

SNMMI 2016 Annual Meeting: A Time of Celebration, Learning, and Focus on the Future

Virginia Pappas, CAE, SNMMI Chief Executive Officer

More than 5,700 physicians, technologists, scientists, and exhibitors came together in San Diego, CA, for 5 days of scientific and educational sessions at SNMMI's 2016 Annual Meeting. From cutting-edge research and the latest advances in imaging technology to informative continuing education workshops, the meeting proved a great success.

The meeting featured 95 SNMMI oral sessions with more than 655 abstract presentations, 5 SNMMI integrated science sessions, and 8 SNMMI-TS oral sessions—in topical areas including molecular targeting probes, cardiovascular imaging, neurosciences, oncology, instrumentation and data analysis, and general clinical specialties. Eight categorical seminars were offered, as well as ancillary sessions including a Nuclear Medicine Review course and an Emerging Technologies program. Networking events included the Exhibit/Poster Hall Opening and Welcome Reception, a First Timers'/New Members' Orientation and Brunch, a poster mixer, and the new closing event, the "Countdown" Party, on Tuesday night.

This year's meeting included a celebration of the 40th anniversary of FDG. At the opening plenary, the Henry Wagner Lecture was given by Joanna Fowler, PhD, Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY), on "Working against time: Designing and synthesizing FDG for the first human studies in 1976." A short video illustrated the impact of FDG and celebrated those involved in its development, and posters throughout the convention center featured FDG pioneers and quotes on FDG by past presidents.

SNMMI launched a new program featuring the latest advances in research, technology, and clinical practice in a "Highlight Country." The first country to be featured was Japan, with significant contributions to the meeting and to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. The president of the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine, Jun Hatazawa, MD, PhD, gave a presentation at the opening

plenary on the state of nuclear medicine in Japan. In addition, top abstracts for each of 50 countries participating in the meeting were recognized with awards.

SNMMI again held a Patient Program at the Annual Meeting. More than 100 patients and caregivers attended sessions on advances in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Topics featured included prostate cancer, breast cancer, and neuroendocrine tumors.

At the Wagner Highlights Session, the 2016 Image of the Year was awarded to a team of researchers from the University Hospital of Cologne, the Jülich Research Center, and the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (Bonn), all in Germany. Measuring tau deposits using the novel radiotracer ^{18}F -AV-1451 (^{18}F -T807), in conjunction with ^{11}C -PiB to measure amyloid plaques and ^{18}F -FDG to measure regional neurodegeneration, offers new insight into the characteristics of Alzheimer disease and shows that tau pathology may be an instrumental target for disease-modifying strategies.

If you were not able to attend this year's meeting, SNMMI has created a Virtual Meeting that includes more than one hundred hours of content, with synchronized presenter slides and audio. The society also debuted a new Virtual Poster Hall—offering CME, ACPE, and VOICE credit as well as mobile viewing. Both are available via the SNMMI website at www.snmmi.org/virtual.

I want to thank all of the attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI volunteers and leaders for making this year's Annual Meeting so productive. Although the field of nuclear medicine and molecular medicine faces challenges in the year ahead, including development of training pathways and reimbursement issues, new U.S. Food and Drug Administration approvals of PET tracers and exciting research advances are reasons for great optimism. I know we will have much to celebrate and discuss at next year's meeting in Denver, CO, June 10–14!