

# Working Together to Create the Future

**S**ynergy. It rhymes with “energy,” and that is exactly what is generated when the brightest minds in medicine, technology, industry, and communications come together for a week of sharing research, comparing therapies, and moving forward in the ever-evolving field of molecular imaging.

SNM and SNMETS leaders and staff knew that last year’s Mid-Winter Educational Symposium, held jointly for the first time with the annual meeting of the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP), would be a hard act to follow, but we did it—only bigger and better. This year, more than 300 attendees (compared with 233 at last year’s event) gathered in Newport Beach, CA, February 14–19. Although exhibition space was limited, 27 exhibitors found room to display their products and meet SNM members.

We were honored to have Peter Herscovitch, MD, from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, as the associate chair of the symposium—responsible for the education program—and Frederic H. Fahey, DSc, from Children’s Hospital in Boston, MA, as scientific program chair. Dr. Fahey remarked afterward that “the successes of the Mid-Winter Educational Symposium continue to mount. By combining this meeting with the ACNP annual meeting, we have been able to provide SNM membership a wider variety of topics that address both their educational needs and an exchange of scientific ideas.”

Although it would be difficult to say which of the programs in this year’s stellar lineup were more outstanding, some new and innovative continuing education tracks were true highlights. One in particular, the CT Case Review Workshop—a collaborative effort of ACNP and SNM—was especially popular. Designed in keeping with SNM’s initiative to set minimum standards for credentialing in nuclear medicine of those interpreting PET, PET or SPECT with CT, and cardiovascular CT images, the 2-day course provided 100 CT cases for review under the supervision of a radiologist, after which attendees received documentation for CT credentialing purposes. Almost as soon as it was announced, the workshop filled up and had more than 200 attendees. Because SNM’s education department staff anticipated that requests for this material would be forthcoming, the entire program was videotaped and will soon be available on DVD.

The latest molecular imaging advances for heart disease—as well as new technologies, radiopharmaceuticals, and instrumentation—were presented over the first 4 days by renowned experts from SNM and ACNP. Additional presentations included advances in cardiovascular imaging

(hybrid imaging, imaging software, cardiac CT and MR, recent advances in pharmacologic stress perfusion imaging, and cardiovascular imaging) and applications of PET/CT and PET/MR systems (time-of-flight PET, integrated PET and MR systems, and the effects of advances in CT technology with PET/CT).



Virginia Pappas, CAE

SNMETS had 2 new courses: the Business of Nuclear Medicine and the Science of Nuclear Medicine. These tracks were also videotaped and will be available on DVD. The educators’ curriculum subcommittee of the Technologist Section reviewed rough drafts of the curricula and will make its final approval at the Annual Meeting June 14–18 in New Orleans.

The combined ACNP/SNM meeting was capped off by a 3-day Molecular Imaging Summit, “Molecular Imaging: The Future of Modern Medicine,” sponsored by SNM’s Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE). The energy continued to flow through this focus on the growing area of molecular imaging, and the presenters reinforced the solid foundation in basic research, instrumentation, drug development, clinical issues, and education needs begun at last year’s meeting. It all began with a keynote address by Mauro Ferrari, PhD, one of the founders of the field of biomedical nanotechnology and an extremely productive translational scientist.

Other featured speakers during this segment included Scott Gottlieb, MD, columnist with the *Wall Street Journal*; Jonathan Alter, columnist with the *New York Times*; and distinguished SNM members Robert Atcher, PhD (SNM president-elect), and Peter Conti, MD, PhD. These speakers gave the audience a better understanding of strategies to engage pharmaceutical companies and for fast-track technological development and regulatory issues, as well as new communication tools and outlets.

The 2008 Mid-Winter Educational Symposium and the MICoE Summit met and even exceeded the great expectations set last year by delivering expertise in a variety of educational modules. The synergistic efforts of SNM members and staff culminated in an exciting event, propelling us toward the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Combined with monitoring legislative and regulatory issues, promoting advances in research and therapy, and providing communication outreach, it is just another of the ways SNM works to create a future for advances in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. ✨