

(Continued from page 28N)

Alzheimer's disease from frontotemporal dementia has led to more imaging studies for PET. With this emphasis, the BIC hopes to see even more expanded use in the future. In addition, the Kuhl-Lassen Award and potential recipients will be discussed at the BOD meeting in February.

Areas in which cutting-edge research continued in 2005 and into 2006 are exemplified by work being done at the University of Pittsburgh (PA), Washington University (St. Louis), the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), and at the University of California at Los Angeles in the development of PET amyloid imaging in the brain. This technique is yielding insights into the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment. Frontiers of brain imaging research are also being expanded with small animal imaging of the brain with microPET and also optical imaging and MR imaging. It is also hoped that dopaminergic imaging will move from the research realm into clinical practice in North America, as it has in Europe.

For the SNM Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, June 3–7, 2006, the BIC has planned and will sponsor a number of educational activities. First, on Saturday, June 3, will be a 1-day categorical seminar on “Biomarkers in Central Nervous System Diseases.” In addition, continuing medical education sessions sponsored by the BIC will include 2 “Read with the Experts” sessions, a session on “Dopaminergic Imaging in Movement Disorders,” the Kuhl-Lassen Award Lecture, and a session on “Practical Cerebrovascular Imaging with Nuclear Medicine.” The BIC's mission is to enhance and support brain imaging education and to foster new investigators in brain imaging research. Thus, this year will see continuance of the Young Investigator's Award abstract session in the neurosciences presentations at the SNM Annual Meeting. We hope to see you in San Diego!

David H. Lewis, MD
Chair, SNM Brain Imaging Council

The Young Professionals Committee

The SNM Young Professionals Committee (YPC) has gained great momentum over the past year and a half, and I am delighted to provide this brief summary to update the nuclear medicine community on our ongoing and upcoming endeavors.

During the first half of the 2005–2006 year, the YPC's efforts focused on 2 major issues of interest to young professionals and the SNM: education and the current state of the nuclear medicine job market. The expanding use of fusion imaging with PET/CT and now SPECT/CT requires nuclear medicine physicians to become well versed in anatomic imaging for accurate functional image interpretation. There is concern that job availability has already or could become limited for those nuclear medicine physicians who are not formally trained or board certified in radiology. However, a paucity of data is available on the current state of the nuclear medicine job market to support this hypothesis.

As a first step, the YPC recently distributed a survey through the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association and our Web site to poll recent nuclear medicine graduates regarding their experience in finding a job in nuclear medicine. The overall objective of “The Nuclear Medicine Job Market Survey” is to gain a better understanding of the current state of the job market for nuclear medicine physicians. We anticipate that the data compiled from this survey will be used to help direct our efforts to those concerns that are most important to address.

In addition, the YPC is represented on the SNM Committee on Education. This committee has identified CT training for nuclear medicine physicians as an important educational issue.

At the 2005 Association of University Radiologists (AUR) meeting, YPC members had the opportunity to meet with an organization of chief radiology residents. As many readers are probably aware, the American Board of Radiology has decreased the amount of required training in nuclear medicine from 6 to 4 months, yet the number of topics radiology residents must master is increasing to include molecular imaging, therapy, and PET. The SNM is a logical organization to provide supplemental training in the areas in which radiology residents might not be receiving adequate instruction and experience during their general nuclear medicine training. Consequently, the YPC conducted a survey of radiology residents to gather data about which topics to cover and how to best present and distribute such educational materials. Approximately 140 radiology residents completed the survey, and the final data will be presented at the 2006 AUR Meeting in Texas.

A lot of work lies ahead for the YPC. In addition to completing the projects already described here, the YPC will sponsor online teaching files, and plans are underway for a workshop at the YPC luncheon at the 53rd SNM Annual Meeting in San Diego. The best “Young Professionals' Abstracts” will again be recognized at the

YPC luncheon. This year's awards will include both clinical and basic science categories.

