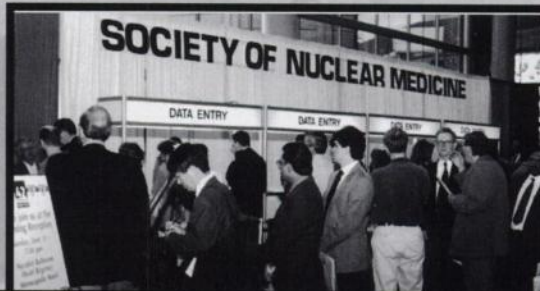


The Annual Meeting: A Candid Look

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) held its 42nd Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 11-15. The meeting was well attended by 6500 members as well as by representatives of various other organizations, including the American College of Nuclear Physicians, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the American College of Radiology, the American Nuclear Society and the American College of Nuclear Medicine. More than 100 major nuclear medicine manufacturers were also on hand to meet with attendees and display their latest advances in cameras, computers and radiopharmaceuticals. The thrust of the meeting was the presentation of more than 1200 scientific papers, posters and exhibits on such topics as cardiology, SPECT, PET, pediatric nuclear medicine, neurology, hematology, radiopharmaceuticals and oncology as well as continuing education courses. The SNM-Technologist Section (SNM-TS) program also featured lectures, workshops, scientific papers and exhibits on various applications of nuclear medicine technology.

One activity that set the overall tone of the meeting was the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the SNM-TS. On display were memorabilia commemorating the advances in nuclear medicine technology over the last 25 years.



Scenes from the Annual Meeting (from top to bottom): Preregistration booth at the Annual Meeting. Outgoing SNM President James J. Conway (right) welcomes incoming SNM President Peter T. Kirchner (left). Meeting attendees gather around a poster presentation discussing its content.



SNM HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The House of Delegates (formerly known as the Board of Trustees) met on Sunday June 11, 1995. The House voted on a wide range of agenda items and discussed a number of new matters such as revised SNM bylaws and election results.

New Nuclear Medicine Procedure Guidelines


Following the landmark approval of the first nuclear medicine procedure guidelines at the Mid-Winter Meeting in San Diego, the House approved five additional guidelines at the Annual Meeting; a total of 10 are now approved. The five new nuclear medicine guidelines are on: bone scintigraphy, hepatobiliary scintigraphy, gated equilibrium radionuclide ventriculography, gallium scintigraphy in inflammation and indium-111-leukocyte scintigraphy for suspected infection/inflammation. Part of the

rationale for generating this material is the fact that 82 percent of HMOs use these types of guidelines when deciding which procedures to include in their plans. The guidelines approved in February were for bone pain treatment, scintigraphy for differentiated thyroid cancer, thyroid uptake measurement, thyroid scintigraphy and guideline development. After the 10 guidelines are finalized in the next few months, they will be published in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and will be available upon request, free of charge for both members and nonmembers, by contacting Joanna Wilson, (703) 708-9000, ext. 250.

SNM Budget

The House discussed the revised 1995-1996 SNM budget presented by the Committee on Finance and Budgets, which was approved by the Board of Directors in April. This budget includes a 4% membership dues increase for Society-only mem-

bers and a \$10 dues increase for Technologist Section members. The budget also included increases in meeting registration fees, ranging from a \$25 increase for member-late registration for both Society and Technologist Section members to a \$55 increase for nonmember-late registration. The increased funds will bolster the financial strength of the Society and will ensure that expenses do not exceed revenues.

The Board also voted to allocate \$2500 to the Academy for Radiology Research, a newly formed organization working to establish an Institute for Radiological Sciences at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. SNM is encouraging other nuclear medicine organizations such as the American College of Nuclear Physicians and the American Board of Nuclear Medicine to contribute funds to ensure that nuclear medicine research will be a top priority if the new Institute is established. 

Isotope Availability

In response to the Department of Energy's (DOE) plans to allocate nuclear medicine research funds for the design of the National Biomedical Tracer Facility (NBTF), the House of Delegates voted to write a formal letter to the DOE expressing their concerns. The letter stated that the SNM strongly supports the funding for the NBTF project and urges augmentation of funding to support the Medical Applications Program. A second letter, written by the

SNM Isotope Availability Committee, explicitly asked the DOE not to reduce funding for nuclear medicine research efforts. "If the research budget is decreased, the work critical for future [nuclear medicine] advances will also decrease," said Wynn Volkert, PhD, chairman of the SNM isotope availability committee who authored the letter. The committee is vehemently opposed to the DOE using funds from the Medical Applications Program research budget to fund additional design studies for the NBTF,

from either fiscal year 1995 or 1996 appropriations. The DOE has since responded to both letters: Ari Patrinos, associate director for health and environmental research at the DOE, stated that the DOE was directed by Congress to use some of its program funds to do studies on the feasibility of constructing and operating NBTF in the private sector. "It is most appropriate that the funds for these studies come out of the program's medical applications research, which includes the nuclear medicine projects."



OUTSTANDING JNM AUTHORS AWARDED FOR RESEARCH

With over 350 manuscripts accepted to *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)* in 1994 and an 8.5% increase in submitted articles in 1995, Stanley J. Goldsmith, MD, *JNM's* Editor-in-Chief has discovered that singling out exceptional work for special recognition has become increasingly difficult. Nevertheless, at the annual editorial board breakfast held on June 13th, twelve groups of researchers received outstanding manuscript awards for their articles published in 1994. Journal articles are categorized into several different topics such as human studies, computer simulation, dosimetry, methodology and others. Six of the recognized articles were for human studies, three for laboratory studies, one for a multicenter trial, and one for a special contribution. The 1994 manuscript award for overall excellence was awarded to Rao et al. for their article entitled, "Expression of Recombinant Human Multidrug Resistance P-Glycoprotein in Insect Cells Confers Decreased Accumulation of Technetium-99m-Sestamibi" (*J Nucl Med* 1994;35:510-515).

One surprise appearance at the breakfast: Ana Catafau, MD, from Barcelona, Spain, had not been planning to travel overseas for this year's meeting. When she found out that her paper was an award winner, she booked herself on the next plane to Minneapolis. "I think the recipients of the awards were all delighted," said Brenna Nichols, executive editor of *JNM*. "The awards recognize their hard work in a way other than being published. The awards given out this year exceeded the usual number of three or four. Was 1994 an exceptional year? "Not necessarily," said Goldsmith. "But with so many submissions, there are many excellent articles that deserve to be recognized." A complete listing of award winners will appear in next month's *SourceLine*.

From left to right: Drs. Homer A. Macapinlac, Kenneth F. Van Train, Roko Kubota, A. Bertrand Brill, Ferruccio Fazio, Stanley J. Goldsmith (*JNM* Editor-in-Chief), Ana M. Catafau, Bipin M. Mehta, Jaetae Lee, Christian Menzel and David E. Kuhl. Not present: Drs. David Piwnicka-Worms and Edward T.M. Keelan.

TALLY UP

A total of 6538 physicians, scientists, technologists, residents, exhibitors and medical students attended this year's Annual Meeting, down from last year's total of 7247. Of the 1246 nonmembers attending, 183 became new members—also a slight decrease from last year. The good news is the SNM Membership Department anticipates a membership boost in the coming months due to a new strategy they've implemented. Nonmember meeting attendees, who did not register for membership at the meeting, have been given an extension in which to allocate a portion of their registration fees to their SNM membership dues.

—Compiled by Stacey Silver