

Ensuring the Health of Our Profession

I am honored to step into the role of SNM president and to have the opportunity to serve nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals to advance our field. I have benefited greatly from the guidance of George Segall, MD, SNM's 2011–2012 president, and look forward to working with him—as well as 2012 president-elect Gary Dillehay, MD, and vice president-elect Peter Herscovitch, MD—in the coming year.

The field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is continually evolving, which is, of course, necessary in order to stay relevant in the medical realm. To ensure the health of our field, we must share the advances in technology, tracers, and techniques with our colleagues in the United States and around the world, with referring physicians, with the public, and with government entities. SNM works each day to accomplish this through its education, communications, outreach, and government relations efforts.

Although SNM will work on many initiatives in the coming year, one of my main priorities will be advancing a better understanding of radiation dose and risk and promoting dose optimization. Radiation dose for all nuclear medicine and molecular imaging procedures should be optimized by ensuring that the patient receives the smallest possible amount of radiopharmaceutical that will provide the necessary diagnostic information. We will work to ensure that this is understood and put into practice through various activities, including creating a Web page and other communication vehicles for dose optimization information, offering continuing education courses on dose optimization, developing position papers, meeting with Capitol Hill staff and other U.S. government officials, and more.

SNM will continue to support the Image Gently and Image Wisely campaigns in their respective efforts to optimize the use of radiation when imaging pediatric and adult patients. This year SNM will also participate in the

American Board of Internal Medicine's Choosing Wisely campaign to help physicians be better stewards of finite health care resources. SNM will develop specific, evidence-based recommendations that physicians and patients should discuss to help make wise decisions about the most appropriate care based on individual situations.

Nuclear medicine and molecular imaging procedures are fairly widely available in the United States (although we are still working on rural areas), but this technology is virtually nonexistent in many countries. During my term I will work to expand the practice of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in these developing countries. By engaging in global initiatives and collaborating with peer societies from around the world, we can share our knowledge so that patients everywhere can benefit from the imaging procedures that can improve human health.

As a professional society, SNM's activities should reflect the wants and needs of its members. I encourage all SNM members to get involved with the society and share your suggestions and concerns. You will be hearing from me a lot this year, and I hope to be hearing from you as well. Moving the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging forward is a team effort. There is a lot to do, and I look forward to working with colleagues around the world and across the country to ensure a healthy future for the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.



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