



Doing More . . . Together

To remain strong and maximally effective, SNMITS must continue to grow and attract technologists early in their careers. It's important that we adopt a fresh, future-oriented attitude to bring this new set of "eyes" to our leadership, committees, task forces, and chapters.

SNMITS has taken action over the past few years to make a positive difference for health care, for members, and for our profession. SNMITS has made great strides in advocating our credentialing and licensure issues to legislators, in promoting education and training to remain current—and marketable—in the job place and in planning for the future.

As I begin my term as SNMITS president, my goal is simply “more.” Let’s get busy so together we can do more!

You know—and if you don’t, you should—how important enactment of the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence (CARE) in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy bill will be for us and for our profession. This bill, successive versions of which we’ve been supporting for years, would create basic educational and certification standards in every state for health care workers who administer radiologic procedures. Enactment would provide patients with the assurance of quality, protecting them from overexposure to radiation during radiologic procedures, ensuring that credible information is presented for diagnosis and that quality treatments are delivered, reducing the cost of administering health care by lowering the number of exams that must be repeated, and improving the safety of radiologic procedures.

The bill advanced farther than ever through the congressional system last year but still has not passed. This year, it has been introduced in both the House and Senate, and we have to show Capitol Hill that we care about CARE. If our more than 8,000 members care at all, we’ll get some results. If we care enough, we’ll get incredible results. *Will you write your representatives (and potential cosponsors) about how important CARE is?*

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ters. We have opened membership to related nonnuclear imaging professionals (those who have radiology backgrounds and practice functional MR imaging or practice in laboratory environments). *Will you mentor a new technologist from nuclear medicine or a related field?*

We will continue to pioneer and conduct educational and training programs that resonate with beginning and experienced molecular imaging and nuclear medicine professionals. SNMITS supports both requirement of a bachelor’s degree (by 2015) for entry into the field of nuclear medicine and development of programs (hopefully this year) for advanced practice-level nuclear medicine/molecular imaging and therapy professionals. SNMITS realizes the need for advanced studies and work experience to keep current with innovations in the profession and prepare for complex work ahead and offers programs on CT, MR, and other imaging modalities. *Isn’t it time that you took a society course?*

SNMITS has approved a mission to improve health care by advancing molecular imaging and therapy. While continuing to support nuclear medicine, the society will shape and define its expanding role in molecular imaging, developing a curriculum to prepare technologists to take advantage of the opportunities offered by advances in this field. The initiatives of the society’s Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, funded through our “Bench-to-Bedside” fundraising campaign, will further advance the field of molecular imaging. *Are you aware of work completed by MICoE members?*

Our new look and outlook in shaping the future of patient care with molecular imaging and therapy debuted last month. We have a unified organizational identity—a look and an outlook—to better reflect a society



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“We anticipate eventually providing neutron beams for 8 to 10 reactor cycles per year and no major shutdown for a beryllium reflector replacement until after 2020,” Smith said. “In the meantime, HFIR users will soon be able to access thermal and cold neutron beams of world-class brightness.” HFIR’s cold source will complement

the capabilities of ORNL’s recently completed Spallation Neutron Source, the world’s premier neutron science facility.

The fully instrumented HFIR will include 15 state-of-the-art neutron-scattering instruments, 7 designed exclusively for cold neutron experiments; new computer control systems; and

a new guide hall facility. Particularly prominent in the guide hall are the 2 new small-angle neutron scattering instruments, each terminating in a 70-foot long evacuated cylinder containing a large moveable neutron detector. The reactor also produces radioisotopes used in nuclear medicine.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

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ensuring that the best treatment is given to the right patient at the right time. Our own Clinical Trials Group will facilitate the development of imaging biomarkers and new probes, and SNM has been involved in preliminary dialogues with officers at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on this subject.

SNM is taking the lead in molecular imaging—through its “Bench-to-Bedside” fundraising campaign—to ensure high-quality, individualized care for patients and to prepare our members for the future. MICoE members have developed standard definitions and terminology; created a new Web site to provide online information, education, and training in molecular imaging; established a dialogue with funding agencies; hosted an expert/industry summit; created a “road show” that explains molecular imaging and what it means to the society; initiated outreach to referring physicians, patient groups, federal agencies, regulators, and the public; and launched proactive lobbying for reimbursement, research funding, and related issues. These educational activities are in addition to the long-standing educational and advocacy services it offers to all SNM members. MICoE also showcased the society’s Molecular Imaging Gateway at its Annual Meeting to demonstrate the collaborative approach that is necessary to take breakthroughs in molecular imaging into the clinical environment—and to bring these advances to a wider audience.

As always, the society continues its outreach to Capitol Hill, increasing dialogue with government and regulatory officers to provide guidelines for the development and use of current and new radiopharmaceuticals, our role in therapeutic drug development, and the creation of new diagnostics. SNM continues to dialogue with physicians, scientists, and technologists in related associations, including the National Coalition for Cancer Research, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology, and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Such relationships will significantly help advance our mission.

The society provides a unique knowledge base, and membership in SNM remains an essential part of our practice. SNM’s educational offerings are unparalleled, and its advocacy activities ensure that you are at the forefront of the profession as well as on the cutting edge of patient care. As always, SNM continues to ensure that every educational course offered (including our maintenance of certification programs), every message delivered to legislators and regulators, every product and service developed, every action taken to promote credentialing and standards is thoughtfully and intentionally provided to serve you, advance your value, and improve the quality of patient care.

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President, SNM

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that is vital, credible, collaborative, influential, and evolving. Our redesigned logo, Web site, and e-mail and print communications honor the society’s 50-plus years of history—capturing many important aspects of our diverse community. In addition, SNMTS has drafted a strategic plan, thinking not only about the future but also examining the past to focus our energy, ensure that members are working toward the same goals, and assess and adjust our direction in response to a changing environment. *Have you considered volunteering to help?*

It is a great privilege to serve as your new president. I want to do all that I can during my term to move our society

forward with new and greater energy—to do more. I invite all members to provide feedback and suggestions, get involved in our society, and take interest in its governance. Together, if we pump long enough, hard enough, and enthusiastically enough, sooner or later the effort will bring forth the reward. I want to hear from you; you can contact me via e-mail at dgilmore@bidmc.harvard.edu. *How can we do more?*

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President, SNMTS