

ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

Record High Number of Scientific Abstracts to Be Presented at SNM Annual Meeting

For the third year in a row, a record-breaking number of investigators have submitted research papers for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. The 43rd Annual meeting will take place at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver from June 3-6.

The Scientific Program Committee received a total 2415 abstracts, almost a 20% increase from last year's 2065 submissions. The biggest increases were seen in the three largest categories: clinical cardiology, which had 338 submissions, up from 315 last year; neurology, which had 188 entries, up from 109; and nonantibody oncology diagnosis, which had 326 entries, a 35% increase from last year's 240. There was also a significant increase in PET submissions.

Of the 2415 total abstract entries, 110 were submitted to the SNM Technologist Section. Christina M. Carlson, CNMT, chairman of the scientific and teaching committee for the Technologist Section, noted a marked increase in PET submissions and said she needed to recruit more reviewers to judge the PET papers. "It was encouraging to see the increase in PET studies, given the recent closing of some PET facilities," she said.

New Trends in Scientific Presentations

The increase in scientific abstracts presented at this year's meeting will mean larger poster sessions, according to William C. Eckelman, PhD, chairman of the SNM scientific program committee. In an effort to encourage more interaction between the presenter and audience, the program committee has decided to try a "hybrid" poster session, whereby a dozen researchers will give brief three-minute oral presentations and then take about three minutes of questions. "We're trying to encourage a free interchange of ideas," said Eckelman.

Educational Aspects

To make the Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses more interactive, the program committee has decided to try an experiment in the four "Read with the Experts" sessions. "We've set up 400 remote modules, so when a slide of a scan is shown, attendees can key in what they think is the correct diagnosis," said Eckelman. Votes will

be recorded to give the moderator and audience an indication of which scans pose more problems for themselves and their colleagues. (Answers will not affect CME credit, since credit is based on attendance.)

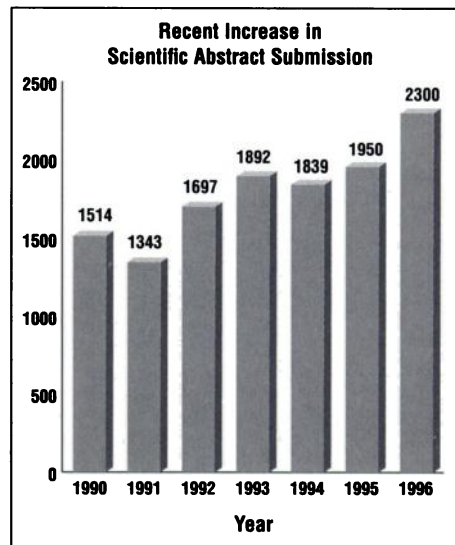
The 13 categorical seminars, which are intensive reviews of important areas of nuclear medicine, include tumor imaging, functional brain imaging and pharmaceutical design. An additional categorical seminar presented by the Department of Energy (DOE) on isotope availability may be included in the program if the DOE provides funding.

The Annual Meeting will open with the Plenary Session at which Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, professor of medicine, radiology and environmental sciences at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, MD, will give a lecture marking the bicentennial of nuclear medicine. Nobel Laureate Glenn T. Seaborg, PhD, associate director-at-large at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in Berkeley, CA will also be present to celebrate the bicentennial.

As in past years, Wagner will continue his time-honored tradition (19 years and counting) of concluding the meeting with his overview and highlights of research presentations.



The futuristic Colorado Convention Center in Denver will be the site of the 1996 SNM Annual Meeting.



—Deborah Kotz