

MI Abstracts for Annual Meeting

A new track for abstract presentations, "Novel Approaches to Molecular Imaging," has been added to the scientific program for the 2008 SNM Annual Meeting. While the scope of nuclear medicine includes much of what is understood to be "molecular imaging," the MI field is much broader. This new track is designed for abstracts that primarily involve the use of nonradioactive approaches to molecular imaging or the use of radiopharmaceuticals in combination with nonradioactive molecular imaging techniques and agents. We want to encourage physician/scientists working on the many techniques of molecular imaging to submit their research to this track, especially young researchers and scientists. To that end the SNM Board of Directors has approved 30 awards of \$1,000 each, specifically to support the travel expenses of students and postdoctoral or clinical trainees who will be presenting molecular imaging abstracts at the annual meeting. These travel grants will be awarded based on the quality of the abstract and on information provided in the award application.

The online abstract submission site, <http://snm.abstractcentral.com>, will be open through midnight, January 10.

This is membership renewal season, and I would like to encourage all SNM members to consider adding membership in the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence when you renew your annual SNM membership. If you are not a member, you can join the center on a free-trial basis that includes a free 3-month membership in SNM. Membership in the center is also free to SNM members and is a great way to keep up with the latest molecular imaging technologies and techniques. Plus, you will be part of a vital and growing community of physicians, researchers, and technologists who share an interest in the exciting scientific developments that are shaping our specialty. ✨



**Marybeth Howlett,
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MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

MOC: Frequently Asked Questions

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) recognizes that its diplomates have many questions about Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. The board has done its best to answer these questions; however, as these requirements evolve, changes in board policy are necessary. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), including updates, can be found at www.ABNM.org. Following are some abbreviated examples of these questions and answers.

Must all diplomates participate in MOC? Yes. As professionals we all have a responsibility for life-long learning. MOC formalizes this learning into a program that is valuable to diplomates and credible to medical licensing boards, payers, patients, credentialing committees, and others. If boards do not take the lead in establishing a credible program, similar programs will inevitably be imposed on medical professionals by others.

What are the consequences if I do not participate in MOC? Over the next few years, the ABNM expects that other important groups will require ABNM diplomates to

participate in MOC. Failure to participate will likely result in difficulty in renewing medical licenses, credentialing, and reimbursement by the government and third-party payers.

Do diplomates with a lifetime certificate need to participate in MOC? Yes. No logical argument can be made to require younger,

more recently trained physicians to participate in MOC and not expect older physicians to participate. The ABNM does not plan to revoke a lifetime certificate for lack of participation, but failure to participate will likely result in increased difficulty in renewing medical licenses, credentialing, and reimbursement.

Why do I have to pay fees for MOC? The ABNM must identify appropriate MOC activities and monitor the activities of all of its diplomates to ensure that they are completing the required activities. Significant implementation



Henry Royal, MD

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