

Newsline, contained no citations to radionuclide therapy papers. Professor Ignasi Carrió, MD, PhD, 2005–2006 president of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine opened that organization's annual congress in September by defining nuclear medicine as a clinical specialty in which radionuclide therapy is a key component. Both Wagner and Carrió acknowledged that strict and rigid U.S. Food and Drug Administration and European Union regulatory requirements have imposed almost insurmountable constraints with long approval timeframes and high costs—major disincentives for commercial development of new therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals.

Nevertheless, participants in the summit shared interesting and compelling news about advances in therapeutic radionuclides and about inroads in clinical and research applications around the world. The new  $^{188}\text{W}/^{188}\text{Re}$  generator, for example, with its potential to fulfill a role in therapeutic nuclear medicine analogous to that of the  $^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$  generator in diagnostic nuclear medicine, is being introduced mainly in developing countries. The IAEA ran the first clinical trials of  $^{188}\text{Re}$ -lipiodol for liver cancer therapy in Asia and South America. These centers also have the capacity to make other  $^{188}\text{Re}$  radiopharmaceuticals, such as  $^{188}\text{Re}$ -HEDP for primary and metastatic cancer to bone and potentially  $^{188}\text{Re}$ -radio-labeled antibodies and peptides for targeted cancer therapy.

Werner Burkart, IAEA deputy director general and head of the IAEA Department of Nuclear Sciences, observed at the summit and in his WFNMB plenary lecture that the majority of new cases of cancer will occur in developing countries. The IAEA Program of Action for Cancer Therapy, which will incorporate radionuclide therapy, may support clinical applications of new therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals.

A planned physician-sponsored randomized controlled multinational clinical trial of  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -octreotate radiopeptide therapy of neuroendocrine tumors and an IAEA-sponsored study of  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -EDTMP palliation of painful bone metastases will add  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  to the  $^{188}\text{Re}$  and  $^{131}\text{I}$  radionuclide therapeutic armamentarium worldwide. The concurrent development of shielded boxes for automated elution of  $^{188}\text{Re}$  generators and sterile preparation of radiopharmaceuticals will ensure radiation protection. New IAEA guidelines for the clinical use of these novel radiopharmaceuticals will be published as a technical document, which will be complemented by IAEA training programs to facilitate safe and effective clinical application in developing countries.

The triad of  $^{131}\text{I}$ ,  $^{188}\text{Re}$ , and  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  could thus provide available, affordable, and practical therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals in developing countries where wide clinical application and experience may then provide the required evidence base for translation to clinical nuclear medicine therapy in the overregulated developed world.

The World Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Council of the WFNMB, working with IAEA, has undertaken the promotion of safe, effective clinical practice of therapeutic nuclear oncology throughout the world in fulfillment of its role in the global harmonization of nuclear medicine as envisioned by Lee at the 9th WFNMB Congress. Lee's support and encouragement have made such an ambitious enterprise possible.

*J. Harvey Turner, MD*

*Chair, World Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Council*

## From the 2006 WFNMB World Summit/Workshop on Molecular Imaging

**T**he World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB) convened a workshop on molecular imaging during its 9th Congress in Seoul, Korea, in October 2006. The purpose was to discuss the future role of the WFNMB in the broad range of molecular imaging sciences that are having an increasing impact upon both scientific research and clinical practice. The meeting and many of the presentations focused on the potential role of the WFNMB in disseminating molecular imaging practice and research to members of developing countries through education and intersociety relations.

The presentations reflected the status of molecular imaging and molecular imaging professional societies in both the clinic and laboratory, including questions about

how relationships between traditional imaging societies and new molecular imaging societies will be formed and sustained. Special attention was given to the current needs of developing countries with respect to nuclear medicine and particularly molecular imaging. During the discussion period, some participants suggested it may be more practical in developing countries to promote clinical aspects of molecular imaging that have already reached the bedside, such as the use of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET, rather than more advanced molecular imaging research. The role of industry



**Myung-Chul Lee, MD**

in supporting nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in such efforts was also discussed.

The educational role of the WFNMB with respect to molecular imaging—including potential venues, content, and audience—were also discussed, although one unresolved question was whether an educational program on state-of-the-art molecular imaging research would fit the immediate needs of nuclear medicine clinicians in developing countries. There was consensus, however, that

future WFNMB meetings would provide appropriate opportunities for molecular imaging experts to gather every few years to facilitate exchanges of information and to discuss collaborative international protocols and research opportunities.

*Myung-Chul Lee, MD*  
*President, Ninth Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology*

## A WFNMB Invitation from South Africa

**A**t the closing ceremony of the 9th Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB) in Seoul, Korea, I was handed the official bell of the WFNMB as the new president of the federation and the first woman to hold this position. The secretary-general is Mike Sathekge, MMed, of the University of Pretoria (South Africa), and Gerdus Kemp, PhD, from PET Labs Pharmaceuticals (Pretoria) is the treasurer.

South Africa will host the 10th Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB) in Cape Town, September 18–22, 2010. This meeting will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the federation in 1970 and will be the first time that the WFNMB congress has been held on the African continent.

The WFNMB has members from approximately 80 countries around the world. In addition to organizing the congress every 4 years at the end of the sitting executive committee's term of office, one of the objectives of the federation is to promote nuclear medicine around the globe, especially in developing countries. We plan to be particularly attentive to this objective, with a specific focus on investigating novel approaches to continuing education programs in nuclear medicine in developing countries.

We look forward to working on these and other projects with nuclear medicine professionals from around the world.



**New WFNMB president Ellmann received the federation's ceremonial bell from past-president Myung-Chul Lee, MD.**

We hope that you will make your plans early to attend what promises to be our most vibrant and stimulating congress to date.

*Annare Ellmann, MB, ChB, MSc, MMed*  
*President, World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology*