

SNM 2013 Annual Meeting in Vancouver

The 2013 SNMMI Annual Meeting will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from June 8 to 12 at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre overlooking Vancouver Harbor. The meeting will offer the latest educational content, an engaging and cutting-edge scientific and educational program of presentations, virtual learning opportunities, networking events, and an exhibit hall with the latest technologies.

Among the specialty workshops planned are the Student Technologist Registry Review, including a mock registry examination (June 8 and 9), the Nuclear Medicine Review Course (June 8 and 9), and the Oncologic CT Case Review (June 11 and 12). Special sessions are being finalized and will be detailed on the SNM Annual Meeting Web site and Virtual Meeting planner. "We are looking forward to a diverse and innovative slate of educational and scientific offerings in Vancouver," said Peter Herscovitch, MD, program chair. "We are particularly pleased to report that once again, as the result of the efforts of many participants, we will be offering a program that is sufficiently broad to appeal to all facets of the nuclear medicine community."

As part of SNM tradition, the annual meeting will include a plenary session on June 9, featuring the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Lecture, and a June 11 plenary session including the Cassen Lecture. At the June 12 Highlights Lecture, 4 distinguished practitioners will summarize significant presentations and scientific work reported at the meeting in general nuclear medicine, oncology, cardiac imaging and therapy, and neurologic applications. Among many other scheduled events are the SNMMI-TS New Professio-



Panoramic view of the skyline of Vancouver, which will host the 2013 SNMMI Annual Meeting. Photo credit: Tourism Vancouver.

nals Reception (June 8), SNMMI First-Timers Orientation (June 9), and the SNMMI-TS Technologist Party (June 11).

As preparation for the meeting, applications are available for SNM-funded travel awards for laboratory professionals, technologists, and nuclear medicine trainees. Among these awards are the SNMMI Travel Awards, supporting attendance of students and postdoctoral or clinical trainees to present molecular imaging abstracts at the meeting; and the SNMMI-TS Travel and Student Travel Awards, supporting registration, travel, and accommodations toward the attendance of nuclear medicine technologists and students to present abstracts at the meeting. Applications for these awards are due by April 15.

For more information on the SNMMI Annual Meeting and to preregister, see: <http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=12113>.

SNMMI Receives AHRQ Project Funding

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness announced in December an award to the SNMMI for a proposal submitted as part of the "Patient-Centered Outcomes Research: Dissemination by Health Professionals Associations (R18)" funding initiative. Investigators for the grant will include Brian Bresnahan, PhD (University of Washington; Seattle), as principal investigator; and Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD (Vanderbilt University; Nashville, TN), Michael Graham, MD, PhD (University of Iowa; Iowa City), and George Segall, MD (Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System; CA), as co-investigators. Virginia Pappas, CAE, is project manager.

The project will develop a range of interactive tools to teach ordering physicians about evidence-based appropriateness criteria for use of ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT in treatment decision making in patients with lung, breast, or colon cancer. In addition to needs-assessment and consensus surveys of the referring oncology and surgery communities, the project will develop novel, interactive approaches to disseminate knowl-

edge to treating physicians who order anatomic and/or molecular imaging studies. This will involve, among other strategies, optimizing social media tools applicable to smart phones, laptops, pads/tablets, and desktops. New interfaces will be created to enhance existing SNMMI platforms for knowledge dissemination, including interactive clinical decision support tools with scenario-based imaging requisition screens. Physician participants will have an opportunity to obtain continuing medical education credits through these tools. The project will also produce pilot data for directing future research.

The ultimate goal of the SNMMI research and that of other associations responding to the AHRQ request for proposals is achievement of quantifiable improvements in patient outcomes associated with evidence-based decision making in clinical care. This and other funding initiatives are part of a renewed federal focus on patient-centered practice and research, including specific National Institutes of Health funding programs and the creation of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

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