

With our Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, SNM is taking an active role in moving emerging molecular imaging probes from bench to bedside, providing our members with a new generation of imaging investigations with which to help our patients and clinical colleagues.

All these successes are the result of the dedicated support and hard work of our physician, technologist, and scientist leaders. I am grateful to all for their dedication and

support of SNM and look forward to many future successes. I also want to take the opportunity to thank our many corporate partners for their continued support and advice. I would like to express my thanks to the SNM staff for their tireless efforts to make the society the best it can be and for their dedicated work on your behalf.

*Alexander J. McEwan, MD  
President, SNM*

## Our Future Takes Shape

**H**ealth-related concerns top the list of promises many of us make to ourselves with each new calendar year—and it's no different with SNMITS. To remain strong and healthy, the Technologist Section has made the following resolutions for the new year and beyond.

SNMITS will continue to advocate for the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence (CARE) in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy legislation. Mark-up of the Senate version (S.1042) by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions has been delayed. The CARE legislation would require personnel performing the technical components of medical imaging and radiation therapy to meet federal education and credentialing standards in order to participate in federal health programs. Passage of the bill would result in enhanced patient safety and a higher quality of medical imaging and radiation therapy services. Last fall, Technologist Section members joined more than 750,000 health care workers from 20 related organizations in a virtual march on Capitol Hill to urge its passage. Many thanks to all who called, wrote, or visited legislators about CARE and in requesting that Department of Energy (DOE) funding be restored for basic nuclear medicine research. At the end of last year, approximately \$17.5 million for basic nuclear medicine research was included in a federal appropriations package for the DOE Office of Science for 2008. Members of our Advocacy Committee champion these and other issues, including CT licensure issues and the USP 797 regulation that governs a wide range of pharmacy policies and procedures.

The educational curriculum for nuclear medicine technologists must be enhanced. The nuclear medicine technologist educational model—as well as professional and preprofessional curriculum—have undergone very little change over the past 30 years. Technologists will need to be competent in PET/CT and SPECT/CT fusion imaging in the very near future, in PET/MR within a few years, and in radioimmunotherapy as research and protocols develop. These areas of practice will demand the addition of targeted areas of cellular science that are not currently part of the professional applied curriculum. For these reasons, SNMITS supports a bachelor's degree for entry into the field by 2015.

We have approved a professional entry-level curriculum outline as the educational foundation for individuals entering the field of nuclear medicine technology. Because this is a complicated issue, we are examining different types of models and working with representatives of 2-year and certificate programs to advance this effort. SNMITS will increase outreach efforts, creating presentations to use at chapter and local meetings to discuss the new curriculum and entry-level education.



**David Gilmore, MS,  
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Members of our Advanced Practice Task Force were given the go-ahead to collaborate and investigate the creation of a new middle-level provider of nuclear medicine services with representatives of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. The final competencies and curriculum will be approved this year, paving the way for colleges and universities to start the master's program for advanced practice. If all goes well, we expect that the first advanced-practice class could be offered this fall.

Collaboration remains a top priority as SNMITS leaders forge new international relations with members of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine and the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology. SNMITS will continue to cultivate new leaders by hosting its annual Leadership Academy. The first academy, held this past fall, brought together bright technologist professionals—chosen for their effort and dedication to SNMITS—to participate in a seminar that focused on team development, communications, decision making, and conflict resolution. A task force was formed to decide the future of the academy, including the application and selection criteria for future attendees. By restructuring our governing bodies—and with our Executive Board holding monthly conference calls—we are able to tackle action items much more efficiently.

The Technologist Section will keep bringing new scholarships and grants to members. Five new technologist award categories have been approved to cover travel expenses for technologists' first-time oral presentations at the annual meeting, completion of a bachelor's degree, enrollment in an advanced practitioner program, student travel, and clinical advancement to gain the appropriate education in additional modalities (such as CT, MR imaging, etc.).

In addition to these continuing resolutions, SNMETS had numerous successes last year. We approved a new Scope of Practice for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist that includes performing CT scans and administering contrast (oral and intravenous)—with appropriate education—as well as in vitro testing (blood glucose testing and urine pregnancy testing) and transmission imaging. The Technologist Section also set into motion a strategic plan that will continue our work with existing educational programs to facilitate training about principles and concepts through

preceptorship tracts, scholarships and grants, and networking. We are working on developing marketing messages and a recruitment campaign targeted at those in emerging technologies, advanced imaging modalities, and molecular imaging and therapy. To grow our membership, we need to grow and attract technologists early in their careers. SNMETS voted to extend the free trial student program for up to 24 months and allow student members to receive free registration to our annual meetings. We also welcome related nonnuclear imaging professionals to join the Technologist Section.

Moving these goals—our SNMETS resolutions—is an exhausting (yet extremely satisfying) process, and we can always use new hands. Please consider making your own resolution to get active with SNMETS!

*David Gilmore, MS, CNMT, NCT, RT(R)(N)*  
President, SNMETS

## Meeting Needs of Today, Tomorrow

**T**his past year, SNM grew and adapted to meet the changing needs of health care, our members, and the profession.

The society adhered to its **strategic plan** and underwent **rebranding**, a process in which SNM and SNMETS officers reviewed all of the elements of our brand and took action to strengthen and broaden our image as an innovator in supporting nuclear medicine *and* advancing molecular imaging and therapy. SNM's new look—including development and redesign of our main Web site, our **Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence** (MICOE) Web site, and our logo—visually expresses our mission, signaling our intent to address the many needs of the profession's practitioners and non-imaging specialists.

MICOE members have created the foundation to support society programs; developed standard definitions and terminology; initiated new SNM and molecular imaging community Web sites to provide online information, education, and training; designed a curriculum for residents; strengthened collaborative relationships within the wider medical community (for example, with the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Chemical Society, American Academy of Neurology, and American Heart Association); introduced a monthly MI Newsline column and "Focus on Molecular Imaging" review articles for this journal; produced a quarterly newsletter and a monthly e-mail research news service; presented industry partners with news about MICOE activities and available funding oppor-

tunities available through SNM's successful **Bench to Bedside** campaign (\$4.3 million raised to date from corporate/individual donors); provided molecular imaging experts as speakers; shaped a media campaign to promote molecular imaging and nuclear medicine; and recommended new clinical/research awards and grants.

SNM and MICOE officers held meetings with representatives from key federal agencies [the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Science and Technology Policy]; met with members of key associations, research organizations, and companies; created an outreach database; and planned workshops, training, and summits. Recommendations—in the form of a white paper—from a retreat that focused on imminently emerging technologies appear in this month's *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. SNM's third MI summit, focusing on how to move molecular imaging techniques into mainstream medicine, will be held this month.

Our 2007 **Annual Meeting** in Washington, D.C., provided the opportunity to air professional concerns with Capitol Hill decision makers. Our meeting week was declared **Molecular Imaging Week**, and more than 100 SNM members took part in the first SNM **Capitol Hill Day** to meet congressional leaders and talk about issues facing the



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