

Focus on PET at Madrid Symposium

On May 12 and 13, an international symposium on PET in neurology was held in Madrid, Spain, under the sponsorship of the Ramón Areces Foundation, the Complutense University of Madrid, and the Centro PET Complutense. The symposium was coordinated by Francisco J. Rubia and Miguel A. Pozo (Universidad Complutense, Madrid), who welcomed attendees at the beginning of the first day. At the first session, moderated by Rubia, presenters included Hugo Liaño (Hospital Puerta de Hierro, Madrid) on ^{18}F -FDG PET in clinical practice, and Pozo on metabolic neuroimaging in the presurgical evaluation of epilepsy. All sessions included time for general discussion and exchanges of viewpoints and experience among the attendees, who came from across Europe and North America. The second session, moderated by Liaño, included presentations by Antonio Maldonado (Centro PET Complutense, Madrid) on PET in brain tumors, and Javier Arbizu (Clínica Universitaria de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain) on clinical applications of PET in Parkinson's disease. An evening roundtable discussion was moderated by Jorge Barrio (University of California at Los Angeles [UCLA]), Maldonado, and Arbizu. The next day, a session moderated by Pozo opened with a presentation by Barrio on "A Revolution at Work. Monitoring Brain Pathology in Alzheimer's Disease with PET: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Implications." Barrio's UCLA colleague, Daniel H.S. Silverman then spoke on the role of ^{18}F -FDG PET in the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Both Barrio and Silverman discussed PET tracer binding of β amy-



At the International Symposium on PET in Neurology (left to right): Antonio Maldonado, Jorge Barrio, Mrs. Barrio, Javier Arbizu, Miguel Pozo, André Luxen, and Daniel Silverman.

loid and analyzed ^{18}F -FDG detection of early, presymptomatic changes that accompany Alzheimer disease. The final presentation was made by André Luxen, who focused on PET radiopharmaceuticals for brain serotonergic system studies (University of Liège, Belgium).

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and/or pain, or the need for intraarticular glucocorticoid injection within 3 months or arthrodesis of the treated joint within 6 months); (2) moderate effect (12 joints; significant reduction of swelling, pain, and improvement of function); and (3) good effect (30 joints;

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accomplished in terms of actual knowledge gained and whether or not that knowledge is making its way into practice."

He praised the CME efforts of the SNM, noting that with projects like the PET Learning Center and the PET Center of Excellence, the Society has "risen to the challenge" of providing quality educational benefits for its members and others. "As CMEs and standards of practice have become even more important, the SNM has developed a forward-thinking policy to synchronize its educational efforts with ACCME guidelines and to make CMEs an integral part of the recertification process," he said.

"Unclear" No More

Both nuclear medicine practice and education have grown exponentially since Dworkin entered the field in the

complete or almost complete remission of synovitis). The authors concluded that "radiation synovectomy of the ankle is a safe and effective treatment in persistent synovitis, although all patients eventually experienced recurrence of arthritis."

Journal of Rheumatology

1960s. "When I first began practice, the old scintillation scans were so sketchy that many other practitioners referred to our specialty as 'unclear medicine,'" he said. "Not only did the field change rapidly over the years, but now we stand on the brink of an entirely new era, where molecular imaging will combine with our other time-proven techniques to radically expand the range and scope of nuclear medicine applications. Our trainees and colleagues in the discipline will need entirely new sets of skills and a well-planned system for continuing education that is ready to present evolving knowledge and techniques. It's an exciting time for nuclear medicine." Nuclear medicine physicians and, indeed, all medical specialists, owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Dworkin for his contributions to the foundations of 21st-century medical training and certification. ✿