

New SNM/SNMTS Officers Recognized at San Diego Meeting

At their annual meeting, held June 3–7 in San Diego, CA, the SNM and SNMTS announced new officers for 2006–2007.

SNM Officers

Martin P. Sandler, MD, chair of the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, TN) and a former editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)*, will serve as the SNM president through June 2007. At Vanderbilt, he is the Carol D. and Henry P. Pendergrass Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences.

“SNM is uniquely poised to take on a strategic position as the acknowledged leader in molecular imaging and nuclear medicine,” said Sandler on assuming his new office. He noted that SNM leaders voted in April and reaffirmed at the annual meeting their intention to go forward with the creation of an expanded long-range plan for the society. “SNM now embraces a strategic plan with an expanded core purpose: to improve health care by advancing molecular imaging and therapy,” he said, calling the plan “a defining moment” for the society. Sandler’s research interests have focused on instrumentation development and technology transfer. With his colleagues, he introduced into clinical practice the first scanner that performs both SPECT and coincidence CT imaging. In collaboration with GE Healthcare, the Vanderbilt group more recently installed the first 64-slice SPECT/CT scanner to be used in clinical trials for cardiac imaging.

Sandler received his medical training at the Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He was a resident physician at the Groote Schuur and Johannesburg General Hospitals, training in internal medicine and endocrinology. After serving as a consultant physician in the department of medicine at the University of Witwatersrand, he completed fellowship training in the division of endocrinology and metabolism and the division of nuclear medicine at Vanderbilt.

A member of SNM since 1983, Sandler is certified by the South African Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. His hospital appointments at Vanderbilt have included vice chair of the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences (1992–2000), director of the nuclear medicine/PET section (1987–2000), director of the nuclear medicine residency training program (1987–1988), and director of clinical nuclear medicine (1983–1986). In 2003, he completed a distinguished 5-year term as editor-in-chief of *JNM*. He has served on numerous SNM chapters, committees, and councils and is the author of 8 books, 86 journal articles, and 63 book chapters.



Outgoing SNM President Peter Conti clips the “elect” from Martin Sandler’s President-elect ribbon, officially transferring the position of SNM president to him.

He expressed enthusiasm for the tasks ahead as SNM president. “There is an exceptional opportunity for the society to lead the molecular imaging evolution by capitalizing on our signature strengths: our multidisciplinary members who are intensely gifted researchers, our forward-thinking leaders who promote the discovery of new science and creation of new techniques and technologies, our body of knowledge published in our journal, our exceptional



Outgoing SNMTS President Valerie Cronin with new SNMTS President Scott Holbrook at the Technologist Section business meeting.

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annual meetings that showcase current research, and our deep commitment to training the next generation of medical practitioners,” he said.

Alexander J.B. (Sandy) McEwan, MD, who was named as SNM president-elect, is the director of oncologic imaging at Cross Cancer Institute (Edmonton, Canada) and a professor and director of the division of oncologic imaging in the department of oncology at the University of Alberta. “SNM plays an important role in educating the molecular imaging/nuclear medicine professionals of today and the future,” said McEwan in accepting the new office. “This is especially important as we experience an evolution in the standards of patient care.”

McEwan participated in the development of the SNM multicenter Clinical Trials Group, an initiative targeted at advances in clinical practice, in drug development, and in the emerging molecular imaging field. “Over time, SNM’s small trials are expected to encompass all the interests and possible applications of molecular imaging and diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine,” said McEwan. “For example, clinical trials may be run to evaluate the effectiveness of new therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals or of using PET imaging as a surrogate marker for clinical outcomes when evaluating new therapeutic interventions,” he explained.

McEwan earned his medical degree from the University of London and served as a medical officer with the UK Royal Navy from 1977 to 1982. He completed a residency in nuclear medicine at the Royal Naval Hospital in Haslar, UK; a residency in radiation oncology at the University of Auckland, New Zealand; and a residency in nuclear medicine at the University of Southampton, UK.

A member of SNM since 1987, McEwan has held numerous chapter and national positions on committees and councils. He is a past president of the Canadian Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Robert W. Atcher, PhD, program manager for the Department of Health and Human Services at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico, was announced as the SNM vice president-elect. In assuming the office, he noted that he intends to assist the society in maintaining its leadership role “as the profession stands at the intersection of molecular imaging and medical practice.” He described his vision for the SNM as resting on 3 basic principles: (1) protecting and expanding reimbursement for nuclear medicine procedures; (2) providing high-quality member service by offering essential education and training and by preserving and expanding available funding to support research and development; and (3) partnering with allied organizations.



Sandy McEwan



Robert Atcher

Atcher has served in several capacities at LANL since 1997, most recently as group leader for Michelson and Szilard Resources in the bioscience division. He has also been a radiochemist for the Michael Reese/University of Chicago Center for Radiation Therapy, a group leader and chemist for nuclear medicine research at Argonne National Laboratory (IL), an expert in the radiation oncology branch of the division of cancer treatment for the National Cancer Institute (Bethesda, MD), and a research associate in radiology/nuclear medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (Boston, MA).

