



SNM Learning Center Debuts; Reflects Education Evolution

The SNM Learning Center (formerly the PET Learning Center) debuts this month, highlighting an education evolution at the Society. The renamed center will offer an expanded selection of vital courses and learning opportunities beyond basic PET topics for physicians, technologists, and physicians in training.

From its beginning 2 years ago, the highly successful PET Learning Center has provided didactic and interactive experiences for physicians and technologists in the use of PET and PET/CT for diagnostic purposes in sessions held monthly at SNM's Reston, VA, headquarters. In course evaluations, attendees consistently indicated that they wanted advanced courses in a variety of topics held in more diverse geographical locations.

As PET Evolves, SNM Evolves

The needs of the profession are changing. SNM leaders have chosen to respond by broadening the Society's high-quality continuing medical education. As its new name suggests, the SNM Learning Center expands on its predecessor's mission. To attract a wide range of attendees, educational sessions in diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine, molecular imaging, and PET will be offered and continually updated. New programs will be developed in specialized areas in PET imaging including cardiac and advanced oncologic PET/CT and SPECT/CT, as well as correlative CT and MRI interpretation, therapy and response to therapy, neuroimaging, physics and instrumentation, and radiopharmaceuticals.

Courses will be scheduled not only in the Reston headquarters but also in cities such as Boston, Chicago, Houston, and Palo Alto. Our faculty members and SNM council representatives will be given the opportunity to see if they would be interested in hosting local SNM workshops.

SNM's Nuclear Medicine Board Review will also be expanded to meet new requirements for maintenance of certification. This educational program, designed to help residents and physicians maintain competency in nuclear medicine protocols, will be administered under the SNM Learning Center and presented as "roadshows." Rather than being available only at the SNM annual meeting and through Webcasts (in streaming audio and video) and CD formats, the program will be modified and offered at different geographic sites.

SNM's Educational Mission

With the broadening scope of the SNM Learning Center, SNM leaders continue to ensure that the value of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in patient care is universally recognized. SNM's officers aim to increase the visibility of existing educational programs, develop interactive continuing educational activities for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging that involve active participation, increase online content, provide more distance learning opportunities for physicians and technologists (including videostreaming and interactive presentations), develop educational materials for radiology residents and referring physicians, and create more stand-alone programs.



Virginia Pappas, CAE
SNM Executive Director

Welcome Our New Education Director

Lynn Barnes, MEd, SNM's new director of education, and her staff are working on projects to amplify the Society's educational program. Barnes, who has more than 20 years of experience in medical education, worked for the nuclear medicine department of Delaware Medical Laboratories for several years and for the Medical Society of Delaware for 5 years. More recently, she served as the director of self-assessment programs in the education division at the American College of Physicians for more than 10 years and has spent the last few years as the vice president of clinical affairs in the medical education services division of Cardinal Health. In addition to the SNM Learning Center, the Society's education arsenal continues to include sessions at the mid-winter and annual meetings, educational program CDs, online teaching files, a clinical papers archive, online exams for continuing education credit, Webcasts, a physician evaluation program to foster continued improvement of the quality of nuclear medicine practice, seminar roadshows, and scientific abstracts.

Although the center's name has changed and its focus has broadened, physicians and technologists will continue to be able to get a wide variety of new educational programs in nuclear medicine both at local and national meetings and in a future online format.