Postgraduate centre of the Royal Brompton Hospital, London and was attended by 160 delegates. The meeting was entitled "Nuclear Cardiology: Meeting the clinical challenge" and was split into three sessions. The first dealt with the practical aspects of perfusion imaging, the second the results from the 1997 BNCS survey of UK nuclear cardiology practice and the third was on gated SPECT. The keynote lecture was an overview of gated SPECT given by Dan Berman, Professor of Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine and was well received.

The meeting attracted 5CME credits and also CPD credits for Physicists.

Forthcoming nuclear cardiology meetings.

The 4th International Conference on Nuclear Cardiology (ICNC4) will take place in Athens, Greece from April 18-21 1999.

The British Nuclear Medicine Society will be holding its annual general meeting in Brighton between 11-13th May 1999. The principle cardiac session is scheduled for the 11th and there will be a business meeting held at lunchtime on the same day. All are welcome but please check the BNMS programme for exact details.

This year the BNCS has organised a plenary session as part of the British Cardiac Society annual meeting entitled "What can Nuclear Cardiology do for me?". This will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 26th May and will be preceded by a business lunch. Please once again see the programme for further details. We have been allocated space for a small stand in association with the other affiliated groups and your support, if attending the meeting, would be most welcome.

Lastly, the BNCS will host its annual meeting in London during early December 1999 but the date and venue has yet to be decided due to the problems we encountered last year.

Audit: As the membership is aware phase 1 of the joint BNCS/BNMS quality assurance project has been completed (and published) but specific funding will need to be raised before further work can be undertaken.

The Empire study (previously presented to the BNCS) has recently been published in the European Journal of Cardiology. This is a seminal piece of work, which makes it increasingly difficult for cardiac centres to justify not having adequate nuclear cardiology facilities (*Underwood, et al Eur Heart J 1999; 20: 157-66*).

BNCS 1997 survey into UK nuclear cardiological practice: The preliminary results from this survey were presented at the AGM. Gratifyingly practice continues to expand mainly with respect to perfusion imaging. In addition, tomographic imaging has become more widespread although there are few centres undertaking more than 500 perfusion scans per year. We still have a considerable way to go before achieving activity levels of mainland Europe or the USA. The results from the 1994 survey have been abstracted in *Heart* and published in full within *Nuclear Medicine Communications* (1998; 19: 305-13).

Education: Part of the AGM was devoted to "How to train Cardiologists in Nuclear Cardiology". A draft curriculum and provisional training guidelines were discussed and implementation of these important issues will be the principle priority of the Society over the next year.

BNCS membership and finances: At the AGM, the societies modest reserves, reduced commercial sponsorship and increasing costs were discussed. As a consequence membership dues will increase slightly to £15 per year and the registration fee for the AGM will be increased for those individuals able to claim meeting expenses. Payment by either direct debit or standing order will be explored as a way of reducing administration expenses. Unfortunately your membership fee is now due for 1999, please return with enclosed payment form.

Charitable status: The charity commissioners recently replied following much prompting by our solicitor. They admitted to losing our original application and have asked for proof that the Society benefits the general public, which of course it does, albeit indirectly. The necessary letters have been returned and we await events

Officers: The current officers should serve over the next two years but please be thinking of suitable future "volunteers".

Finally: I am sure that the Society would wish to formally acknowledge the great efforts of our previous President, Liz Prvuolovich, in doing such a wonderful job over the last two years.

Malcolm Metcalfe, President.