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Working With Legislators and Regulators. SNM asked Congress to reconsider the deep cuts made in medical imaging services for Medicare beneficiaries as part of the federal Deficit Reduction Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 2005 (DRA) and commented to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services regarding the 2007 rules for the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Although Congress failed to take action on DRA cuts, members did listen to SNM and other medical societies regarding the looming 5% 2007 Medicare physician payment cut. Before adjourning, Congress voted to freeze the 2007 physician payment cut at the 2006 rate. SNM is continuing its work to restore federal funding for basic science research in nuclear medicine (in light of a Department of Energy/National Institutes of Health study that is examining the importance of such research). We will continue to participate in discussions about evolving Food and Drug Administration guidelines for the review and approval of radiopharmaceuticals; interact more with industry representatives to promote therapeutic drug development, the use of novel molecular therapeutics, and the development of new diagnostics; and continue our role with the National Oncologic PET Registry. In collaboration with other associations, SNM submitted public comments in response to the proposed U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission rulemaking on naturally occurring and accelerator-produced radioactive material.

Continuing a Research-Rich Tradition. JNM and *JNMT* have both moved to an open access publishing model and will soon publish ahead of print in a move designed to bring research to you faster. *JNM* publishes outstanding research in diverse topics, including consensus recommendations for using PET with ^{18}F-FDG in National Cancer Institute Trials and last month's "PET/CT in Cancer Patient Management" supplement.

We know that the future has a way of arriving unannounced; however, from this brief look at the year's past activities, you can see that SNM has planned intelligently to bridge nuclear medicine to a future with molecular imaging and therapy.

Martin P. Sandler, MD
President, SNM

From the SNMTS President

Preparing Technologists for Tomorrow

By planning strategically—and steering the direction of education, training, and certification efforts—the SNM Technologist Section spent this past year continuing to prepare individuals and the profession for the future.

Developing a Strategic Plan. The futures of SNMTS and SNM remain integrally linked, and we are both charting a strategic direction to improve health care by advancing molecular imaging and therapy. SNMTS leaders added this mission as our tagline and began scripting a revised strategic plan last summer. Our future includes the important work we do in nuclear medicine and recognizes that advances in molecular biology, molecular medicine, and medical imaging expand the role of nuclear medicine professionals. SNMTS wants to emphasize a new strategic direction in the advocacy, research, training, and clinical practice of molecular imaging. We have a draft document with the following 5 goals: SNMTS will be the essential professional organization, offering necessary programs and services in an expanding field; stand as the ultimate resource for knowledge, information, and education in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging; continue to be inclusive to those with different thoughts and roles; work to raise awareness of the impact of emerging technology; and remain responsive, embracing new developments and keeping pace with the rapid changes in the field.

D. Scott Holbrook, CNMT, PET, FSNMTS

Supporting SNMTS Direction. A survey that was recently conducted for SNMTS reflects that nuclear medicine technologists are keenly aware of how quickly the profession is changing. We know that the introduction of new imaging technologies results in changing responsibilities and that we are seeing an evolution in medical imaging, the increasing importance of fusion imaging technologies, and the shift of nuclear medicine practice toward cardiologists, oncologists, and other specialists.

According to the study, major transformations in nuclear medicine are coming, and we were advised to pursue licensure in all states to serve the needs—and protect the safety—of the public. In addition, technologists were told to promote standardized, legislated legal scope of practice; augment the knowledge base and skill sets to include fusion imaging with the latest technologies; track closely the work

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of scientists and industry on new imaging technologies and adjust educational programs as needed; work to increase the number of certified technologists in all states in this country; and provide opportunities for those interested to extend their professional education to the graduate level—all efforts supported by SNMTS. We are also continuing efforts to upgrade minimum education requirements for nuclear medicine technology certification to a bachelor's degree at entry level and to develop certification processes for CT and/or MRI. This survey supports the direction SNMTS is taking in determining how nuclear medicine technologists of today may broaden their scope to become the imaging specialists or molecular imaging technologists of tomorrow.

Educating Technologists of the Future. Although maintenance of certification (MOC) directly affects physicians, its reach will extend to technologists and scientists. SNM offers a myriad of educational programs that ease the way for nuclear medicine professionals to continue their lifeline learning. Online workshops for technologists are available in advanced oncologic PET and PET/CT, CT, and cardiac imaging. *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* is a valuable resource for our profession, and the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* continues its excellent coverage of technologist issues under the helm of new editor Frances L. Neagley.

Securing Continued Successes. Although the U.S. House of Representatives failed to take action on the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence (CARE) bill, the Senate did pass its version, the RadCARE bill. SNMTS and the Professional Development Education Fund continue to support and encourage technologists to initiate innovative research projects and enter nuclear medicine technologist programs. And we've brought a molecular imaging presence overseas to both the 9th World Congress of Nuclear Medicine and Biology and the annual congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine. Technologists living outside North America face the same issues that we do, and the topics for continuing education sessions at those meetings were similar, addressing common obstacles such as standardization of training and methodology and promoting activism.

Capturing Our Demographics. The 2005 survey provided the most comprehensive picture of nuclear medicine technologists ever developed and contains information about demographic characteristics, education, employment, career paths, and attitudes about the profession. Our future is bright as findings show that we enjoy our jobs, find our salaries near the top of the scale for professions with similar educational requirements, are well educated, and remain poised for continuing growth and change—all the more reason to continue the good work that we're doing.

D. Scott Holbrook, CNMT, PET, FSNMTS
President, SNMTS

From the SNM Chief Executive Officer

A Society of Substance

SNM has always been—and will continue to be—a society of substance as it maintains its lead with issues important to nuclear medicine and as it branches out to improve health care by advancing molecular imaging and therapy.

Following New Goals. SNM implemented a new strategic direction; it is our roadmap for the future. We have added the tagline, "advancing molecular imaging and therapy," but our short- and long-term strategic goals, values, objectives, and strategies are not merely cosmetic. Over the next 3–5 years, SNM intends to become members' *indispensable resource* for education, knowledge exchange, training, and networking; the *powerful advocate* for molecular medicine, including imaging and therapy; the *leader in education* and in promoting collaboration with referring physician and patient groups; a significant *supporter of innovations* in translational research; and the *society that positions molecular medicine as an essential tool* in providing the highest standards of patient care around the world.

Providing Essential Resources. This past year's actions show that substance rules SNM's every move—with equal importance placed on advancing nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNM continues to disseminate critical information and knowledge about new research and modalities. The potential of new developments for patient care will be communicated as quickly as possible by a concerted effort through our journals, Web site, books, conferences, and lectures.


Virginia Pappas, CAE

SNM, which recently successfully complied with new Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education guidelines for educational offerings, anticipated the changes maintenance of certification (MOC) requirements would bring and developed its Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program (LLSAP). Nearly 2 dozen systems-based online LLSAP modules have been introduced in oncology PET and PET/CT, nuclear cardiology, molecular imaging, and basic science; additional modules will be released this spring. SNM continues to monitor trends in educational offerings to provide the most current topics, offering increasingly popular online