

SNM Leadership Update

The SNM mid-winter meeting in early February was very successful, with an educational program format that was clearly appreciated by the participants. Every educational session was well attended—some were approaching standing room only. The Disneyland Hotel's sunlit octagonal ballroom overlooking the hotel's miniature water park was filled with 27 exhibitors, up from 22 at the last mid-winter meeting, and overall member attendance was also higher.

Feedback from participants indicated that presentations were well received, that content was timely and relevant, and that the format, which eliminated many conflicts between competing sessions by organizing the material into symposia on specific areas of research, was highly effective. The symposia focused on topics at the cutting edge of nuclear medicine: the use of clinical PET in oncology and neurology, current practice and future trends in nuclear medicine technology, targeted radiopharmaceutical therapy for cancer, and the latest research in nuclear cardiology. Thanks to a generous grant from Amersham Health we were able to capture the "Advances in Clinical PET: Oncology and Neurology" seminar on video. The program will be provided to PET Center of Excellence members in CD-ROM format as a member benefit.

As you may know, the mid-winter meeting is also the time when many of our committees, task forces, and working groups, along with the SNM National Council (NC) and SNM House of Delegates (HOD), get together to discuss the issues facing the Society and our professional lives.

The recommendations to restructure our special interest councils, made at the council retreat last fall and reported in the January Leadership Update, were a major topic of discussion in both the NC and HOD. The retreat produced recommendations of specific actions and structural changes that would revitalize the councils' role within the SNM. Recommendations included production of a standard operating procedures template for the councils, requiring councils to submit an annual business plan to the BOD, and requiring that they publish a newsletter for members twice yearly. The councils are seen as primary resources in the fulfillment of the SNM strategic plan (www.snm.org/2003StrategicPlan) adopted last June and as important contributors to the planning of the scientific programs for the annual and mid-winter meetings.

Some governance highlights: Dr. Warren Moore's committee to update and rewrite the SNM bylaws com-

pleted their task. The draft was accepted by the BOD and the HOD and will be published in the April issue of *JNM* for member comment. The HOD will vote on the changes at the annual meeting in June. The NC approved the PET/CT educational curriculum for PET/CT certification jointly developed by the SNM and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, as well as a reorganization plan and new bylaws that support the reorganization.

The reorganization will streamline the committee structure, eliminating some committees that have fulfilled their original purpose and restructuring others to allow them to accomplish their missions in a more effective way, and streamline the decision-making process by changing the NC's role from governance to that of an advisory body to the SNM Executive Board. Streamlining the committee structure and the use of task forces and working groups will help the SNM reach its goal of becoming a more flexible organization able to quickly respond to issues and changes in the profession and provide relevant information to the membership in a timely manner.

Some of the proposed changes to the SNM bylaws include: allowing formation of additional chapters based on membership type within the already established geographic areas, clarifying chapter membership requirements for non-U.S. members, joint oversight of councils by the HOD and the BOD, and removing a reference to the SNM being "primarily a North American organization" to reflect the Society's international reach. Other changes involve removing redundancies and moving procedural detail into a designated procedures document.

Dr. Mathew Thakur, our president elect and the chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, reported on the plans for the annual meeting this June in Philadelphia. In addition to a first-rate scientific program, plans include a Mummer's concert, an American Bandstand-themed gala on Saturday night featuring Bobby Rydell, and recognition of contributions to the success of the Society by past and present members. The committee is doing a wonderful job planning a program for our 50th anniversary that will be both fun and professionally valuable to attendees. ❁



Virginia Pappas, CAE
SNM Executive Director