President's Report

This is my last President's Report for the *Gamma Gazette,* as I will be stepping down at the Melbourne Conference in April. I can't believe how quickly my two year term has passed, and it is time for me to reflect what I have done over the last few years on the Society front.

First and foremost, we have seen the successful implementation of the online journal, the *Gamma Gazette*, in the new concept colours of the Society, which has been a great success. But this would not have been possible if not for the extremely hard work of all members of the Society throughout Australia and New Zealand. It is wonderful to see all the branches come together and work to produce such amazing content over the last two years, and with this current edition put together by the South Australia and New Zealand branches, we have seen all the branches contribute to this journal during my two years here. Special thanks is also to be given to Rachel Bullard, our Production Editor, who manages to compile each edition so beautifully; and also to Judi Anderson, our Secretariat, who collates and proof-reads the submissions.

As you will all be aware, National Registration for Nuclear Medicine Technologists/Scientists continues to move forward. The implementation of National Registration will occur in July 2012, and if those involved have not done so, I strongly recommend that you visit the APHRA website and register with them so that you will be kept abreast of all relevant information. Whilst the Accreditation Board of the Society will cease to exist in its current form when that occurs, the Society will continue to assist the newly formed national Accreditation Council with certain aspects until July 2013. There are numerous people within the Society who have been heavily involved in this process over the last few years. Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, I would specifically like to thank the following for their tireless work in this arena. They include David Lyall, Bridget Chappell, David Thomas, Elizabeth Bailey, Julie Crouch, and our SA representative – Adam Freeborn. More recently, Geoff Roff has also represented the Society in continued discussion with AMRSAC regarding our further involvement in the future. The paperwork which had to be ploughed through and the documents generated were phenomenal and could not have been done without the generous donation of their time and efforts to this matter.

The website committee has also been diligently been putting together the new website which will have dedicated member only sites for CPD and e-Learning. Thanks to the website committee members which include Geoff Roff, Peter Collins, Doug Mackey and Robert Barnett. I believe that we are on target for the official launch at the Melbourne conference in April.

There has been considerable efforts made in increasing our international profile, which has been very successful, with the involvement of representatives from the Society in various aspects to promote the high quality nuclear medicine which is practiced in our region. We have also been asked to assist with the curriculum for the Asian School of Nuclear Medicine, and other activities in nuclear medicine worldwide. I don't think there is a single continent in the world where nuclear medicine is practiced which has been spared our presence! There are many people to thank for this who have not only donated their time, but also funded themselves for many of these activities, including Andrew Scott, Peter Collins, Dale Bailey, Vijay Kumar, Heather Patterson and other members of the International Relations Committee, who will now concentrate their efforts this year to winning the bid to bring the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology Congress to Melbourne in 2018, with the voting to be held at the EANM in October 2012.

More recently, the Society has also been invited to consult on a project which is being led by Prof Andrew Scott from the Austin Hospital in Melbourne, to advise the Department of Health on the broader uses of PET in Australia and to investigate the use of radiopharmaceuticals in nuclear medicine services (including PET). This project will also be in consultation with the ANZAPNM and other relevant parties as well.

As mentioned at the last AGM in Darwin, the Society is moving towards restructuring its management structure and will be advertising for a General Manager with the intention to increase the professional profile of the Society nationally, liaising with government, and also on the international scene. More information on this will be available at the Melbourne conference.

Speaking of the Melbourne conference, we are now only less than 2 months away from the Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne, which will run from April 27-30. We have had a record number of abstracts submitted, a very robust scientific pre-conference and main conference program, with a great host of international speakers and local experts. In response to the increasing use of CTCA, Prof Barry Elison will return for a repeat performance of his very successful "CTCA 101" course he ran in Darwin for those who are interested, thanks to the sponsorship from Philips. Not to mention that the social program is going to be a spectacular one as well, with a pirate-themed Nuc's Party at the Wharf Hotel, and the Masquerade Ball at the Marriner Ballroom at the Regent Theatre. Also, Fishing with John will also return with a boat leaving from the famous St Kilda pier, not forgetting the annual Golf with Gordon adventure too. So, don't miss out on the early bird registration which is coming up quickly on the 8th of March 2012 and go to www.anzsnm2012.com.au for more information.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone on Council, Board and Committees, and members of the Society who have assisted me over the last two years, and made my job easier. Without them, and the support of my colleagues and employers at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne, I would not have been able to serve you in this capacity over the last two years.

I hope to see as many of you in Melbourne as possible at the Annual Scientific Meeting in April, and if not I wish you all a very productive year ahead.

Dr Sze Ting LEE
President