

A Year of Accomplishments for SNMMI

I knew this year as SNMMI president would be a whirlwind thrill ride, and it has not disappointed or slowed down! The year began as members voted affirmatively to change the society's name to the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, reflecting our dedication to nuclear medicine as we continue to weave molecular imaging into our fabric and setting the stage for SNMMI to accomplish its top priorities for the coming year.

In April 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved florbetapir to detect brain amyloid plaques. Many questions remained, however, about how this tracer should be utilized in the clinic and which patients should have this test. To provide guidance, SNMMI joined with the Alzheimer's Association to develop appropriate use criteria in patients with suspected Alzheimer disease. To promote understanding and good clinical practice using this radiopharmaceutical, training sessions have been developed for SNMMI members, and we have cosponsored education at other medical society meetings. In addition, work has begun in conjunction with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) on technical guidelines for brain amyloid imaging.

Nuclear medicine therapies have also been a hot topic for the society. With a therapeutic agent on the horizon for FDA approval, SNMMI joined with the National Cancer Institute to host a 2-day workshop on the potential for targeted radionuclide therapy and challenges moving forward. A white paper on the workshop findings and recommendations is being developed for publication later this summer, and attendees will continue to work together to implement the recommendations identified.

During my term, I also wanted to involve the society more deeply in optical imaging, so I formed a task force to engage the optical imaging community, particularly those interested in clinical translation and developing education content. The task force contacted The Optical Society (OSA) to begin developing a partnership that would allow the exchange of education and knowledge. As a result, joint education sessions at both the Optics in Life Sciences Congress and the SNMMI Annual Meeting were planned for 2013, and we are looking toward an "incubator" workshop between the 2 organizations in the near future.

SNMMI embarked on several initiatives this year to enhance the quality of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. In February, SNMMI released a list of "Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question" in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging as part of the Choosing Wisely campaign, led by the ABIM Foundation. The list identifies targeted, evidence-based recommendations that can support physicians and patients in making wise choices about their care.

Another of our main priorities this year was to engage the international nuclear medicine and molecular imaging

community. In January, SNMMI—working with the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine—hosted a very successful 2nd Sino-American Conference in conjunction with the 2013 Mid-Winter Meeting. In addition, the society partnered with the International Atomic Energy Agency to offer webinars to increase the interpretive skills of nuclear medicine professionals in developing countries, sharing training materials on PET and PET/CT in South America and Asia, and continued to collaborate with the EANM in a new effort to produce joint guidelines.

SNMMI is also facilitating the new—and perhaps audacious—Nuclear Medicine Global Initiative, bringing together numerous leaders in nuclear medicine from around the world to discuss the challenges and promises of the field. I believe that working with leaders in nuclear medicine from around the world is our best bet for advancing our field to greater heights in the future. The group selected the timely and important topic of dose optimization in pediatric nuclear medicine as its first area of focus.

In addition to successfully partnering with international groups, SNMMI kicked off its own dose optimization initiative this year, issuing a position statement and developing an online resource for dose optimization (www.snmmi.org/dose). Dose optimization has become a part of SNMMI's communications, outreach, advocacy, and education efforts, and this integrated approach helps to provide information and guidance to imaging professionals, referring physicians, policymakers, and the public. SNMMI continues its support of the Image Gently and Imaging Wisely dose optimization campaigns and is working with the EANM to harmonize pediatric dose guidelines.

This year brings to a close SNMMI's current 3-year strategic plan. The board of directors—with input from the House of Delegates, SNMMI staff, and our members—has created a new strategic plan to guide the society over the next 3 years. To support these new goals and objectives, SNMMI will unveil a revamped Web site and a new online education management system as a comprehensive and easy to use resource for our members and others.

I told you it has been a crazy ride! As I turn the reins over to Gary Dillehay, MD, as SNMMI president, I wish him the best and know he will do a fantastic job. Besides, why should I have all the fun?



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