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Program Directors Association Meeting in Chicago on behalf of the Academic Council in November.

Anyone who wants to become more active in the Academic Council should let me know. We welcome participation from a wide spectrum of nuclear medicine research and clinical practice.

In closing, let me express my appreciation for the talents, dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work of all of the Academic Council BOD members. Together, we are making a difference!

Jay Harolds, MD  
President, SNM Academic Council

## From the SNM Young Professionals Committee

**T**his has been a tremendous year for the SNM Young Professionals Committee (YPC). We have had a significant increase in our membership, which now stands at about 800. Moreover, many new members are becoming more active and participating enthusiastically in several YPC initiatives.

The YPC newsletter *Hot Spots* was launched with the release of the first edition in November 2006. We expect to have 3 editions each year. Another important development for the YPC this year has been the allocation to the YPC of funds donated in memory of nuclear medicine pioneer and longtime YPC mentor Robert J. Lull, MD. The YPC has proposed a "Bob Lull Young Professionals Forum" that will include 2 continuing education sessions at the annual SNM meeting for 10 years. In 2007, the proposed sessions will focus on leadership and legislative/reimbursement issues of relevance to young professionals.

The 2006 YPC luncheon was held at the Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, and the best young professionals' abstracts were recognized in the clinical and research categories with awards and certificates. We are excited that Martin Pomper, MD, PhD, and Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD, have accepted our invitations to speak on the SNM Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence and molecular imaging, respectively, at the 2007 annual YPC luncheon.

We continue to pursue issues related to the job market for nuclear medicine physicians and advocate CT training and acceptance of nuclear medicine physician interpretation of diagnostic CT exams as a part of PET/CT studies. The YPC continues to work with the SNM leadership and American Board of Nuclear Medicine to help address the concerns of young professionals with regards to board certification, availability of jobs, and adequate education.

The YPC was successful this past year in having several members appointed as active participants on SNM councils/committees. We expect feedback about this "internship" program from participants by the Mid-Winter Meeting in San Antonio, TX. A mentorship program is being contemplated by the Academic Council in collaboration with the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP).



Amol Takalkar, MD

Although our membership has increased, we still need to involve and incorporate more young research scientists into our community. We need to continue to actively engage other SNM councils/committees and other organizations such as the ACNP, Academy of Molecular Imaging, Society for Molecular Imaging, Radiological Society of North America, Association of University Radiologists, American Medical Association, and American Medical Student Association to promote awareness about YPC and establish strong relationships with that will be mutually beneficial.

We have established a motivated, involved, and enthusiastic team of core members in the YPC executive committee who are dedicated to working to further our goals. I look at the future with hope and anticipation that the YPC will become and remain the leader, resource, and advocate for young professionals in nuclear medicine.

Amol Takalkar, MD  
Chair, SNM Young Professionals Committee