Scintillation Camera QC and Accreditation

The majority of Nuclear Medicine imaging procedures are still performed with standard scintillation/SPECT systems. The instrumentation complexity has increased and there has been a general improvement in image quality afforded. To obtain and maintain the image quality, however, it is necessary to have a consistent QC program in place. The fundamentals of QC and applications for the medical physicist will be covered. As part of the trend to have a standard of quality, accreditation is becoming prominent. Accreditation is now available for Nuclear Medicine and this will add to the physicists responsibilities in QC oversight and assistance within the clinical operation. Current accreditation programs will be discussed.

Objectives:
1. Discuss general scintillation camera QC (SPECT AND PET).
2. Illustrate problems that might be observed as part of scintillation camera QC tests.
3. Present information on the Nuclear Medicine accreditation programs currently available.
4. Illustrate the role for Medical Physicists in the accreditation programs for Nuclear Medicine.