

meeting, for the purpose of promoting closer collaboration between program directors in nuclear medicine and radiology. The AUR meeting is the only meeting in imaging devoted to education. A session by Steve Karesh, PhD, on “Radiation Safety, Radiopharmacy, and Update on NRC Regulations” was geared toward senior radiology residents preparing for the American Board of Radiology oral certifying exam. The other session was on cardiac PET, SPECT, MR, and CT imaging.

At the 2009 SNM Annual Meeting, the Academic Council sponsored or cosponsored 4 sessions. The Tom Miller Memorial Lecture was given by Darlene Metter, MD, and Henry Royal, MD, on lifelong learning. The Hal Anger Memorial Lecture, “The Evolution of SPECT/CT to Clinical Practice,” sponsored by the Academic Council, was presented by James Patton, PhD, and was cosponsored by the Computer and Instrumentation Council and the Education and Research Fund. A session sponsored by the ACGME and cosponsored by the Academic Council was given by Metter and Missy Fleming, PhD, on “Navigating the ACGME Website.” The fourth session was given by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering/National Institutes of Health and cosponsored by the Academic Council on “Introduction to Molecular Biology.” At the

business meeting during the SNM Annual Meeting, we presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Harolds.

We have successfully implemented the intern program in our Council, and Myo Min Han, MD, has been doing an excellent job.

The Academic Council submitted comments to the ACGME regarding proposed changes in resident duty hour requirements and sent Metter as SNM representative to the ACGME Congress on Duty Hours. The Academic Council also submitted comments in response to the proposed changes to the nuclear medicine curriculum by the Nuclear Medicine Residency Review Committee of the ACGME. One of the issues on which we commented was the inclusion of a greater degree of molecular imaging in the required curriculum, as we believe that molecular imaging will play an increasingly important role in nuclear medicine in the future. The other issue was the amount of CT training required in nuclear medicine programs. Training in CT is vital to understanding and interpreting PET/CT and SPECT/CT studies. The amount of CT training has become a controversial issue, and it will be interesting to see how this evolves.

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## From the SNM Brain Imaging Council

The SNM Brain Imaging Council (BIC) exists to foster and develop clinical and research applications of nuclear brain imaging. This is achieved through organizing research symposia, sponsoring educational courses, and supporting the society in developing policy positions for brain imaging applications and training. In addition, the BIC seeks to foster connections among council members and help identify and meet educational, clinical, and research needs for advancing nuclear brain imaging. The primary activity of the BIC has been around development of categorical seminars and continuing education courses at the SNM Annual Meeting. Anissa Abi-Dargham, MD, organized a categorical seminar for the 2009 meeting in Toronto that provided a critical review of molecular imaging in neuropsychiatry and was well attended.

It is an exciting time to be in the field of molecular imaging of the brain, with clinical applications in neurodegenerative disorders set to soar in the foreseeable future. For example, a dopamine transporter radioligand may become available in the United States for a proposed indication of SPECT detection of loss of functional nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons in patients presenting with symptoms or signs suggestive of dopaminergic neurodegeneration. Presynaptic nigrostriatal dopaminergic denervation is a key pathobiologic mechanism of Parkinson disease. DaTSCAN (ioflupane,  $^{123}\text{I}$ -FP-CIT; GE Healthcare) has

been available in Europe since 2000 and has been used in more than 200,000 patients in 32 countries. Dopamine transporter imaging will fill a vacant clinical niche in neuronuclear medicine in the United States, and the BIC will assist with the formulation of future procedure guidelines. Another exciting development in the area of molecular imaging has been the recent development of  $\beta$ -amyloid radiopharmaceuticals that can detect Alzheimer disease before the onset of dementia and reliably distinguish Alzheimer disease from frontotemporal dementia. Several companies have committed to the development of an  $^{18}\text{F}$ - $\beta$ -amyloid ligand with phase II and III trials underway.

The BIC recognizes the contributions of senior scientists who have made pioneering advances in the field through the annual Kuhl–Lassen award and lecture. Chester A. Mathis, PhD, from the University of Pittsburgh, was honored with the 2009 award for his pioneering work in the development of  $\beta$ -amyloid imaging.

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