

The SNMMI 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting: Accessible, Exceptional Research and Education

Virginia Pappas, CAE, SNMMI CEO

Despite the challenging pandemic year, SNMMI's 2021 Annual Meeting was a remarkable success. The society set out to offer a virtual event that mirrored the in-person event: multiple, concurrent sessions offering high-quality education as well as interactive opportunities allowing attendees to network and connect with peers and peer groups. We met the mark, reaching goals across the board. The meeting was packed with education, information, and activities, and the program attracted a wide audience.

More than 6,000 physicians, technologists, scientists, and exhibitors attended from more than 60 countries. With much more time to prepare the meeting than last year, the society was able to offer a greatly expanded scientific program, including 5 plenaries, 80 continuing education and scientific sessions, 189 scientific oral presentations, 14 satellite symposia, 1,000 scientific posters, and 115 exhibiting companies and organizations. The meeting offered up to 85 continuing education (CE) credits.

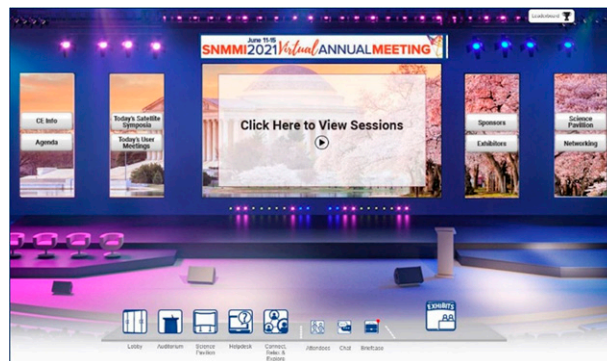
The Program. A premeeting program included 7 “Drink & Think” sessions on topics ranging from ethics and mentorship to FAPI and the axial extent of PET scanners. A full-day Technologist Program on Thursday was followed by categorical sessions and technologist oral presentations on Friday, and the day ended with a fascinating Value Initiative Leaders Symposium on the Potential, Promise, and Value of Radiopharmaceutical Therapy.

Saturday brought the official meeting kickoff, with opening speeches and informative and colorful presentations from Korea, this year's official Highlight Country, which also celebrated its national nuclear medicine society's 60th anniversary. The full program began Saturday afternoon, with 5 concurrent sessions offered in areas including cardiovascular, neurosciences, physics, instrumentation and data sciences, medical targeting probes, general clinical specialties, basic and translational oncology, and clinical oncologic therapy and diagnosis.

Scientific and CE sessions were interspersed with plenaries, satellite sessions, industry user meetings, and networking events. The Wagner Lecture on Sunday, presented by Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, focused on brain PET and SPECT. Monday's Anger Lecturer, Irène Buvat, PhD, discussed the transformative power of artificial intelligence in the practice of nuclear medicine.

The Technologist Section plenary was presented by Sampson Davis, MD, an emergency medicine physician and *New York Times* bestselling author, who discussed his life growing up, attending medical school, and being on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final plenary—the Wagner Highlights Symposium—took place Tuesday evening. Four of the profession's most respected experts provided insights on research presented during the meeting: Sharmila Dorbala, MD, MPH, cardiovascular;



Andrei Iagaru, MD, general nuclear medicine; Julie Price, MD, neuroscience; and Heiko Schöder, MD, MBA, oncology and therapy.

Registered attendees can access sessions for 1 year via the SNMMI Learning Center (www.snmmllearningcenter.org).

The Platform. This year's meeting was offered via a new platform that received strong, positive reviews from attendees. Oral sessions were presented in the Auditorium; abstract oral presentations and posters were located in the Science Pavilion. This year's Exhibit Hall included more than 100 exhibitors offering webinars, videos, case studies, and other materials that attendees could carry away in a “briefcase.” New this year, a Relaxation Zone offered yoga, meditation, and other activities.

Networking. The society focused heavily this year on creating a variety of different ways for attendees to connect with peers. A Networking Lounge offered chat boards and discussions; Drink & Thinks offered focused group discussions; an “inclusive gathering” invited discussion of hot topics in diversity, equity, and inclusion; and special networking events were organized for residents and mentees. A number of social gatherings offered networking as well, including the Technologist Section 50th Anniversary Event featuring celebrity Ken Jeong; the annual Knowledge Bowl; the receptions for SNMMI President Alan Packard, PhD, and SNMMI-TS President Tina Buehner, PhD, CNMT, NMTCB(CT)(RS), RT(N)(CT); and the Women in Nuclear Medicine breakfast featuring Margie Warrell, PhD.

Miss the Meeting? All abstracts are available on *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* website at https://jnm.snmjournals.org/content/62/supplement_1.

Thank you to all the attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI leaders and volunteers for making this year's Annual Meeting an educational and enriching experience. I am eager to see everyone in person once again at our 2022 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, June 11–14, 2022!