

## SNMMI Mid-Winter and ACNM Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL: Spotlight on Brain Imaging

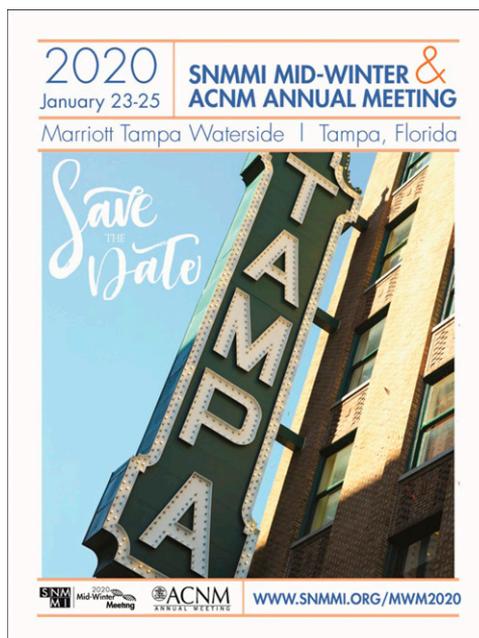
Virginia Pappas, CAE, SNMMI CEO

The SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting and American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) Annual Meeting head to Tampa, FL, in 2020 for 3 days of learning, exhibitions, and collaboration. Held January 23–25, the program includes a wide variety of education opportunities on current topics of interest within the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community. The meeting will also host an exciting exhibit hall showcasing the latest products and technology in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.

Several years ago, SNMMI changed its Mid-Winter Meeting format to include a themed education track. I am pleased to share that in 2020 the track will focus on neurosciences and brain imaging. The SNMMI Brain Imaging Council has planned 2.5 days of programming on this theme, covering topics including:

- Basics in neuroimaging I: Anatomy, radiotracers, and best practices;
- Basics in neuroimaging II: Quantification and artificial intelligence;
- Bread-and-butter nuclear medicine brain scans;
- Neurodegeneration: MCI/dementia FDG;
- Amyloid and tau PET imaging;
- Movement disorders;
- Molecular imaging in traumatic brain injury, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and disorders of consciousness;
- Brain tumors and encephalitis;
- Epilepsy; and
- Psychiatric diseases.

Many of these courses will include opportunities for participants to bring their challenging cases to be discussed by the larger group, making the sessions particularly valuable to those in the neurosciences and brain imaging field. Thank you to the SNMMI Brain Imaging Council for its work in developing a track on these hot topics in the field.



In addition to the themed track, SNMMI's Mid-Winter Meeting will feature a general education track planned by SNMMI's other councils and centers. These sessions will include topics such as oncology, therapy, cardiology, instrumentation, and general nuclear medicine. The ACNM Annual Meeting will also offer education opportunities on a variety of topics in the clinical practice of nuclear and molecular imaging. Attendees may choose to attend any of the sessions offered at the SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting or the ACNM Annual Meeting and can earn up to 23 hours of continuing education credits during their time at the meeting.

The ACNM Annual Meeting has planned an exciting plenary session and organized a scientific program that includes both oral abstract presentations and posters. The ACNM will host its annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet on the evening of Friday, January 24.

One of the unique aspects of the SNMMI Mid-Winter and ACNM Annual Meeting is the intimate setting it provides attendees. The event allows for 1-on-1 connections with fellow nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals, industry partners, and exhibitors. For me, this is a valuable opportunity to which I look forward each year.

I would like to thank the SNMMI Scientific Program Committee, led by chair Umar Mahmood, MD, PhD, for its efforts in overseeing the planning of the Mid-Winter Meeting. Committee members include Donna Cross, PhD, Associate Chair for Scientific Abstracts; Heather Jacene, MD, Associate Chair for Continuing Education; Kathleen M. Krisak, BS, CNMT, Chair, Technologist Section Planning Committee; and Karina Mosci, MD, SNMMI Brain Imaging Council President. In addition, I would like to recognize the ACNM Annual Meeting Program Committee chair Gary Ulaner, MD, PhD, and committee members Erin Grady, MD, CCD; Twyla Bartel, DO, MBA; Katherine Zukotynski,

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Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System final rule.

In addition, the agency proposes an increased threshold payment for therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals of \$130, where CMS will package those that are priced  $\leq$ \$130 into the APC payments and pay separately for those that exceed this threshold amount. CMS proposes no new changes to the APC structure for imaging codes.

In the Physician Outpatient Office Visit Proposed Rule, CMS adopted the Common Procedural Terminology guidelines to report office visits based on either medical decision making or physician time. The agency also adopted the Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) work recommendations for office visit codes. The work value increases represent \$3 billion in redistributed spending, resulting in a 3% reduction in the conversion factor. In addition, the

RUC physician time recommendations were adopted. Coupled with the work value increases and some modifications in direct practice costs, these changes will lead to an additional \$2 billion in redistributed spending, resulting in an additional 2% across-the-board reduction.

The comment period for the proposed rule expired on September 27.

*SNMMI*

*Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*

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MD; Simin Dadparvar, MD; and Justin Peacock, MD, PhD, Nuclear Medicine Residents Organization president, for their work in planning the ACNM program.

The SNMMI Mid-Winter and ACNM Annual Meeting will be held at the Marriott Tampa Waterside, newly redesigned in 2019. The hotel is located directly on Tampa Bay and

just steps from the downtown area, including the Riverwalk, Florida Aquarium, and Sparkman Wharf.

We hope that you plan to join us for the outstanding learning offerings, worthwhile networking events, and warm weather. To register or learn more about the meeting, visit [www.snmmi.org/mwm](http://www.snmmi.org/mwm).