

From the Correlative Imaging Council

The SNM Correlative Imaging Council (CIC) had a very productive year, with educational activities continuing to be our main function. At the 2005 SNM Mid-Winter Meeting, the CIC organized an educational track in PET/CT. Topics included PET/CT instrumentation, CT protocols and techniques, protocols and dose reduction techniques in children, and PET/CT evaluation in head/neck cancer, thorax, and abdomen. At the 2005 SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, the CIC again presented a very timely categorical course titled, "Nuts and Bolts of PET/CT and Beyond." The course was well attended and covered a wide range of topics, including PET/CT in oncology, PET/CT in cardiology, and state-of-the-art pulmonary embolism evaluation using ventilation/perfusion lung imaging and spiral CT. At the conclusion of the session, the CIC held its annual business meeting.

One of the highlights of CIC activities in 2005 was a retreat held on August 6 in conjunction with a CT training course for nuclear medicine physicians, organized by our incoming president George Segall, MD. The Stanford University faculty gave the CT course, which was very helpful in continuing progress toward a potential and much-anticipated CT certification for nuclear medicine physicians. Useful resources for CT learning will also be compiled by the CIC and made available for ready reference.

The educational program was followed on the next day by a stimulating retreat for the board of directors

(BOD) of the CIC at the lovely Thomas Fogarty Winery. Thanks are due to Dr. Segall for his excellent organizational efforts on both the educational CT course and the retreat. In the lovely surroundings of the winery, the BOD not only relaxed but also had a very fruitful brainstorming and strategy-planning session for CIC activities and future direction. Walter Wolf, PhD, our outgoing president, gave an excellent historical perspective of the council, to which he continues to be an invaluable resource.

The key outcomes of the discussions included a consensus that the CIC should continue to provide CT training courses for nuclear medicine physicians and future program content for the categorical seminar at SNM annual meetings. The BOD discussed and approved the motion that an organ- or system-based categorical course be presented in the future, as this would be the most helpful and appropriate for optimal patient management. Toward this goal, the first organ-based seminar is being planned to cover breast cancer and will be offered during the 2006 SNM Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. The seminar will cover all aspects of breast cancer, including diagnosis, oncologic and surgical management, and future trends. The program is emerging as an exciting state-of-the-art session and should be well attended.

Lalitha Ramanna, MD

President, SNM Correlative Imaging Council

International Atomic Energy Agency Highlights

It was a very good year for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Any year in which you win the Nobel Peace Prize can be counted as good, but this hard-working group saw a number of long-term plans come to fruition in 2005 and achieved significant milestones in other projects, some with important implications for the future of nuclear medicine.

Noting that "Since 1957, the IAEA has worked tirelessly and expertly to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear technology," the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace prize to Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, director general, and the IAEA in equal shares.

The IAEA announced that its share of the prize will be spent to use nuclear technology to solve some of the most basic problems in the developing world. Nuclear techniques to expand food resources and evaluate child development will target childhood nutrition problems, and, through the PACT program, training in radiation oncology will be expanded into areas of the developing world where the need is greatest. Dr. ElBaradei has



Mathew L. Thakur

also announced plans to use his share of the prize for charitable purposes.

The Vienna symposium on radiopharmaceuticals was the nuclear medicine highlight of the IAEA year. It was attended by more than 220 basic scientists and clinicians from 70 countries, including North America, many countries in Europe, and more than 50 developing countries. Invited to speak at the opening ceremony were the representatives from the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM; Dr. Ignasi Carrio), the Singapore Radiological Society, the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB; Dr. C. Lee), and the SNM (myself). I was glad to represent SNM as its immediate past president, not only because I was able to share with leading world radiopharmaceutical scientists and physicians some of the SNM activities to promote nuclear medicine in developing countries, but also because in my absence there would have been a void for SNM on the podium at the traditional European-type of formal opening ceremony in which other prominent biomedical organizations, such as EANM and WFNMB participated. Thanks to SNM for partially covering my travel expenses.

Scientifically, the symposium was a very good one. The topics ranged from novel diagnostic agents in oncology, neurology, and cardiology to therapeutic applications in oncology to rheumatoid arthritis. The topics also included production of radionuclides using cyclotrons and using low-, medium-, and high-neutron flux reactors. In issues related to federal regulations, restrictions associated with highly enriched uranium targets were discussed, and it was noted that certain developing countries with access to high-flux reactors are planning to use low-energy uranium targets, with some even going back to bombarding ^{98}Mo and developing $^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ generators using “gel” col-

umns onto which a relatively large quantity of molybdenum can be loaded.

It was also interesting to note that developing countries are eager to have cyclotrons, PET, and PET/CT scanners installed in rapidly increasing numbers. One speaker from Europe stated in his presentation that the fate of $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ may be “short lived” when cyclotrons and PET scanners are increasing in numbers so rapidly.

I was also impressed by the ways in which radiopharmacists and nuclear medicine experts who hail from different parts of the world work at IAEA throughout the year to promote nuclear medicine and the peaceful applications of nuclear energy in developing countries. Their creative ways of utilizing the relatively small amount of funds for education and research to promote capacity building in local production and utilization of radiopharmaceuticals for nuclear medicine applications in developing countries is inspiring. This not only properly serves the IAEA mission but also helps enormously the many deserving investigators in developing countries.

In brief, for me it was a scientifically rich, socially enjoyable, and professionally beneficial gathering. I am glad that, on behalf of SNM, I was able to participate in the meeting, which conveyed successfully SNM’s contribution in promoting nuclear medicine in developing countries and our symbolic support for IAEA activities. These efforts may lead SNM to a closer partnership with the IAEA.

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Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals

The Energy Policy Act of 2005

Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and President Bush signed it into law on August 8, 2005. The bill contained 2 important sections for nuclear medicine. First, the bill assured a continued supply of high-enriched uranium (HEU) that is used to produce the isotopes ^{99}Mo and ^{131}I that are so important to nuclear medicine. The Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals (CORAR) supported this language with tremendous help from SNM and many people in the nuclear medicine community through letters to their congressmen and senators. The language in the bill will assure a con-

tinued supply of HEU until low-enriched uranium (LEU) technology is fully developed and commercially viable. The industry is currently developing LEU targets and alternate reactor technologies utilizing LEU. The act also gave the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) authority over specific nuclear materials.

NRC Jurisdiction Over ARM

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 broadened the definition of byproduct material to include accelerator-produced