

Happy Third Birthday: The World Journal of Nuclear Medicine



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The first regular issue of the World Journal of Nuclear Medicine was released in October 2002 at the inaugural ceremony of the 8th Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology. The Journal began as a concept in 2000 by Professor Ajit Padhy, then head of the Nuclear Medicine section of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as Executive Editor and Manager; Dr. Savvas Frangos (Figure 1), who took on the role of Publisher and Treasurer and Prof Keith Britton, Editor in Chief. It was formally launched at the 8th Congress of the WFNMB in Santiago, Chile, by President Horacio Amaral (Figures 2-4). This role was then taken on by Prof. Myung Chul Lee, Present President of the WFNMB.

The aims of the journal were both explicit and implicit. The first pages set out its explicit purposes: 1. to be an official publication of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB) with the active collaboration and support of the IAEA, 2. to promote research in Nuclear Medicine globally and in developing countries in particular, 3. to promote good practice in Nuclear Medicine. Its agenda includes a number of goals: 1. to be free to all subscribers, which has been achieved to date. 2. to be a high quality scientific and social instrument in a global

environment. The range of articles both peer reviewed scientific and windows on the world attest to this. The quality of its production, illustration, printing and paper are as good as the well recognized Nuclear Medicine Journals. 3. to be available on line. This it has achieved with all papers submitted, reviewed and published through use of the World Wide Web (www). 4. to be cost effective. By doing away with the publishing house approach with its high overheads, by being paperless except for its final publication, by allowing reprints to be down-loaded on line in black and white or colour for free and by being printed in Cyprus first and now India, it has minimized its production costs. 5. to be an instrument to help scientists in developing countries to publish their scientific work. This may be of great practical consequence in their area, but of little interest to the technology driven emphasis of 'Western' journals. 6. to be an open doorway to the extensive work undertaken by many technical assistance experts undertaking missions for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) whose reports tended to get buried in the vaults of Vienna. 7. to be part of the IAEA outreach educational program with reviews of best practice and in particular the publication of the multinational trials and investigations sponsored by the IAEA. These cooperative research programs are an important success of the IAEA



Figure 1. Dr. Savvas Frangos with a copy of the WJNM



Figure 2. Dignitaries on the Podium at the Inaugural Ceremony of the 8th Congress of the WFNMB at Santiago, Chile where the first Regular Issue of the WJNM was released

largely unmatched by the senior nuclear medicine societies. The Editorial policy is: To be evenhanded and fair to all regardless of language, locality, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or age; to peer-review scientific articles; to be open-minded about opinions expressed by individuals and groups, while making it clear that these are not those of the editors but of the authors and provided these are not libelous, blasphemous or in bad taste. To support and publish the views of the Governing Council of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology and its subsidiary body the World Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Council. To publish four issues per year, together with supplements as appropriate, to publish one or more Editorials per issue, to accept reviews, commentaries, letters, encourage replies and print articles of interest, to accept advertisements and encourage the support of industry in the aims of the Journal.

The Journal is at a cross roads. It is going through one of its most important transitional phases - from a vigorous childhood through an emotional puberty to adulthood and a possibly long and useful life.

On this third anniversary, we on behalf of the entire Editorial Board would like to thank the global nuclear medicine community, our advertisers and patrons for their great support to the WJNM.

Keith E. Britton
Ajit K. Padhy



Figure 3. Members of the Editorial Board of WJNM with the First Issue of WJNM



Figure 4. WJNM Booth at the 8th Congress of WFNMB, Santiago, Chile