The Section on Nuclear Pharmacy of the Academy of Pharmacy Practice has completed eleven years of service to the nuclear pharmacist membership. Through the efforts of its members who have given their time and resources to serve within the committee and officer structure of the Section, the organization has provided input into a variety of issues that directly and indirectly affect the practice of nuclear pharmacy. From my experiences during this past year, I believe the Section on Nuclear Pharmacy is a strong and vital organization with interested and committed members willing to serve in any capacity that supports the ideas and goals of the Section, Academy and overall Association.

Due to the vast amount of input of regulations by a number of local, state and federal agencies that control the practice of nuclear pharmacy, it seems appropriate that my first and last contact made on behalf of the Section was to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. An Ad Hoc Committee on Certification Acceptance was formed to work with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission towards recognition of Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties certification status as meeting the requirements of a licensed user on a nuclear pharmacy radioactive materials license. Responses from Committee members as well as Section membership in general to the Draft Regulatory Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Nuclear Pharmacy Licenses have expressed our interest in having a statement to this effect within the Guide structure. From a final phone call made to Mrs. Patricia Vacca of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 6, 1986 it appears our request will be honored. During the combined effort of so many toward this goal, it appears additional utilization of the Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist status will be made within the upcoming guides concerning the qualifications of individuals for inclusion as Radiation Safety Officers listed on a radioactive materials license for medical use.

During the year, Dr. Edward B. Silberstein who is serving as Chairman of the U.S.P. Committee on Radiopharmaceuticals was contacted to urge him to consider nominations of Section on Nuclear Pharmacy members for positions on the Committee. After further discussions with him, I submitted the names of Section members who were interested in serving on this Committee. The selection process is continuing.

I contacted Mr. Dennis Park, Director of Scientific Meetings of The Society of Nuclear Medicine, concerning the lack of available continuing education credits
for nuclear pharmacists through the Society of Nuclear Medicine annual meeting program. This is an important issue since many members of the Section attend this annual meeting on a regular basis. Copies of correspondence from Mr. Park to W. Robert Kenny, Associate Executive Director of the A.C.P.E., indicated an attempt to address each point of concern the A.C.P.E. raised about the continuation of accrediting The Society of Nuclear Medicine scientific programming for pharmacists continuing education. It appears the issues have been resolved which should lead to greater quantity and improved quality of continuing education at the Society of Nuclear Medicine annual meeting.

During the year, I contacted Stephen M. Sleight, Director of Pharmacy Service Central Office of the Veterans Administration concerning the issuance of guidelines to officially recognize "clinical pharmacy specialists" within the Veterans Administration system. I requested copies of the guidelines and expressed an interest in developing similar guidelines for "nuclear pharmacy specialists". A copy of the document was received for review along with encouragement from pharmacist Sleight to pursue our goal of recognition for nuclear pharmacists. The efforts to obtain similar recognition for nuclear pharmacists within the Veterans Administration system are proceeding.

The needs and goals of the Section on Nuclear Pharmacy are addressed through a strong standing committee structure which continued this year to serve the membership well. The standing committee chairmen included,

1. Regulatory Affairs Committee: Richard E. Keesee
2. Educational Affairs Committee: William B. Hladik III
3. Communications Committee: David L. Laven
4. Non-Traditional Drug Committee: Jeff Clanton
5. Program Committee: Robert W. Beightol and Jeff Clanton

The chairman of the Regulatory Affairs Committee, Richard E. Keesee, had meetings during the year with both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Food and Drug Administration. Questions were raised regarding the practice of weekly transfer of used radionuclide generators between licensed nuclear pharmacies. The Food and Drug Administration cited that such activity was not a part of the practice of pharmacy. Apparently the Food and Drug Administration provided an oral statement of opinion to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which promptly requested all licensed nuclear pharmacies amend their materials license accordingly. Despite continued requests by the Chairman of the Regulatory Affairs Committee, the
Food and Drug Administration never provided an opinion in writing. Because of this delay, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is no longer enforcing the requirement of license amendments. The Regulatory Affairs Committee has provided input into proposed regulations requiring all materials license holders to show financial ability to clean up potential radioactive spills. The opinion of the Committee supports the ability of the license holder to remain financially solvent, however it expressed the limit of liability should be limited to $10,000 rather than leaving the amount open ended.