Atcher holds a doctorate from the University of Rochester (NY), a master’s in business administration from the University of New Mexico (Albuquerque), a master’s in journalism from the University of Missouri (Columbia), and a bachelor’s degree from Washington University (St. Louis, MO). A former president of the SNM Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council, he is the University of New Mexico/Los Alamos professor of pharmacy in the College of Pharmacy at University of New Mexico/Albuquerque. He has also held academic positions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Chicago (IL). His research interests include medical uses of radio-nuclides for diagnosis and therapy, tumor biology, and improving the transition of technology into clinical applications.

Atcher has been a member of the SNM task force on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s regulation of accelerator-produced and naturally occurring radioactive materials, the Committee on Radiopharmaceuticals, and the Government Relations and Isotope Availability committees. He serves as an associate chair of the SNM Scientific Program Committee. In addition, he has been a witness for SNM before various House appropriations subcommittees and a government oversight committee. He has also served on the board of directors for the Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council and as a member of the task force on a dedicated accelerator. He has published more than 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and is a frequent presenter at national meetings.

SNMTS Officers

D. Scott Holbrook, BS, CNMT, RT(N), assumed office as president of the SNMTS at the San Diego meeting. “SNMTS recognizes the importance of developing the imaging specialists of the future,” said Holbrook, vice president of Clinical Pharmacy Services, an independent nuclear pharmacy in Gray, TN. “As president, I will focus on providing the necessary education and developing the highest standards in providing quality patient care.” His tasks as SNMTS president will include stewardship of 2 initiatives supported by the Technologist Section: a baccalaureate degree entry-level requirement for technologists and the development of a master’s degree-level nuclear medicine practitioner career path. “As SNMTS carries these 2 initiatives forward, we will continue to fight for the

Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence and Rad-CARE bills, which support federal minimum standards for nuclear medicine and radiologic technologists and radiation therapists,” he said. In addition, the SNMTS will continue to lobby on insurance coverage and reimbursement issues and for increased funding for key medical radioisotope production and basic science research at the Department of Energy.

Holbrook previously served as market development manager and territory manager for PETNET Pharmaceuticals (Knoxville, TN). A member of SNM’s Mideastern Chapter, he is a founder of the SNMTS PET Learning Center and 1 of the original authors of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board’s PET exam, the society’s PET/CT consensus paper, and the SNM PET/CT guideline. He is the current vice chair of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology—Technologist Section. He is the author of more than 50 articles and has made more than 100 presentations.

He received a bachelor of science degree in nuclear medicine technology from Wheeling Jesuit University (WV) and was named an SNMTS Fellow during the SNM 2005 Annual Meeting.

David Gilmore, MS, CNMT, an assistant professor and clinical coordinator for the nuclear medicine technology program at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Boston, MA), was named as SNMTS president-elect at the San Diego meeting. “As an SNM Technologist Section leader, I will continue to work for licensure, ensure that high-quality educational offerings are

available to all technologists in every part of the country, and push forward promoting high standards of professionalism,” he said. “This is especially important since we are working in a rapidly changing environment with numerous challenges, including the use of PET with CT; state licensure conflicts; new regulations, radiopharmaceuticals, and continuing education requirements; the dawn of the PET/MR imaging age; and a shortage/oversupply seesaw.” Gilmore previously served as associate director of clinical operations for Bracco Diagnostics (Princeton, NJ).

Gilmore holds a master of science degree in education from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and a bachelor’s degree in health sciences from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA). The American Society of Radiologic Technologists member received his nuclear medicine technology certificate from Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Virginia and has also earned a certificate in project management from Boston University. He serves on the board of directors for the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. He joined SNMTS in 1994 and has also served on the Finance, Emerging Technologies, Education, Advocacy, and Nominating committees.

In the 2006 elections, the SNMTS membership selected Mary Beth Farrell, CNMT (Pittsburgh, PA), as SNMTS secretary and elected Mark Wallenmeyer, CNMT (Springfield, MO), to the Finance Committee. ✧



David Gilmore

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generations of practitioners on the applications of molecular imaging; (4) and supporting innovations in translational research from bench to bedside.

The society plans to fund outreach activities to referring physicians and patient groups, support translational clinical studies and small innovative trials, and offer research grants and fellowships to advance new medical developments. Conti noted that SNM and ERF leaders had been “quietly” working on the campaign for several months. “The early pledge from GE

Healthcare signals that this initiative can be an overwhelming success,” said Conti. “This campaign is more about impact than dollars,” he added; “It’s not about us—it’s about the future.”

More information about the campaign is available on the SNM Web site at www.snm.org/micampaign. For more information, contact Kathleen Bates, SNM director of development, at 703-326-1194 or kbates@snm.org; or Megan Schagrin, SNM associate director of industry and international relations, at 703-326-1184 or mschagrin@snm.org. ✧