Second Sino-American Conference on Nuclear Medicine

Nuclear medicine professionals from the United States and China met in New Orleans, LA, January 23–27, for the Second Sino-American Conference on Nuclear Medicine. The conference was held in conjunction with the 2013 SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting and the annual meeting of the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM). The previous conference was hosted by the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine (CSNM) and held February 24–28, 2011, in Beijing, China. Adam Alessio, PhD, from the University of Washington (Seattle), and Andrei Iagaru, MD, from Stanford University (CA), the 2 SNMMI young professionals who won a contest for best scientific presentation in Beijing, cochaired the New Orleans conference.

Several former SNMMI and young professional leaders who went to Beijing in 2011 served as ambassadors to host the Chinese delegation in New Orleans. The conference began with a formal introduction from Fred Fahey, DSc, SNMMI president; Warren Janowitz, MD, JD, ACNM president; and Gang Huang, MD, PhD, CSNM president; followed by an introduction from leaders of the respective societies’ young professional organizations, including David Brandon, MD, SNMMI Young Professionals Committee (YPC) chair; Erica Cohen, DO, ACNM Nuclear Medicine Residents Organization president; and Xiaoli Lan, MD, PhD, vice-chair of the CSNM YPC. Leaders from both countries gave presentations about challenges and opportunities in their parts of the world.

The opening address from Dr. Huang and the point-of-view presentation from the CSNM young professionals will be posted on the SNMMI Web site. Dr. Huang concluded his address by announcing the third conference: “I also look forward to seeing you in China for the Third Sino-American Conference to be held in 2015. We sincerely hope to promote long-term friendship, mutual understanding, and win–win cooperation in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in both the U.S. and China.” Zhaohui Zhu, MD, vice-director of the CSNM YPC, said: “We sincerely wish to have more opportunities like this conference to continue our interesting discussions, expand our bilateral academic exchanges, and bring our young professionals together to learn from each other in the near future. The young professionals of CSNM, SNMMI, and ACNM will become ambassadors from both countries, and professional collaboration and personal relationships will flourish as a result of this communication.”

The most exciting and stimulating part of the conference took place on the second day, when 23 young professionals from both countries presented abstracts on their research activities. These presentations were marked by an exceptional diversity, ranging from basic science studies aiming to evaluate myocardial stem cell therapy to metabolic imaging of deep brain stimulation for anorexia to angiogenesis imaging. Newsline readers are encouraged to review these exciting research projects on the SNMMI Web site at http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=12056 to see that nuclear medicine research remains vibrant and that trainees in our field have much to benefit from collaboration and communication with professionals in China and around the world. Abstract presentations were judged by leaders from the ACNM, SNMMI, and CSNM, who awarded top presentation honors to 2 Chinese and 2 U.S. young professionals. The committee noted that the presentations were of high scientific quality and that choosing top honorees was challenging. Abstract award winners were Fei Kang, MD, from Xijing Hospital (Xi’an, China);
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