

Focus on International Diversity and Inclusivity

Vasken Dilsizian, MD, SNMMI President

The field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging crosses many boundaries: among branches of science such as physics, biology, and chemistry; among disease areas such as oncology, neurology, and cardiology; and among modalities, with fusion imaging. SNMMI mirrors that amalgamation, unique among nuclear medicine societies in its inclusion of all nuclear medicine professionals, including scientists, physicians, and technologists. The society also crosses international boundaries, working synergistically with the nuclear medicine global community to stimulate innovation and research.

Working with our nuclear medicine and molecular imaging peers around the world is both necessary and beneficial to the field. This involvement facilitates the critical exchange of ideas and sharing of cutting-edge research, practice standards, and other essential information. Sixty-three



International leaders in nuclear medicine gather each year at the SNMMI Annual Meeting to share information and updates about current and future work in the field. At this year's meeting, from left: Wim Oyen, MD, PhD; Henrik Silber; Sonja Niederkofler; Vasken Dilsizian, MD, and Richard Wahl, MD.

percent of SNMMI's Annual Meeting abstract submissions in 2019 came from outside the United States, representing 40–50 countries each year—and 30% of our Annual Meeting attendees travel from other countries to participate in the meeting itself.

For *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)*, 72% of all article submissions come from outside the United States, with more than one-third of those coming from Europe, 28% from Asia, and 4% from Oceania, South America, and Africa. To further expand critical knowledge and information sharing internationally, *JNM* offers free access to 64 developing countries.

Collaboration with international nuclear medicine and molecular imaging organizations is key to achieving our goals. SNMMI and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have a long history of collaborating on educational activities, and for several years SNMMI has live-streamed educational content from its Annual Meeting to participants in IAEA member states. SNMMI also produces case review webinars in multiple languages for IAEA participants around the world.

Another collaborative effort is the Nuclear Medicine Global Initiative, comprising nuclear medicine organizations from around the globe, which has undertaken projects of mutual importance, such as harmonization of pediatric administered activity guidelines, worldwide availability of radiopharmaceuticals, and theranostics.

SNMMI aims to improve patient health by advancing precision imaging and treatment. We extend a heartfelt invitation to our international colleagues to take on leadership roles within SNMMI committees, councils, and centers of excellence.



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