



## MICoE: Moving Forward

**R**arely do we have an opportunity to match good ideas with the funding to make them happen. Two thousand and seven will be an exciting year for SNM and the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE) as we bring the personalized medicine of molecular imaging and therapy into the forefront of patient care. As the newly appointed staff director of the center, I have seen first hand the tremendous vision of our leaders and the intellectual resources of our members linked with the financial support of the Bench to Bedside Campaign. SNM's 53-year history of multidisciplinary educational offerings, leading publications, and sophisticated government affairs and public relations infrastructure will enable the translation of molecular imaging research to clinical practice. The MICoE will focus these efforts and act as the central repository for information and activities in molecular imaging and therapy. Here is a brief description of some of the goals and initial accomplishments of the MICoE.

### Becoming a Central Repository

The MICoE is now open to all registered users to help bring news and information on molecular imaging to both the wider SNM community and the molecular imaging community. New information is continually being added to the existing MICoE Web site while a new Web site is being developed. Communications, advocacy, and education task forces have been formed with representation from within SNM and from the molecular imaging community at large. These



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task forces are developing campaigns to raise the awareness of the benefits and possibilities of molecular imaging. A grants and awards task force is developing support programs

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## New MOC Requirements in Effect

**T**he American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) voted unanimously in 2001 to expand on and replace recertification programs with maintenance of certification (MOC) programs, which are more comprehensive efforts to assess the ongoing competence of physician specialists and their ability to provide quality health care in 6 general competencies: medical knowledge, patient interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvements, and practice. In the past, the certification and processes required successful completion of an educational program, possession of an unrestricted license as evidence of professional standing, completion of the certification examination. With the new ABMS requirements, however, nuclear medicine professionals can no longer simply take an exam to renew a certificate. Instead, "lifelong learning" activities must be documented. The American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) MOC program is designed to document

for each nuclear medicine physician the necessary competencies to provide quality patient care.

### MOC Components and Requirements

ABNM MOC includes 4 main components. To renew certification, a nuclear medicine physician will be required to present evidence of:

1. Professional standing: evidence of professional standing is provided by a medical license that has no limitations on the practice of medicine and surgery in that jurisdiction. Each physician must annually document maintenance of unrestricted licenses in all jurisdictions in which he or she practices.



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