



ASNC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ASNC TURNS 25



Prem Soman MD, PhD,
FASNC. ASNC
President, 2018



Jeffery Leppo, MD,
MASNC. ASNC
Inaugural President,
1993-1994

This year marks the 25th anniversary of ASNC. Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1993, the organization was born from a perceived need from clinicians and scientists passionate about nuclear

cardiology for an entity whose mission would be “to foster the optimal delivery of nuclear cardiology services through professional education, leadership in the establishment of standards and guidelines for training and practice, and the promotion of research” (from ASNC’s first mission statement)¹. Two and half decades later, ASNC is the only organization worldwide that is solely dedicated to the advancement of nuclear cardiology. And it has stayed true to the mission envisioned by its founders.

From its humble beginnings, ASNC has grown into an organization of international stature. Ten percent of its 4400 members are currently international, with 5% being from developing countries. A rapidly expanding segment of our membership is the early career faction (first and second years in practice) which has grown 16% since its introduction in 2015. After the first “Imaging Guidelines for Nuclear Cardiology” were published in the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology* in 1996, the clinical practice guidelines, practice points, and position statements developed by ASNC continue to serve as the foundation for the practice of nuclear cardiology. They are widely adopted internationally and have been translated into several languages. ASNC’s flagship *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology* is the only journal dedicated to nuclear cardiology and continues its trajectory of a rising impact factor. ASNC and its leadership were instrumental in developing COCATS guidelines for training in nuclear cardiology, a certification examination for nuclear cardiology, and the credentialing of our imaging labs. The Annual Scientific Sessions of the Society are now the preeminent educational and scientific forum for nuclear cardiology. Thus, in parallel with scientific developments in the field, ASNC was critically responsible for establishing nuclear cardiology as a subspecialty in its own right. Following the initial descriptions of rest/stress myocardial

perfusion imaging and radionuclide ventriculography in 1973, nuclear cardiology has grown to dominate cardiac stress testing, and has expanded to include applications beyond myocardial perfusion imaging and LV function assessment. It now occupies a central clinical role in the assessment of diseases of the heart and vascular system.

Drawing an analogy from the sport of rowing, the achievement of a goal requires a team to keep an eye both ahead and behind, to know where one is headed and also how far one has come in order to be able to stay on the course. The past years of ASNC have truly been a glorious success; a history of leadership, education, innovation, and advocacy that we can all be justifiably proud. Going forward, the Executive Council and Board of Directors of ASNC have identified three areas of focus: 1) supporting research, 2) continuing and enhancing a productive relationship with industry, and 3) engaging the next generation of nuclear cardiologists. Many initiatives have already been set in motion this year to further these objectives. ASNC's mission of advocacy and education (of practitioners, referring physicians, and patients) has continued to be a priority and always will be. In this next chapter of ASNC, we hope that you, our membership, and constituency will continue to communicate, advise, and support us with your enthusiastic volunteerism, as you have so effectively done in the past.

Prem Soman, President 2018 (seated left) and Jeffrey Leppo, Inaugural President 1993–1994 (seated right), with Avijit Lahiri, founding member of ASNC, mentor, and friend.



Reference

1. Wackers FJT, Leppo JA. The origins and early years of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology. *J Nucl Cardiol* 2013;20:6-16.