

## Chinese SNM Holds Fifth National Meeting



Newly elected and past officers and province representatives of the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine at their Fifth National Meeting, May 10-12, 1997, in Shanghai.

The Fifth National Meeting of the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine was held in Shanghai May 10-12, 1997. A total of 341 delegates representing every Chinese province except Tibet, where nuclear medicine is not yet available, attended. Of 827 abstracts submitted, 262 were selected for oral presentations, and 185 were chosen for poster sessions. Professors Xiu-Jie Liu and Chang-Ying Jiang, president and vice-president of the Society, organized the meeting.

Plenary session papers dealt with the current status of PET in oncology, thyroid physiology, gated myocardial perfusion SPECT, image coregistration and the role of traditional herbal medicine and nitroglycerin in assessing coronary artery disease.

Clinical material came from 800 hospitals where nuclear medicine facilities were available. These hospitals used 200 SPECT units and 100 gamma cameras (50% of these were homemade) as well as PET instruments. Despite these limited facilities, large numbers of patients were studied. There were 10 PET studies and more than 30 thyroid studies, including  $^{131}\text{I}$  therapy for hyperthyroidism or evaluation of nodular goiter. More than 1000 patients in 12 studies were treated with samarium-153-ethylene-

diaminetetra-methylene phosphonic acid ( $^{153}\text{Sm-EDTMP}$ ) for pain in bony metastases from cancers of the lung, breast, nasopharynx and thyroid and from multiple myeloma. Several studies assessed the efficacy of nitroglycerin in improving myocardial perfusion and left ventricular function in patients with coronary artery disease.

Perfusion abnormalities in  $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc-MIBI}$  similar to those induced by standard exercise in patients with coronary artery disease were seen in a study using intravenously injected higenamine (a Chinese herb).

Distribution of  $^{131}\text{I}$  G08 is similar to the known distribution of benzodiazepine receptors in the brain. With this compound, abnormalities of receptor distribution were found in a study of patients with cerebral perfusion defects or EEG abnormalities. In patients with cerebral infarcts, improvement of cerebral perfusion defects was found after acupuncture.

Nonimaging procedures, which included using the nuclear stethoscope and VEST (Capintec, Ramsey, NJ) to monitor beat-to-beat cardiac functions and renograms, were carried out for diseases other than those of the heart and kidneys. Iodine-131 thyroid uptakes were performed in 935 volunteers living in remote

mountainous regions to study differences in iodide metabolism among various ethnic minority groups.

New therapeutic agents such as dimercaptosuccinic acid to treat medullary thyroid cancer and  $^{131}\text{I}$ -bleomycin treatment of lung cancer were also evaluated. Healing of metastatic foci was reported when  $^{153}\text{Sm-EDTMP}$  was injected, under radiological guidance, directly into involved bone in one study. Some studies reported extensive use of regional brachytherapy with radionuclides to deliver more local radiation to treat patients with esophagus and stomach cancers. Radiation sources also were applied locally to many benign conditions such as skin hemangioma, benign hypertrophy of the prostate, chronic osteomyelitis resistant to antibiotics and collagen fiber disease.

Three of these papers were also presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine held in San Antonio in June 1997.

The Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine holds business and scientific meetings every 4 or 5 years.

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