Ron Callahan, in his Annual Report to this body, likened his tenure as Section Chairman to sailing. Ken Breslow, a year ago, compared the Section and profession to a ship on the sea sailing a straight course on calm seas. Interestingly enough, my experience again can best be described in nautical terms. I have perceived the Section and the nuclear pharmacy profession, since its beginnings, as a ship on a rough sea. Sometimes riding high upon the crests of accomplishment and excitement and other times deep in troughs of concern and tribulations. Early chairmen steered a torturous course for the profession between grand achievements such as the establishment of this Section and near tragedies resulting from "over-regulation" tendencies of some government bodies.

During Dr. Callahan's tenure, two years ago, our profession was scrutinized severely by the other nuclear medicine professionals. There was, at times, criticism of our profession and uncertainty about our role as a member of the nuclear medicine health care team. But Ron steered us out of that low ebb by fine leadership and a strong commitment to the Section. A major crest came this past year when the first nuclear pharmacy certification examination was given concurrently at the APhA Meeting in Las Vegas and in Atlanta, Georgia. Sixty-one of the seventy candidates became certified and the exam was considered by most a huge success. A special certification was given at APhA headquarters in November, 1982 for those individuals who served on the Nuclear Pharmacy Council of the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties and, as a result, were unable to take the first exam. The second certification exam was given yesterday here in New Orleans. When I was given the responsibilities of Chairman, there was another low ebb. A sense of uninvolved and complacency in our profession seemed to pervade the membership. More importantly, there were reports of unprofessional practices within our membership. From the beginning, the Chairmen of the standing committees of the Section reached out to get new people involved in Section activities. "New blood" was necessary to keep the Section going forward strongly and allow it to continue to exert a strong leadership influence within the nuclear pharmacy profession. With the help of all of the fine committees that resulted,
the Section now has a new vigor and the profession is enjoying the acceptance and professional stature that it deserves.

The Regulatory Affairs Committee is one of the most important and usually the most active standing committees of the Section on Nuclear Pharmacy. This year, under the chairmanship of Dr. William Porter, the Regulatory Affairs Committee was responsive to several regulatory issues. The Committee commented on the FDA-BRH proposed rules #78N-2749 and #78N-2755 which would have classified radionuclide generators and dose calibrators as devices. The Committee opposed this obvious duplication of regulatory intervention with respect to these items. The proposal was ultimately withdrawn.

The Committee was not as successful in dealing with the State of Washington which imposed an additional 30% tax or incoming low level radiation waste in addition to previous rate increases totaling approximately 273% since June, 1980. Our protest letter was acknowledged, however, the bill was signed by the Governor.

A proposed draft of the revised FDA Guidelines for when a Nuclear Pharmacy must register as a Drug Establishment was reviewed by the Committee but this draft was not published in the Federal Register for public comment. The Committee has developed several comments for submission, if and when this document is published. On the topic of the Federal Register, in December, 1982, the Committee felt it necessary to remind APhA that timely information regarding proposed regulatory action impacting on Nuclear Pharmacy was not being directed to it. It is imperative that those individuals responsible for reviewing the Federal Register be attentive to these matters and work with all regulatory groups within our Association to safeguard our rights and interests.

The Regulatory Affairs Committee also requested information regarding the impact of the recently approved Orphan Drug Bill on radiopharmaceuticals. The Committee is continuing to work in this area to determine if certain investigational radiopharmaceuticals may receive NDA approval more quickly because of this legislation. Finally, the Committee is now working to support an effort to obtain exemption from D.O.T. for the preparation of shipping papers related to the routine shipments from nuclear pharmacies to their customers.

The Educational Affairs Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. George Hinkle was also very active this past year. The Committee has developed a list of references for the
Nuclear Pharmacy Certification Examination. This list is for review purposes and would not be useful as a primary learning tool for someone who has not learned the basic material previously. The Committee has considered including such a list in the packet of material received by individuals who register for the exam. The final format is still under consideration.

The Committee studied the question of recertification vs. continuing education as a means of maintaining certification. The consensus of the Committee is that a continuing education requirement would better serve the purpose of maintaining continuing competency in Nuclear Pharmacy and perhaps would encourage a more active role by certified Nuclear pharmacists in various programs and professional organizations than would a singular examination given once every 4-5 years. This topic is to be discussed further during this meeting.

The Committee had as one of its goals the finalization of the Nuclear Pharmacy Practice Standards revision. The Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties has sought funds from private and public sources to assist in a general survey of the entire Section membership concerning the review revision of the Standards. To date, no progress has been made due to lack of such funding. This process is very important since only by having a true knowledge of the practice of Nuclear Pharmacy can a true and fair examination be developed to certify individuals in this specialty. The Committee intends to continue in this effort next year.

The Committee also addressed the problems of criteria development for accreditation of Training and/or Educational Programs and accreditation of Practice Sites. These items must be addressed to insure that proper credit is given to certification candidates for education and/or experience which they have received. These tasks are difficult and must be studied in conjunction with other related professional groups such as ASHP, ACPE and AACP.

The Communications Committee, chaired by Mr. James Ponto, continued to promote better communications among the Section membership, especially through our portion of the Pharmacy Practice newsletter. The "Practice Tips" component has been well supported and well received by the membership.
The Program Committee, chaired by Mr. Dennis Swanson, has been working throughout the year to provide us with a meaningful and enlightening program. Their diligent efforts will be visible over the next few days and all indications point to a great success.

The Nomination Committee, chaired by Past-Chairman Mr. Kenneth Breslow, had the difficult task of selecting the candidates for Chairman elect among the many persons who have expressed a willingness to run. The results of their activities will be reported at this meeting.

The Awards Committee, chaired by Dr. Dan Ford, developed a special award to honor the unselfish devotion and professional commitment of a small group within our Section which gave of themselves in the development of the first specialty examination in Nuclear Pharmacy.

The recipients are:

Dr. James Cooper
Dr. Rodney Ice
Dr. Ronald Callahan
Dr. Arthur Solomon
Dr. Stanley Shaw
Dr. Geoffrey Levine

These awards will be given during this meeting.

Historian, Dr. Stanley Shaw, has continued to bring his long-term service to the Section by documenting the "Crests" and "Troughs" which have happened within the Section throughout the years. His continued dedication to our group is a model for us all.

The Section continues to work diligently to better our profession and represent the membership. The Section would like to thank Dr. Richard Penna, Dr. Ron Williams, Mr. Jim Emigh and all the APPhA staff for their continued support of the Section's activities. We also are indebted to Dr. Paul Grussing for his dedication to the Nuclear Pharmacy Certification process.

This past year has been an eventful one for me in several respects. The most rewarding experience has been my service as Chairman of the Section On Nuclear Pharmacy. I will
never forget it. I wish my successor, Dr. William Baker, all the best during his tenure and urge that he, and all the Chairmen that follow, continue to promote professionalism and support the highest ethical standards within our specialty and our practice.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford E. Hotte, Chairman
Section on Nuclear Pharmacy