

SNM and International Initiatives

The annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) is serving increasingly as an arena for collaboration and development among nuclear medicine researchers and practitioners from around the world. One third of the participants and one half of submitted abstracts for the 2000 SNM meeting (June 3–7) in St. Louis, MO, came from outside the United States.

In recognition of the Society's growing profile in world medicine, the SNM Board of Directors announced in St. Louis its intention to propose to host the 2010 annual meeting of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB). The World Federation meeting is held every 4 y and has not been hosted by the United States since 1978. In a related move, the Board voted to support the application of Seoul, South Korea, as the site of the 2006 WFNMB meeting. The next meeting of the WFNMB will be held in Santiago, Chile, September 29–October 4, 2002.

The SNM Board also met in St. Louis with leaders of the European Association of Nuclear

Medicine (EANM) to formulate preliminary plans for a joint scientific research project. In addition, the EANM and SNM plan to host scientific sessions at one another's respective annual meetings in Paris (this month) and Toronto (2001). Such sessions for the international exchange of information take on special urgency as nuclear medicine continues to evolve differently in countries with diverse organizational and regulatory structures for medical practice and research. At the 2000 SNM meeting, ALSBIMN, the Latin American international organization, hosted a successful session on general nuclear medicine, and other such sessions are planned for the 2001 SNM meeting in Toronto.

SNM leaders also met in St. Louis with delegations from Italy, Korea, Spain, Germany, Japan, Chile, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Talks with representatives of the Canadian Society of Nuclear Medicine (CSNM) addressed issues associated with forming a closer relationship between the SNM and CSNM and preparations for the Toronto meeting.

Symposium on Isotope and Radiation Applications in Taiwan

More than 500 physicians and other scientists attended the 2000 Symposium on Isotope and Radiation Applications (SIRA) at the Institute of Nuclear Energy Research (INER) in Lung-Tan, Taiwan, Republic of China (ROC), May 18–19, 2000. This biannual symposium was organized by INER and the Chung Hua Nuclear Society, with the assistance and support of 17 government agencies and private organizations, including the ROC Society of Nuclear Medicine.

The meeting's main theme was "Isotopes and Radiation Advancing Human Health," with 6 focal topics: radioisotope facilities and programs; isotope and radiation therapy; boron neutron capture therapy; radiation applications in agriculture, herbal medicine, and industry; functional imaging applications in medicine and pharmacology; and neuroimaging and



Organizers and invited speakers at the 2000 Symposium on Isotope and Radiation Applications, Lung-Tan, Taiwan, Republic of China, May 18–20, 2000.

applications. The organizing committee invited 16 scientists and physicians from the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea,

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Blahds (Continued from page 17N)

Blahds helped to care for Mrs. Cassen during years of declining health. It was at Mrs. Blahd's suggestion that Mrs. Cassen bequeathed substantial funding for the prize. The prize recognizes significant achievement in nuclear medicine science and is awarded to a living scientist or physician-scientist whose work has led to a major advance in basic or clinical nuclear medicine science. The Cassen Prize is awarded every other year and was presented for the fourth time in 2000, when the dual recipients were Sally DeNardo, MD, and Gerald DeNardo, MD (Sacramento, CA). In addition to the Cassen Prize, the Cassen estate also established a postdoctoral fellowship. This special award provides an opportunity for recent doctoral degree recipients who have demonstrated exceptional ability to broaden their experience by participating in research activities at an institution other than their degree-granting institution.

Both the Blahds see their efforts with the ERF as having long-lasting dividends for all of nuclear medicine. "The ERF expands the possibilities for the field by supporting research fellows, at the same time that it recognizes remarkable

achievements by those who have been in nuclear medicine for some time," says Dr. Blahd. "Perhaps its most significant contribution is that the Foundation encourages talented young people to choose nuclear medicine for their medical careers." Among the now numerous awards presented by the ERF are the Tetalman Award, Pilot Research Grants, Student Fellowships, the Alavi-Mandell Prizes, Paul Cole Scholarship, and the Associate Degree Student Awards. Mrs. Blahd sees the efforts of the ERF reaching beyond the confines of the medical community: "The ERF can educate the public," she says. "I'm constantly amazed at the number of people who still don't know what nuclear medicine is or the contributions that it makes to the most innovative aspects of health care and well being."

Dr. Blahd is Director of Nuclear Programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (Los Angeles, CA) and Professor of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles. Mrs. Blahd remains an organizer *par excellence*, having recently overseen a successful effort by the Pacific Palisades Library Association to raise funds for a new library facility.

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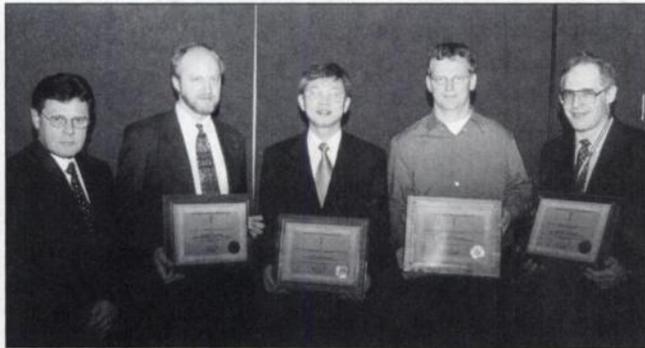
Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom to present talks and participate in panel discussions on key technical issues, trends, and challenges in the development and applications of isotopes and radiation technology in the new millennium. The symposium included 3 plenary sessions (18 special lectures), 8 parallel sessions (34 oral presentations), and 4 poster sessions (50 posters).

A joint symposium titled "Prospects of Neuroimaging in the New Millennium" also was held at INER on May 20, 2000,

and was organized by the ROC Society of Nuclear Medicine and the Chung Hua Nuclear Society to discuss research, development, and clinical applications of PET and SPECT brain contrast materials.

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JNM Outstanding Paper Awards Presented



Plaques recognizing four outstanding articles in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)* in 1999 were presented to authors on June 6, 2000, at the annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. The honors were presented by *JNM* editor-in-chief Martin P. Sandler, MD. Each author represented his coauthors in accepting the award. Pictured, from left to right, are Sandler, Daniel J. de Vries, PhD (Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA), June-Key Chung, MD, PhD (Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul, Korea), Otto C. Boerman, PhD (University Hospital Nijmegen, The Netherlands), and James C. Reynolds, MD (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD).