

Molecular Imaging at the Forefront: SNM's 57th Annual Meeting

SNM's 57th Annual Meeting provided a top-notch educational program, exceptional networking opportunities, and an attractive destination for more than 5,100 members of the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community who traveled to Salt Lake City, UT, in June. The meeting, which brought together basic and clinical scientists from the field of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine, featured more than 1,400 scientific papers on translational and clinical research.

The international presence at the meeting was strong this year, with more than 50% of abstract submissions coming from 70 countries outside the United States. The common theme that linked all of these participants was the focus on using molecular imaging to understand the mechanisms of disease, to diagnose and determine the extent of disease, and, ultimately, to improve the health of patients.

Under the guidance of Peter Herscovitch, MD, chair of SNM's Scientific Program Committee, categorical seminars, case reviews, and poster and plenary sessions provided a dynamic and comprehensive educational program for attendees.

The annual meeting also marked the transition of leadership roles. Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD, assumed the SNM presidency. Other SNM officers elected include George Segall, MD, president-elect, and Frederic H. Fahey, DSc, vice president-elect. Cybil Nielsen, 2009–2010 SNMTS president, introduced Kathy Hunt, MS, CNMT, as the 2010–2011 SNMTS president and Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), as president-elect. These individuals are already working hard to achieve the goals they outlined during the meeting.

In addition to installing new officers, the meeting also presented an opportunity for the society to recognize and honor individuals for outstanding achievements in nuclear medicine. Three prestigious SNM awards were presented during the first plenary lecture, which was held on Sunday, June 6. Bengt Roland Långström, PhD, a professor at Uppsala University in Sweden, was named this year's recipient of the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award for his contributions to the nuclear medicine profession. Chester A. Mathis, PhD, University of Pittsburgh (PA), was named the recipient of the prestigious Paul C. Aebersold Award for his long-standing work in the field of neuroimaging. Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, was named the 2010 SNM Honorary Member, a distinction bestowed to only 7 individuals before him.

This year, the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Lectureship was delivered by Larry Kessler, ScD, from the University of Washington (Seattle). Kessler described both the challenges

and promise of evidence-based medicine with respect to molecular imaging and how the health policy and decision-making landscape may change. SNM recognizes the importance of evidence-based medicine and is leading the way in developing practice guidelines and comparative effectiveness research to improve health care through a workshop sponsored by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

At the second plenary session, on Monday, June 7, Michael M. Graham, PhD, MD, 2009–2010 SNM president, presented 3 presidential awards to recognize SNM members for continued dedication to the society. Graham presented Henry VanBrocklin, PhD, and Wil B. Nelp, MD, with the SNM Distinguished Service Award. George Segall, MD, was presented with the SNM Presidential Distinguished Educator Award. Also during the plenary session, Sung-Cheng (Henry) Huang, DSc, a pioneer in the development of PET, presented the Cassen lectureship on quantitative imaging. Huang emphasized the growing need for analytical approaches that can analyze image data, extract biological information, and determine its medical relevance.

During a news conference on June 7, SNM leadership called attention to 3 shortages currently plaguing the medical community: a shortage of radioisotopes, a shortage of reimbursement, and a shortage of jobs for physicians and technologists. These issues are important to SNM, and we continue to raise awareness and provide our members with resources to persevere through these challenging times.

The 57th Annual Meeting concluded on Wednesday, June 9, with the Annual Meeting Highlights Lecture recapping some of the most cutting-edge research presented throughout the sessions. The research demonstrated groundbreaking advances in many areas, including the use of molecular imaging to identify the first signs of Alzheimer disease and the detection of recurrent prostate cancer.

Thank you to all of our members and exhibitors for an excellent Annual Meeting. We are grateful for your continued support—and pledge to advance the field through leadership, advocacy, and education. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio, TX, at SNM's 58th Annual Meeting, June 4–8, 2011.



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