

SNM Leadership Update

We are busy preparing for our annual mid-winter meeting, February 7–8 at the Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA. The format of this year's meeting is the result of comments we received during the last 3 years as we experimented with the type of educational and scientific format that works best for this smaller meeting. We have redesigned the structure of the meeting based on feedback from participants and expect that this year's meeting will be an enjoyable and profitable experience for all who join us there. Dr. Fred Fahey, SPC Associate Chair for the mid-winter meeting, has done an exceptional job in organizing our mid-winter educational symposium and was integrally involved with SNM leadership and councils in restructuring the educational program to best meet the diverse needs of our attendees while addressing several topics of importance to the nuclear medicine, radiology, and oncology communities.

This year's meeting is structured so that presentations will not compete with each other, relieving attendees of the frustrations associated with decisions over which sessions to attend. Instead, centers and councils will present educational seminars on the latest information in their areas of interest. This year the PET Center of Excellence, in collaboration with the Brain Imaging Council, will present a 1.5-day symposium on advances in "Clinical PET: Oncology and Neurology." The SNM Cardiovascular Council, in collaboration with the Radiopharmaceutical Science Council, Computer and Instrumentation Council, and the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, will present 2 half-day symposia on "Nuclear Cardiology: Consolidating the Present While Moving into the Future." The Nuclear Oncology Diagnosis and Therapy Council will also present 2 half-day symposia on "Directions in Target Radiopharmaceutical Therapy in Cancer." On Saturday, the Technologist Section will present an all-day symposium on "Current Practice and Future Trends."

In addition to the educational component, the mid-winter meeting is where our councils, committees, and other governance organizations hold meetings to conduct final votes on issues that have been discussed via conference call and e-mail during the previous 6 months. Last year, a major restructuring of the SNM was approved at the annual meeting, and much of our time at the upcoming mid-winter meeting will be devoted to putting the new structure in place. One aspect of that restructuring will be an increased reliance on our councils. The following mission statement for SNM councils was suggested at the Committee on Councils Retreat held in Chicago last October.

SNM recognizes the need for subspecialty interests/expertise within the field of nuclear medicine. Councils provide the expertise, professional networking, and educational programs

for nuclear medicine professionals in their respective areas and serve as a resource for development and implementation of SNM policy. Their mission is to provide a forum for members with like interests, to share their expertise with the membership at large, to foster research and education in their areas of interest, to serve as a resource to SNM leadership, and to provide outreach to other professionals and organizations.



Virginia Pappas, CAE
SNM Executive Director

Standard operating and administrative procedures have been developed that will allow us to move from focusing on internal reorganization toward becoming a flexible, strategic organization that looks outward, embracing emerging technologies, collaborating with other organizations in areas of mutual interest, building partnerships with the radiology community, and helping practitioners maintain and expand their skills.

Interest in subspecialty organizations within the SNM continues to grow. The membership of the new PET Center of Excellence reached more than 1,200 by the end of 2003, and this month the PET Center will launch a new offering, a 1-day symposium focusing on "Expanding Nuclear Cardiology." The symposium will be held at the beautiful Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa in Chandler, AZ, on January 24.

Another area currently being restructured is our bylaws. The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Dr. Warren Moore, has taken on the considerable task of a thorough review and revision of our bylaws, including writing procedures to govern the ways in which bylaws should be implemented. Last spring, the Policy and Procedures Task Force produced an initial draft of a bylaws revision and an outline of the procedures still needed to fully complete the bylaws.

International Update

Congratulations to Dr. Henry Royal, who delivered a plenary address at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine (JSNM), October 24–30, in Tokyo. Some 1,500 participants were registered for the meeting, making it the largest JSNM Annual Meeting to date. In meetings between SNM and JSNM leadership, plans were finalized for jointly sponsored educational sessions at both the SNM 2004 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and the 2004 JSNM Annual Meeting in Kyoto.

Some 920 abstracts have been received to date for the January 17–24, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) symposium on nuclear oncology to be held in Porto Allegre, Brazil. This symposium marks the first time that SNM has actively partnered with the IAEA. We will be helping to produce a 4-day educational program geared toward nuclear medicine professionals in developing countries. ❁