A strong, enthusiastic core leadership has been assembled and our membership continues to grow. I am looking forward to an exciting year and, on behalf

of the YPC, look forward to working with all of you.

*Heather A. Jacene, MD
Chair, SNM Young Professionals Committee*

From the Computer and Instrumentation Council

The year 2005 was busy for the SNM Computer and Instrumentation Council (CaIC), with much of the activity revolving around the Annual Meeting of the SNM, held last June in Toronto, Canada. Through the efforts of Tim Turkington, PhD, and David Cooke, MSEE, the council organized a categorical seminar on PET instrumentation that literally had standing room only. A continuing education session on PET/CT acceptance testing and quality control, along with an update on the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) initiative activities, was organized by George Zubal, PhD. As in the past, the CaIC sponsored the Young Investigator Symposium, with the award for the best presentation going to Brendan Vastenhouw of the Department of Nuclear Medicine, Image Sciences Institute, University Medical Center, Utrecht, The Netherlands, for his work: "Submillimeter Total-Body Mouse Imaging with U-SPECT I." At the Toronto meeting, the CaIC also inaugurated the Edward Hoffman Memorial award to honor Hoffman's outstanding scientific and service contributions to our field. The first recipient of the award was Simon Cherry, PhD, who gave an excellent talk and highlighted Hoffman's substantial influence on his own career.

The 2006 SNM Mid-Winter Meeting will be held in Tempe, AZ, on February 11–12, and the CaIC is organizing 2 of the sessions. The first will be "Clinical Implementation of Advanced Image Processing and Reconstruction Algorithms" and will feature presentations on commercially available software from both developers and users. Presentations in this session will include:

"Flash 3D, CT Attenuation Compensation and Scatter Correction," Hans Vija, PhD, Siemens Medical Solutions, Molecular Imaging.

"Wide-Beam Reconstruction Method for Shortening Scan Time of Gated Cardiac SPECT Perfusion Studies: A Preliminary Clinical Evaluation," Salvador Borges-Neto, MD, Duke University Medical Center, and Shuli Schwartz, UltraSPECT.

"Evolution: A Framework for Advanced SPECT Reconstruction with Compensation for Image Degrading Factors," Eric Frey, PhD, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

"Fast, High-Quality Cardiac SPECT Using Astonish Reconstruction," Richard Meyers, MD, Radiological Associates of Sacramento, and Ling Shao, Philips Medical Systems.

The second session will focus on the new realm of SPECT/CT and will feature presentations by clinical users of each of the products. The program will include:

"Initial Clinical Experience with Siemens Symbia SPECT-CT," by Manuel D. Cerqueira, MD, and Frank DiFlippo, PhD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

"Specifications and Applications of an Integrated SPECT/Low-Output CT System: The GE Hawkeye," James A. Patton, PhD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

"Initial Clinical Experience with the Philips Precedence SPECT/CT System," Jack A. Ziffer, MD, PhD, Miami Baptist Cardiac and Vascular Institute.

The material presented in these sessions shares the common characteristics of being new, exciting, and ready for prime-time routine implementation in the clinic.

The CaIC remains active in the Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine (DICOM) and IHE arenas through the tireless efforts of Jerry Wallis, MD. These activities include providing standards for presenting nuclear cardiology results on PACs and for reliable connectivity between different DICOM-compliant systems. This work promises to have both immediate and long-range significance for the nuclear medicine community.

The future plans of the CaIC include the 2006 SNM Annual meeting in San Diego, CA, in June, where we will be offering another categorical seminar and 2 continuing education sessions. The council is also working with Fred Fahey, DSc, to explore the possibility of including an information technology component to the Annual Meeting. Finally, the CaIC is putting together a syllabus summarizing the relevant information on nuclear medicine instrumentation and software with which a qualified expert should be familiar.

*Mark T. Madsen, PhD
President, SNM Computer and Instrumentation Council*