

Radiopharmaceutical Science Council Announces Changes

The SNM Radiopharmaceutical Science Council (RPSC) represents a diverse group of scientists, physicians, pharmacists, and technologists who are interested in all aspects of development, formulation, dispensing, and administration of radiopharmaceuticals. As part of a revitalization of all councils within the Society, substantial changes are occurring within the RPSC. A subtle but significant change is renaming it the Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council. This minor change was made to emphasize the multidisciplinary nature of council membership and to embrace the many fields involved in this subspecialty of nuclear medicine. A range of scientific disciplines, including radiochemistry, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, analytical chemistry, radiopharmacy, radiobiology, molecular biology, medical/health physics, pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences, engineering (automation), and medicine, are required to develop and bring radiopharmaceuticals to the point of patient care. A primary goal in the council revitalization process is to make sure that the activities of the RPSC are broad enough to ensure that these diverse disciplines are well represented. It is also our goal to work with the SNM Technologist Section to institute activities that would better serve the needs of technologists and attract more technologists to the RPSC.

The revitalization process is going on in all councils, and it is likely that significant changes will occur in most. One of the important changes that will likely occur is the institution of interim meetings for council boards of directors to address issues and plan for the future. To expedite planning for the RPSC, our board held an interim meeting in March and defined several short- and long-term goals for the revitalization process. Some goals

will improve communication with RPSC members and offer more benefits to the RPSC membership. Other goals are directed at providing more recognition for professionals in the radiopharmaceutical sciences. Still other goals are directed at exploring opportunities to expand and strengthen the RPSC educational offerings, such as student poster sessions with social mixers at the SNM annual meeting and conducting workshops within other society meetings. The latter activity will be part of an expanded outreach program to attract new members to SNM and the RPSC. It is apparent that significant resources will be required to realize these goals. As part of the council revitalization, the SNM governance is supportive of the programs being developed and has set in place a mechanism for requesting resources. That mechanism requires each council to provide a business plan outlining proposed activities and an estimate of required resources. Such a business plan is being developed by the RPSC and will be presented to the SNM Board of Directors for consideration in the 2005 budget.

The most important part of the revitalization process is to identify how best to serve the current membership of the RPSC and add new benefits so that other interested professionals will want to join. The only way this will work is to have input from both RPSC and SNM members. In the coming months we will be adding material to our page on the SNM Web site at www.snm.org. (Click on "About SNM" then "Councils" to find the RPSC page). Take a look at what we are doing, and join us in the revitalization of this important council.

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the output of HOTSPOT, Baltimore's mayor and health commissioner will make a determination—perhaps block-by-block—of the need to evacuate or shelter in place.

A key element of the city's preparedness activities is training professional staff in the health, fire, and police departments. As part of that training activity, which is supervised by the Health Department, I have given a 2-hour introductory radiation terror lecture to approximately 500 city employees, in groups of about 40. This lecture is supplemented with ongoing meetings with selected health department duty officers, fire department hazmat officers, and police department bomb squad of-

ficers. This formal educational activity has an efficient "multiplying effect," because these officers can then train their peers.

Public education prior to a terrorist attack is critical. If you are only beginning to explain radiation to the public during and after an attack, it's too late. As part of its up-front education effort, the Baltimore City Health Department has created a Web site to help in this preparatory effort: www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/health/bio/index.html.

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