

SNMMI Annual Meeting Spotlights Advances in Research and Technology

The nuclear medicine and molecular imaging field is advancing in many ways, with our first new tracers approved in years and several more on the way, promising therapies, updated technologies, and more. The excitement about these advances was evident at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Miami Beach, FL, and resulted in one of the society's most successful meetings. The meeting was also a historic one, as the membership voted to change the organization's name to the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, or SNMMI.

This year, SNMMI welcomed more than 6,300 physicians, technologists, physicists, scientists, and exhibitors to the meeting, which offered more than 75 education sessions and 2,000 scientific papers and posters. The number of attendees rose 14% from 2011, and the number of abstract submissions increased by 18% (with a 22.5% increase in international abstracts over 2011). In addition, the exhibit hall was sold out, with 168 companies represented on the exhibit hall floor in more than 560 booths.

Our Scientific Program Committee, led by Peter Herscovitch, MD, once again organized an outstanding conference program. A broad array of continuing education offerings covered amyloid brain imaging, hybrid imaging, health care reform, multimodality breast imaging, radiopharmaceutical development, and more. Additional sessions were held during the meeting—a Nuclear Medicine Physician Board Review, Student Technologist Registry Review and Mock Exam, NCT Review and Mock Exam, and CT Case Review Sessions.

Several keynote addresses were given at the meeting. Kirk Frey, MD, PhD, of the University of Michigan Medical Center, presented the Henry N. Wagner Jr. Lecture on "Molecular Imaging of Neurodegenerative Disease" at the opening plenary session on Sunday, and Betsy de Parry, author and cancer survivor, spoke at the SNMMITS plenary session on "Guiding the Journey: Helping Patients through Illness." At the Monday plenary, Abass Alavi, MD, and Steve Larson, MD, each received the Benedict Cassen Prize for their contributions to advances in basic or clinical nuclear medicine science and presented lectures on their work.

More than 80 awards were given at the Annual Meeting, including the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award, which was awarded to Daniel S. Berman, MD, for his contributions to the nuclear medicine profession, and the Paul C. Aebersold Award, which was presented to Mark M. Goodman, PhD, for outstanding achievement in basic science applied to nuclear medicine. During the Wednesday

Highlights Session, the 2012 Image of the Year was shared with attendees. The honor was given to Alfred Morgenstern, MD, and his colleagues for their image, which illustrated an effective new cancer treatment for gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors that resist standard therapies.



During the Annual Meeting, SNMMI also released a new position statement on dose optimization for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging procedures. The statement reviews the society's stance—that the right test with the right dose should be given to the right patient at the right time. It also notes that if an appropriate procedure—one that can provide the physician with clinical information essential to the patient's treatment—is *not* performed when necessary because of fear of radiation, the results can be detrimental to the patient. The statement also notes that to ensure the appropriate use of these procedures, all nuclear medicine facilities should have comprehensive quality control measures in place, their nuclear medicine physicians should have up-to-date training, and their technologists should be appropriately trained and certified. The complete statement can be found at www.snmmi.org.

SNMMI welcomed a new leadership team for the society during the Annual Meeting as Frederic H. Fahey, DSc, became president; Gary Dillehay, MD, assumed the position of president-elect; and Peter Herscovitch, MD, became vice president-elect. The leadership for SNMMI's Technologist Section also changed hands during the meeting, with Brenda King, CNMT, taking the helm as president and Scott Holbrook, BS, CNMT, as president-elect. George Segall, MD, and Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT (N), will continue to serve the society as immediate past presidents of SNMMI and SNMMITS, respectively.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to make this meeting a success—attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI volunteers and leadership. Working together as a field we can achieve great things. We look forward to seeing you in Canada next year at our SNMMI 2013 Annual Meeting, June 8–12 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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