

SNM Conjoint Mid-Winter Meetings Expand Offerings

From Wednesday, January 27, to Tuesday, February 2, 2010, educators, researchers, and individuals who work in molecular imaging will gather in Albuquerque, NM, for SNM's Conjoint Mid-Winter Meetings. With multiple world-class meetings taking place under 1 roof, this meeting will be bigger and better than ever before.

The new SNM Conjoint Mid-Winter Meetings will bring together 2 leading educational meetings in 1 location: the SNM Mid-Winter Educational Symposium and the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium. In addition, the meeting offers cutting-edge scientific content with SNM's fourth annual Molecular Imaging Summit—a 2-day summit examining nanomedicine and molecular imaging—and a workshop offered by SNM's Clinical Trials Network. The conjoint meetings offer participants an exceptional range of scientific content related to nuclear medicine, molecular imaging, nanomedicine, and clinical trials. We are very grateful for the work of Peter Herscovitch, MD, chair of SNM's Scientific Program Committee (SPC), and

Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, vice-chair of the SPC, in leading this year's educational sessions. In addition, the meeting serves as a 1-stop shop for continuing education credits and valuable networking opportunities with colleagues in all molecular imaging modalities.

The 6-day meeting begins on January 27 with the ACNM program. This marks the first gathering of the organization since it officially merged in September with the American College of Nuclear Physicians. Members of both organizations can look forward to excellent educational sessions, including: resident abstract presentations, "How to Find a Job"—a panel discussion spearheaded by the ACNM and SNM's Young Professionals Committee, and lectures about the use of PET/CT in the brain and neck, genitourinary system, head and neck, and thyroid cancer.



Virginia Pappas, CAE

(Continued on page 24N)

MOLECULAR IMAGING UPDATE

Summit Explores Issues in Nanomedicine and Molecular Imaging

SNM and the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE) continue to probe the boundaries of molecular imaging. The 2010 SNM Conjoint Mid-Winter Meetings in Albuquerque, NM, will include the fourth annual Molecular Imaging Summit, this year focusing on Nanomedicine and Molecular Imaging. The summit will run from Sunday, January 31, through Monday, February 1, 2010. New applications for nanotechnology in medicine are being discovered at a tremendous pace; however, the health, safety, and environmental issues that are arising almost as quickly must be addressed before these applications can translate into meaningful benefits to patients. Noninvasive imaging technologies have the potential to accelerate this process.

This year's summit will examine some of the key issues related to the rapid growth and evolving science of nanomedicine. The meeting will explore ways in which

molecular imaging and therapy currently use nanotechnology as well as how these methods can facilitate advancements in the understanding and proper management of nanomaterials both for the environment and human health.

This fourth summit brings together more than 20 academic, government, and industry experts from across a spectrum of disciplines. Day 1 will feature sessions on nanomaterials for nanomedicine and lifecycle analysis, including discussions of the design of the materials themselves and the basic science of nano transport, stability, retention, and fate. Day 2 will begin with



Julie Sutcliffe, PhD

(Continued on page 24N)

patients in whom conventional diagnostics did not lead to a diagnosis.” They added the finding that a normal PET/CT effectively ruled out important infections requiring prolonged antibiotic therapy or drainage. PET/CT, however, is not appropriate for detection of infection in highly metabolically active tissues (for example, in detection of endocarditis or meningitis).

Intensive Care Medicine

PET/CT and Spinal Infection

In the October 15 issue of *Spine* (2009;34:2424–2430), Kim et al. from

the Pusan National University School of Medicine (Busan, Republic of Korea) reported on a study designed to determine whether ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT imaging after treatment in patients with spinal infection could identify residual infection and provide valuable prognostic data. The study included 30 patients with spinal infections who underwent ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT at the time of treatment and during follow-up. Results of follow-up imaging were compared with preoperative symptoms, hematologic infection markers, and radiologic findings suggesting residual spinal infection. Maximum and mean standardized uptake values

(SUVs) were significantly lower after treatment in all patients (in both residual and nonresidual infections). The sensitivity and specificity for PET/CT identification of residual infection varied in lesion-based analysis by the maximum SUV thresholds selected. When $\leq 41.78\%$ of the mean $\% \Delta$ SUV was used as a threshold value, the sensitivity and specificity were 100% and 76.9%, respectively. The authors concluded that ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT is “useful for discrimination of residual and nonresidual spinal infection after treatment” but that the selection of quantitative indices is important.

Spine

(Continued from page 14N)

Following the ACNM Program, SNM’s Mid-Winter Educational Symposium begins on January 29 and includes numerous educational sessions designed in collaboration with several of SNM’s councils and centers, SNMTS, and the Clinical Trials Network. CT case review sessions—back by popular demand—will feature 100 cases, offer 16 credits, and span 2 days. The session, “The Sharp Edges of Nuclear Medicine: See What’s New,” will introduce technologists to the newest techniques in fusion imaging, with a focus on patients with epilepsy. In addition, technologists will gain valuable knowledge about contrast media and how it fits into nuclear medicine. New this year, for technologists, is a cosponsored session with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists—“Nuclear Medicine Unfolded: What You Need to Know”—focusing on legislative and regulatory issues that nuclear medicine technologists face, including USP 797, the recently reintroduced CARE Bill, and Medicare Improvement Providers and Patients Act of 2008.

At this year’s meeting, attendees will also find expanded interactive sessions examining molecular imaging. SNM’s Nanomedicine and Molecular Imaging Summit, which takes place January 31–February 1, will provide a thought-provoking setting in which to examine key issues related to the

rapid growth and evolving science of nanomedicine. The summit will delve into the cutting-edge field of nanotechnology, offering 5 sessions followed by roundtable and panel discussions (see Molecular Imaging Update in this issue).

For a more hands-on approach, the Clinical Trials Network Community Workshop will give technologists and physicians nuts-and-bolts training on how to participate in industry-sponsored, multicenter clinical trials. The first 2 sessions will include an overview of the network, its components, achievements, and steps for participation. The remainder of the program is designed to help attendees learn the important details of participating in clinical trials.

With expanded offerings and more days to fit in activities, SNM’s Conjoint Mid-Winter Meetings will certainly be a fulfilling event for all who attend. Attendees can expect to gain valuable knowledge—and much more as they take in the blue skies and desert landscapes of New Mexico.

For more information on the educational and scientific offerings and the rich experience that the meeting provides, as well as to register, visit the SNM Web site (www.snm.org/mwm) or call 703.708.9000.

*Virginia Pappas, CAE
SNM Chief Executive Officer*

(Continued from page 14N)

a regulatory and risk management perspective from both the United States and Canada. Two additional sessions will be dedicated to understanding the current and potential use of nanomaterials in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and the potential benefits, advantages, and risks of using nanoparticles as a therapeutic delivery system.

Registration for the summit is now open, and special pricing has been designed to encourage participation by residents and scientists in training. For registration, more information, and the full agenda, see www.snm.org/mwm.

*Julie Sutcliffe, PhD
University of California, Davis
MICoE, Summit Program Chair*