

(Continued from page 24N)

## From the SNM Academic Council

**T**he SNM Academic Council's mission includes helping residency directors fulfill Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education regulations, helping teachers teach more effectively, improving the educational experience of our residents, keeping program directors abreast of changes in board and credentialing requirements, enhancing research output by residents and others, providing leadership training and maintenance of certification materials, and helping our young nuclear medicine professionals achieve their goals. The Academic Council Board of Directors (BOD) has also made an overture to the American College of Nuclear Physicians to have a joint mentoring program to benefit both the young and not so young.

The Academic Council is planning 4 outstanding sessions for the Association of University Radiologists (AUR) Annual Meeting to be held in Denver on April 25–28, 2007. Darlene Metter, MD, is organizing and moderating an excellent panel discussion on "The Disruptive Professional." Bennett Greenspan, MD, is organizing and moderating a radiopharmacy and practical physics course for the residents, given by Stephen Karesh, PhD. I am arranging and moderating a panel discussion for the Society of Chiefs of Academic Radiology Departments session at the meeting. This course will be entitled "Controversies and Problem Solving in Nuclear Medicine." The other participants are Gary Smith, MD, head of the nuclear medicine program directors, and 3 radiology department chairs: Ronald Arenson, MD, Stephen Baker, MD, and N. Reed Dunnick, MD. Multiple issues involving important and often controversial topics will be discussed. I will also be moderating a session featuring James Thrall, MD, the chair from Massachusetts General Hospital, on "Perspectives About How Nuclear Medicine and the Rest of Medical Imaging May Relate to Each Other in the Future."

A nuclear medicine program committee of the Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR) has been formed. Any nuclear medicine educator is welcome to join.

Of course, many other sessions from the AUR and APDR meetings will be of interest to attendees, offering excellent opportunities for members of the Academic Council to network with others and a great opportunity for residents to present papers and posters. An article based on a panel discussion from the AUR meeting in 2006 will be published in *Academic Radiology* in 2007 titled, "Recent Changes in Nuclear Medicine /Radiology Training and Certification Requirements." Richard Lucas and coauthors received an award at the last AUR meeting for their abstract on the topic of "Nuclear Medicine Training for Radiology Residents: Needs Assessment

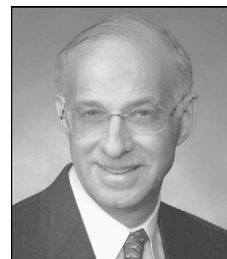
Survey." In addition, an article titled "Recent Changes in Nuclear Medicine/ Radiology Training and Certification Requirements," based in part on a panel discussion organized by the Academic Council at the 2006 AUR meeting, was published in *Academic Radiology* (2006; 13:1405–1409).

At last year's SNM Annual Meeting the Academic Council sponsored several excellent presentations, including ones on how to give better presentations and how to get an article published. For this year, Leonie Gordon, MD, is helping to plan an excellent series of courses for the SNM Annual Meeting and one for the Mid-Winter Educational Symposium. Heather Jacene, MD, who was the outstanding president of the SNM Young Professionals Committee last year, is the new secretary of the Academic Council and editor of the newsletter. Greenspan is the treasurer this year. He and Metter did an excellent job in persuading National Institutes of Health staff to prepare and present the Molecular Biology for the Imager course at the SNM Annual Meeting in 2007. This course is sponsored by the Academic Council.

The new president of the Young Professionals Committee is Amol Takalkar, MD. The committee, with more than 800 members, intends to have lectures on leadership and political–legal issues at the SNM Annual Meeting this year, as well as their annual awards luncheon. Other councils are being encouraged to delegate a representative to the Young Professional Committee. The group also recently put out their first newsletter.

I am interested in developing a competition for gold, silver, and bronze certificates for members who are first authors on articles in leadership training, including communication, how to analyze a balance sheet, strategic planning, teams, conflict resolution, getting a job, personnel management, discipline, recruiting new people, etc. Last year the Awards Committee gave the Lifetime Achievement Award to Michael Graham, MD, PhD, who did an outstanding job in building up the program directors association and Academic Council. I was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award.

The Academic Council and its board of directors are working with the SNM to improve communications and the operating procedures of the organization and to give the members of the Young Professionals Committee more representation on the board. I attended the Organization of



Jay Harolds, MD

(Continued on page 29N)

(Continued from page 26N)

Program Directors Association Meeting in Chicago on behalf of the Academic Council in November.

Anyone who wants to become more active in the Academic Council should let me know. We welcome participation from a wide spectrum of nuclear medicine research and clinical practice.

In closing, let me express my appreciation for the talents, dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work of all of the Academic Council BOD members. Together, we are making a difference!

Jay Harolds, MD  
President, SNM Academic Council

## From the SNM Young Professionals Committee

**T**his has been a tremendous year for the SNM Young Professionals Committee (YPC). We have had a significant increase in our membership, which now stands at about 800. Moreover, many new members are becoming more active and participating enthusiastically in several YPC initiatives.

The YPC newsletter *Hot Spots* was launched with the release of the first edition in November 2006. We expect to have 3 editions each year. Another important development for the YPC this year has been the allocation to the YPC of funds donated in memory of nuclear medicine pioneer and longtime YPC mentor Robert J. Lull, MD. The YPC has proposed a "Bob Lull Young Professionals Forum" that will include 2 continuing education sessions at the annual SNM meeting for 10 years. In 2007, the proposed sessions will focus on leadership and legislative/reimbursement issues of relevance to young professionals.

The 2006 YPC luncheon was held at the Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, and the best young professionals' abstracts were recognized in the clinical and research categories with awards and certificates. We are excited that Martin Pomper, MD, PhD, and Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD, have accepted our invitations to speak on the SNM Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence and molecular imaging, respectively, at the 2007 annual YPC luncheon.

We continue to pursue issues related to the job market for nuclear medicine physicians and advocate CT training and acceptance of nuclear medicine physician interpretation of diagnostic CT exams as a part of PET/CT studies. The YPC continues to work with the SNM leadership and American Board of Nuclear Medicine to help address the concerns of young professionals with regards to board certification, availability of jobs, and adequate education.

The YPC was successful this past year in having several members appointed as active participants on SNM councils/committees. We expect feedback about this "internship" program from participants by the Mid-Winter Meeting in San Antonio, TX. A mentorship program is being contemplated by the Academic Council in collaboration with the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP).



Amol Takalkar, MD

Although our membership has increased, we still need to involve and incorporate more young research scientists into our community. We need to continue to actively engage other SNM councils/committees and other organizations such as the ACNP, Academy of Molecular Imaging, Society for Molecular Imaging, Radiological Society of North America, Association of University Radiologists, American Medical Association, and American Medical Student Association to promote awareness about YPC and establish strong relationships with that will be mutually beneficial.

We have established a motivated, involved, and enthusiastic team of core members in the YPC executive committee who are dedicated to working to further our goals. I look at the future with hope and anticipation that the YPC will become and remain the leader, resource, and advocate for young professionals in nuclear medicine.

Amol Takalkar, MD  
Chair, SNM Young Professionals Committee