

Instrumentation Manufacturers Plan Users Group Meetings

SNM WINTER MEETING PRESENTS METABOLIC IMAGING AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

West Palm Beach in southern Florida will draw hundreds of nuclear medicine professionals at the end of this month for The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) 5th Conjoint Winter Meeting, the SNM Technologist Section's 13th Annual Meeting, and the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) Annual Meeting.

From February 28 to March 3, the Technologist Section will offer "a diverse educational program that will enhance your knowledge of the clinical applications of nuclear medicine as well as your awareness of the practical aspects of working in and managing a nuclear medicine department," said Robert J. English, CNMT, chairman of the Scientific and Teaching Sessions Committee.

The educational program includes oncologic and pediatric nuclear medicine, quality assurance, radiopharmaceuticals, single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) instrumentation, and nonimaging nuclear medicine technology.

"We're also attempting for the first time a unique hands-on approach to financial management analysis," said Mr. English in reference to an all-day intensive program sponsored by DuPont NEN, a radiopharmaceutical firm in Billerica, MA. Company representatives will present an in-depth look at corporate concerns and responsibilities in a cost-containment era, marketing of nuclear medicine departments, and cost-effectiveness of nuclear medicine procedures.

During the SNM Winter Meeting, March 3-5, seven instrumentation

companies will meet with users for a two-hour discussion on computer capabilities and research and development issues.

"Unlike the users groups at the SNM annual meetings, which are oriented toward the general clinical applications of the instrumentation, the discussions at the Winter Meeting will be geared toward the technology itself," said Jonathan M. Links, PhD, who arranged the users groups. Manufacturers may discuss, for example, the software design for thallium quantification or programming goals for their array processors, explained Dr. Links, who is on the Executive Committee of the SNM Computer Council, which is sponsoring the event.

The industrial participants will include: ADAC Laboratories, Elscint, General Electric (GE) Medical Systems, Medical Image Processing Specialists, Picker International, Siemens Medical Systems, and Technicare.

Metabolic Imaging

Peter D. Esser, PhD, program chairman for the SNM Winter Meeting, has created an agenda to address the timely issue of metabolic imaging with SPECT, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), and positron emission computed tomography (PET).

"An integral part of the program will be three panel discussions, funded by a grant from the US Department of Energy (DOE) to the SNM Radiopharmaceutical Science Council (Alan R. Fritzberg, PhD, president),



on the current state of radiopharmaceutical development for PET, SPECT, and antibodies for NMR imaging (NMRI)," said Dr. Esser. **[Program schedule change:** Antibodies for NMRI, Monday, March 3, 2:00; Radiopharmaceuticals for PET, Wednesday, March 5, 10:30.]

There will be 19 submitted papers, as well as invited lectures on: in vivo assessment of biochemical events with PET, Jorge R. Barrio, PhD; present and future challenges of SPECT receptor imaging, William C. Eckelman, PhD; receptor-ligand kinetic modeling, Albert Gjedde, PhD; NMRI contrast agents, Seymour Koenig, PhD; and compartment modeling techniques in PET, SPECT, and NMRI, Grant T. Gullberg, PhD.

For registration information, contact: Meetings Dept., The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 (212) 889-0717. ■