During April of 1985, Chairman Keesee made an appearance before the Maryland legislature which resulted in the exemption of nuclear pharmacies licensed within that state from the requirements of maintaining conventional legend drug inventories for licensure by the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy.

The Communications Committee, through the careful guidance of its chairman David Laven, has provided the Section membership with information concerning the practice of nuclear pharmacy. The Committee's efforts were hampered this year by the inability of the American Pharmaceutical Association to publish on schedule the monthly newsletter, Pharmacy Practice, which serves as the major tool for distribution of information to the Section membership. Some newsworthy items were delayed while others never made it to print. Hopefully, the reorganization of the American Pharmaceutical Association has been completed and the monthly mailing of Pharmacy Practice will continue.

Four main issues were addressed by the Educational Affairs Committee of the Section during the past year. The Committee was charged with the development of a statement which would represent the Section's recommendation to the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties concerning the mechanism which should be employed for recertification of Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacists. The statement from the Committee work will be discussed by the Section membership at large at the annual meeting in San Francisco when an organized position will be determined.

The Educational Affairs Committee established an Ad Hoc Committee on Accreditation of Nuclear Pharmacy Training Programs to address the issue of standardization of educational programs leading to specialization in nuclear pharmacy practice. This Committee held an organizational meeting at the A.S.H.P. Midyear Clinical Meeting in New Orleans on December 9, 1985. During that meeting a mission (purpose) and long-term goals of the Committee were established.

The Educational Affairs Committee, particularly its Chairman Bill Hladik, also provided input to Dennis Park of The Society of Nuclear Medicine concerning
the desire of Section members to have more pharmacy continuing education credit available at the annual meeting of The Society of Nuclear Medicine. His discussions along with the contact from others within the Section will hopefully lead to an improvement in the continuing education offerings of The Society of Nuclear Medicine annual meeting.

The Educational Affairs Committee also addressed the issue of how the Section could expand on the importance and value of the Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist designation. Bill Hladik also contacted Mrs. Patricia Vacca of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning the issue of the N.R.C. recognizing the B.C.N.P. qualifications as meeting the standards required for becoming a licensed user on a nuclear pharmacy materials license. The information was provided to her office that suggests that successful completion of the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Nuclear Pharmacy Certification Examination be listed as an alternative to the necessary training and experience requirements listed in regulations from the N.R.C.

The Program Committee, co-chaired this year by Bob Beightol and Jeff Clanton, has done an outstanding job during the preparation for the Section's annual meeting during the American Pharmaceutical Association's annual meeting in San Francisco. Many hours of exhausting and difficult work has been devoted to the selection of topics, contacting of potential speakers and attempts at finding financial support to being the speakers to San Francisco. A copy of the Section's meeting highlights is attached for review.

The past year has been a very busy and educational one. I have a great many individuals to thank for any contribution I have made to the Section's activities. Mr. Sam Kalman of the Academy of Pharmacy Practice American Pharmaceutical Association has always provided very valuable and thoughtful input into the Section on Nuclear Pharmacy activities. Again this year, he served in so many ways to help the Section address some very important issues and goals. I am particularly grateful to Bob Beightol, Bill Hladik, Bill Porter, Jim Ponto, Dennis Swanson, Neil Petry and Ron Callahan for keeping me abreast of what was happening. It is particularly helpful for everyone within the Section to become involved in the activities during the year in order to have the maximum benefit for our efforts.

I pass along my best wishes to the next Chairman of the Section on Nuclear Pharmacy, Dennis Swanson. The progress we have made during the past year will be ably guided during the next twelve months and I'm certain even beyond that. I am most impressed by the devotion and concern for the Section the membership in general continues to display.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. Hinkle, R.Ph., M.S., B.C.N.P.