Inside MI: Spreading the Word

This fall, the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE) will initiate its new speakers' bureau, "Inside MI." This exciting new resource will be a tool for SNM chapters and other medical organizations that are seeking speakers for meetings and other educational activities. The purpose is to advance understanding of molecular imaging and therapy by bringing affordable, convenient, and expert-led discussion directly to the medical community and the public through conferences or other gatherings where scientific advances are shared. Funding will be provided via the Bench to Bedside Campaign.

Marybeth Howlett, MEM

Call for Speakers

Although Inside MI builds on an existing SNM speaker database, we are soliciting new names and volunteers to add to the database for an ever-expanding list of topic areas, particularly in preclinical and clinical applications of MR imaging, spectroscopy, ultrasound, multislice CT, and optical imaging. Expertise is sought in contrast agents, nanoparticles, fluorescent dyes and proteins, microbubbles, and other new nonradioisotope-based molecular imaging or therapy agents. MICoE is also seeking individuals with expertise in PET, conventional instrumentation, and radiopharmaceuticals used in a multimodality approach with other novel molecular imaging techniques. Like the new track being debuted at the 2008 SNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, the purpose of Inside MI is to bring focus to emerging and novel approaches in molecular imaging.

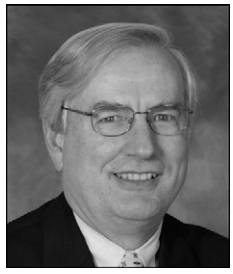
Once listed in the database, individuals may be contacted by SNM staff if they are matched with an appropriate speaker request. Individual contact information for the Inside MI speakers' bureau will be available only to SNM staff. Staff will identify candidate speakers for a specific

(Continued on page 22N)

MOC Part IV: Practical Issues

Articles in the last 2 issues of Newsline discussed the goals and evolution of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV, which covers practice performance assessment (PPA). This article will examine how Part IV will be initially implemented. The American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) expects that most diplomates are already involved in quality improvement activities, including (1) patient safety; (2) accuracy of interpretation/double reading; (3) report timeliness; (4) adherence to practice guidelines and technical standards; and (5) satisfaction surveys of referring physician, patients, technologists, and colleagues.

ABNM diplomates will be asked to log in to the ABNM Web site (where Part IV is currently in development) and list the quality improvement activities in which they are participating. For at least one of these activities, the diplomate must complete 3 quality improvement cycles every 10 years. This means the diplomate must periodically decide where the greatest improvement in quality could be made in his or her practice, measure the current status, devise an improvement plan, and then remeasure to assess improvement. A PPA Project Timeline that details the tasks that are required annually during a 10-year period can be found in the MOC section of the ABNM Web site (www.abnm.org> MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION).



Henry D. Royal, MD

To ensure compliance with Part IV, the ABNM will audit a small percentage of diplomates. During an audit, diplomates would be asked to provide documentation for the activities listed above. In addition, diplomates will have to document completion of 3 quality improvement cycles for one of the activities. In a complete quality improvement cycle, the ABNM will expect to see evidence that the project: (1) is relevant to patient care; (2) is relevant to the diplomate's practice; (3) has identifiable metrics and/or measurable endpoints; (4) includes an action plan to address areas for improvement; and (5) includes remeasurement to assess progress and/or improvement.

(Continued on page 28N)

(Continued from page 17N)
devastating loss of money for research on diagnosing and treating diseases will be followed by a loss of funds to support the training of students and postdoctoral fellows to fill an expanding role of nuclear medicine in patient care."

The committee of experts that prepared Advancing Nuclear Medicine Through Innovation reinforced these viewpoints with their conclusion:

> . . .while history highlights the payoff and public benefit from government investments in science and technology for nuclear medicine, the competitive edge that the United States has held for the past 50 years is seriously challenged. . . .Thus, although the scientific opportunities have never been greater or more exciting, the infrastructure on which future innovations in nuclear medicine depend hangs in the balance. If the promise of the field is to be fulfilled, a federally supported infrastructure for basic and translational research in nuclear medicine should be considered.

Members of the Committee on the State of the Science of Nuclear Medicine included Hricak, Memorial Sloan–Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY); S. James Adelstein, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA); Conti, University of Southern California (Los Angeles); Joanna Fowler, PhD, Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY); Joe Gray, PhD, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (CA); Lin-Wen Hu, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge); Joel Karp, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia); Thomas Lewellen, PhD, University of Washington (Seattle); Roger Macklis, MD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation (OH); C. Douglas Maynard, MD, Wake Forest University School of Medicine (Winston–Salem, NC); Thomas J. Ruth, PhD, Tri-University Meson Facility (Vancouver, Canada); Heinrich Schelbert, MD, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles; Gustav Von Schulthess, MD, PhD, University Hospital of Zurich (Switzerland); Michael R. Zalutsky, PhD, Duke University (Durham, NC); and Naoko Ishibe, study director, NRC (Washington, DC).

Advancing Nuclear Medicine Through Innovation may be ordered, downloaded, or read online at the National Academies Press Web site, www.nap.edu>New Releases.

(Continued from page 20N)
Tom has been an inspiration to others. He inspired his entire family to pursue advanced degrees. Karen Sue has a PhD in psychology; his daughter, Michelle, has her MD; and his son, Daniel, is pursuing a PhD in economics. No one would be surprised that Michelle has chosen a career in radiology and is now doing a neuroradiology fellowship at MIR. Tom was understandably proud of his family and frequently commented on how fortunate he was to spend so much time with them during the last year of his life.

In the Division of Nuclear Medicine, Tom was an inspiration to all of us—physicians, technologists, scientists, and administrative staff—with his determined and optimistic approach to his serious illness. Few of us could handle similar adversity with Tom's grace and equanimity. We will all miss Tom's cheerful, optimistic, upbeat attitude toward life, a quality that he maintained until the very end. Tom will be remembered by his family, colleagues, and friends as a gentle, kind, and caring man. Our sincere condolences go out to Tom's wife, daughter, and son.

Henry D. Royal, MD
Barry A. Siegel, MD
Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology
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(Continued from page 21N)
event based on topic areas and proximity and will arrange logistic details, payment, and honoraria.

We invite you to submit your name and area(s) of expertise to Zachary Hochstetler at molecularimaging@snm.org. An online speaker application form is available at www.molecularimagingcenter.org.

Funding is Available

Although the speaker database is currently being expanded, we are now accepting speaker proposals. Inside MI will cover both travel expenses and honoraria for speakers. During this first year of operations, a limited budget will be available; therefore, we encourage you to apply early. Proposals will be evaluated based on topics proposed by the speakers and areas of interest expressed by requesters and defined by the MICoE Education Task Force. These criteria and the application form will continue to evolve. Speaker request forms are also available at www.molecularimagingcenter.org.

Marybeth Howlett, MEM
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