



Society Advances Strategic Goals at Mid-Winter Meeting

The SNM's leaders discussed and voted on measures affecting the futures of physicians, technologists, and scientists during the Society's 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting and Educational Symposium, January 27–30, in Tampa, FL. I would like to highlight some of the major decisions made by the SNM and SNMETS boards in support of our strategic goals.

Goal: The Value of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging in Patient Care Will Be Universally Recognized

The SNM's board of directors (BOD) voted to support the publication of the "Collaborative White Paper on Concurrent PET/CT With an Integrated Imaging System." This white paper, developed by SNM and the ACR, promotes the superior diagnostic accuracy of PET and CT images. It notes that the combination of PET and CT brings challenges to nuclear medicine physicians, health care providers, and radiologists to make the modalities available for patient care on a timely basis. The white paper explains the need for practice guidelines to achieve and maintain a high standard of care. It covers PET/CT definitions and terminology, clinical indications in oncology, specifications of the examination, practice guidelines, safety issues, regulatory and legal issues, and reimbursement and economic issues.

SNM continues to monitor the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on coding and reimbursement issues. The BOD created a task force to fully investigate and evaluate the potential implications to our members of physician self-referral legislation. In addition, the BOD placed a "high priority" on resident funding by CMS for nuclear medicine, creating a task force that includes nuclear medicine program directors and members of the Academic Council and the Government Relations Committee.

Goal: Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Will Achieve Significant Growth in Science and Utilization

SNM board members approved the operating procedures for the Society's PET Center of Excellence, which focuses primarily on educational programs and information and practical issues related to PET, and the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, which promotes education in molecular imaging, fosters research, seeks research funding, and addresses regulatory pharmaceutical issues. The protocols and standard operating procedures for the Molecular Imaging and Radionuclide Therapy Trials Group were also approved.

Goal: Membership in SNM Will Be Viewed as Essential by All With an Interest in the Field of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

The SNM and SNMETS boards approved position statements for entry-level, practicing, and non-practicing technologists. These position statements reflect the clinical and didactic training and competencies needed because of recent advances in medical imaging.

SNM's leaders agreed to enact a conflict of interest policy that adheres to new Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education standards for commercial support, thus ensuring the independence of continuing medical education activities. The Society must now show that everyone who is in a position to control the content of an educational activity has disclosed relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest to the provider.

In another area of interest, Paul Wing of the Center for Health Workforce Studies, School of Public Health, University of Albany, provided information about leading the Society's 3-year Nuclear Medicine Workforce Study. This study will allow SNM to acquire information and insights about nuclear medicine professions that will help leaders plan more effectively for the future. Wing will conduct surveys of SNM members and others to better understand who nuclear medicine professionals are, what they do, and where they work; initiate interviews and discussions to elucidate the planning and policy contexts in which nuclear medicine professionals work; gather information about and delineate current and future professional opportunities and challenges; and synthesize and interpret the information obtained in the study into ideas for future SNM strategies, programs, and activities.

In other actions, board members declined a membership dues increase, approved Society financial reports, and began a discussion on whether the SNM should send both CD and printed copies of the 2006 Annual Meeting abstract books to members and *JNM* subscribers.

The reports from the Society's various committee meetings will be posted online at www.snm.org in the ABOUT SNM area. ❁



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