

From the Correlative Imaging Council

The SNM Correlative Imaging Council (CIC) had a very productive year, with educational activities continuing to be our main function. At the 2005 SNM Mid-Winter Meeting, the CIC organized an educational track in PET/CT. Topics included PET/CT instrumentation, CT protocols and techniques, protocols and dose reduction techniques in children, and PET/CT evaluation in head/neck cancer, thorax, and abdomen. At the 2005 SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, the CIC again presented a very timely categorical course titled, "Nuts and Bolts of PET/CT and Beyond." The course was well attended and covered a wide range of topics, including PET/CT in oncology, PET/CT in cardiology, and state-of-the-art pulmonary embolism evaluation using ventilation/perfusion lung imaging and spiral CT. At the conclusion of the session, the CIC held its annual business meeting.

One of the highlights of CIC activities in 2005 was a retreat held on August 6 in conjunction with a CT training course for nuclear medicine physicians, organized by our incoming president George Segall, MD. The Stanford University faculty gave the CT course, which was very helpful in continuing progress toward a potential and much-anticipated CT certification for nuclear medicine physicians. Useful resources for CT learning will also be compiled by the CIC and made available for ready reference.

The educational program was followed on the next day by a stimulating retreat for the board of directors

(BOD) of the CIC at the lovely Thomas Fogarty Winery. Thanks are due to Dr. Segall for his excellent organizational efforts on both the educational CT course and the retreat. In the lovely surroundings of the winery, the BOD not only relaxed but also had a very fruitful brainstorming and strategy-planning session for CIC activities and future direction. Walter Wolf, PhD, our outgoing president, gave an excellent historical perspective of the council, to which he continues to be an invaluable resource.

The key outcomes of the discussions included a consensus that the CIC should continue to provide CT training courses for nuclear medicine physicians and future program content for the categorical seminar at SNM annual meetings. The BOD discussed and approved the motion that an organ- or system-based categorical course be presented in the future, as this would be the most helpful and appropriate for optimal patient management. Toward this goal, the first organ-based seminar is being planned to cover breast cancer and will be offered during the 2006 SNM Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. The seminar will cover all aspects of breast cancer, including diagnosis, oncologic and surgical management, and future trends. The program is emerging as an exciting state-of-the-art session and should be well attended.

Lalitha Ramanna, MD

President, SNM Correlative Imaging Council

International Atomic Energy Agency Highlights

It was a very good year for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Any year in which you win the Nobel Peace Prize can be counted as good, but this hard-working group saw a number of long-term plans come to fruition in 2005 and achieved significant milestones in other projects, some with important implications for the future of nuclear medicine.

Noting that "Since 1957, the IAEA has worked tirelessly and expertly to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear technology," the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace prize to Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, director general, and the IAEA in equal shares.

The IAEA announced that its share of the prize will be spent to use nuclear technology to solve some of the most basic problems in the developing world. Nuclear techniques to expand food resources and evaluate child development will target childhood nutrition problems, and, through the PACT program, training in radiation oncology will be expanded into areas of the developing world where the need is greatest. Dr. ElBaradei has



Mathew L. Thakur