

# A History of Radionuclide Studies in the UK

50th Anniversary of the  
British Nuclear Medicine Society

Ralph McCready  
Gopinath Gnanasegaran  
Jamshed B. Bomanji  
*Editors*

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 Springer

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BRITISH NUCLEAR MEDICINE SOCIETY  
1966-2016

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ISBN 978-3-319-28623-5

ISBN 978-3-319-28624-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-28624-2

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016932527

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Printed on acid-free paper

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## Foreword

It is 50 years since a group of pioneering nuclear medicine physicians came together in a Pub in London to discuss how to take nuclear medicine forward in the UK – and the British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS) was born. Since the first use of radionuclides for patient treatment in 1948 (using P-32 to treat polycythaemia) and then imaging 1948 (hand-traced maps of thyroid gland), nuclear medicine showed a great potential to unravel the physiological processes in health and disease. During the relatively short 50-year period since the BNMS was founded, there has been immense changes and advances in the speciality: from a scientific curiosity to becoming an indispensable diagnostic and therapeutic tool. The BNMS has been the hub for this highly motivated multidisciplinary group of people which from the start included physicians, scientists, physicists, radio pharmacists, practitioners and nurses. This book is a timely collection of articles outlining the scientific advances in nuclear medicine recorded by the pioneers themselves. This book is a journey through these exciting times, and it is also a collection of personal narratives, telling us the story of these exciting years by those who have themselves been instrumental in advancing and shaping nuclear medicine. I have great pleasure and honour in presenting this book, an informative and an enjoyable read of this journey through five decades of nuclear medicine in the UK, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BNMS.

Nottingham, UK

Alp Notghi



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## Introduction

The British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS) is a registered charity that was originally established in 1966 as the Nuclear Medicine Society. It is the only independent forum devoted to all aspects of nuclear medicine, clinical practice, education, research and development of nuclear medicine within the UK. Nuclear medicine covers the whole spectrum of medical diagnostic, investigational and investigational use of ‘unsealed’ radionuclides.

The Society is committed to safe practice and high quality standards throughout the UK. As well as co-operating with other professional societies and interested bodies, the BNMS holds two scientific and educational meetings each year around the UK and through its committees, promotes education, good practice, organisational audit and quality assurance activities. The Society provides advice for purchasers on clinical and technical requirements and standards for nuclear medicine as well as responding to NICE when appropriate.

The BNMS also promotes the countrywide audit and quality assurance activities.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the BNMS, this booklet brings together the history and scientific achievements in the UK over the past 50 years and more.

Ralph McCready DSc FRCR FRCP Hon FFR RSCI  
Jamshed Bomanji MBBS, PhD, FRCR, FRCP  
Gopinath Gnanasegaran MD FRCP





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## Past Presidents of the BNMS

1968/1969	Dr C J Hayter (Leeds)
1969/1970	Prof E M McGirr (Glasgow)
1970/1971	Dr T M D Gimlette (Liverpool)
1971/1972	Prof E S Williams† (London)
1972/1974	Prof R McCready (Sutton)
1974/1976	Prof E Rhys Davies (Bristol)
1976/1978	Dr D Croft (London)
1978/1980	Prof M M Maisey (London)
1980/1982	Dr R F Jewkes (London)
1982/1984	Prof K E Britton (London)
1984/1986	Dr L K Harding (Birmingham)
1986/1988	Prof P S Robinson (Surrey)
1988/1990	Dr A J Coakley (Canterbury)
1990/1992	Prof J H McKillop (Glasgow)
1992/1994	Dr Susan E M Clarke (London)
1994/1996	Dr D H Keeling (Plymouth)
1996/1998	Dr H W Gray (Glasgow)
1998/2000	Dr T O Nunan (London)
2000/2002	Prof P J Robinson (Leeds)
2002/2004	Dr MC Prescott (Manchester)
2004/2006	Dr AJ Hilson (London)
2006/2008	Dr JW Frank (London)
2008/2010	Dr G Vivian (Cornwall)
2010/2012	Prof A C Perkins (Nottingham)
2012/2014	Dr B J Neilly (Glasgow)
2014/2016	Dr Alp Notghi (Birmingham)



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## Preface

The European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) welcomed in 2015 its 40th National Society and I was very proud, as an EANM member and President, to be present at this symbolic event.

The EANM is based on a broad representation from national societies and more than 3000 individual members, and this mix gives us a particular strength and representation, which is one of the reasons for the success of the EANM. I clearly have in mind the contract that gave birth to the EANM, where two signatures of colleagues from the UK appear. This image well represents the primary role of the British Nuclear Medicine Community in the development of the EANM.

Our European Association turned 25 years old in 2012, quite young when compared to the BNMS, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary!

Both the BNMS and the EANM are lively and well fitted to face the challenges of the modern medical world. Our discipline has unique characteristics and has all the potential to stay as a major player in the clinical and scientific arena.

Many developments have occurred during the life of EANM since its foundation and the British Nuclear Medicine Community has always been active in driving these developments in the best way possible. The British Nuclear Medicine Community has had the privilege to have some of the pioneers of our discipline amongst its members. These scientists contributed to the basis of our discipline in the “old” continent and gave to the European Nuclear Medicine Community the strength that continues to the present day.

Vienna, Austria

Arturo Chiti



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## Preface

We would like to use this opportunity to congratulate you all on the 50th anniversary of the British Nuclear Medicine Society.

Enhancing the capacity of Member States in the field of nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging forms an integral part of the International Atomic Energy Agency's objective to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The unconditional support of British professionals and institutions throughout these 50 years has made a significant contribution to achieving this goal. Provision of training for all disciplines involved in the field and the expertise provided to Member States by British experts has been pivotal in advancing the practice of nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging worldwide.

Through the generous support of our British colleagues, a total of over 800 trainees have been hosted and over 150 experts have provided their support to countless IAEA Member States. The knowledge and experience shared have enabled professionals to bring nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging to the forefront on global scale in tackling a variety of diseases, with special emphasis on cardiovascular and cancer diseases. Through our mutual collaboration, we have helped many countries throughout the world to improve the delivery of high-quality practice in a sustainable manner.

We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the British Nuclear Medicine Society for your support and look forward to future collaboration. We invite you all in your professional or institutional capacities to continue providing support for strengthening the nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging practice worldwide.

Vienna, Austria

Diana Paez