



Advances in MI of the Brain

The SNM Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence and the Brain Imaging Council cosponsored a symposium titled “Advances in Molecular Imaging of the Brain” at the 2007 SNM Mid-Winter Meeting in San Antonio, TX. Peter Herscovitch, MD, and Henry VanBrocklin, PhD, organized the symposium, which featured 4 lectures highlighting the breadth of molecular imaging (MI) applications and the potential for brain imaging to have significant effects on patient care. An international group of lecturers covered MI assessment of brain tumor physiology using probes other than ^{18}F -FDG, the measurement of β -amyloid ($\text{A}\beta$) plaque burden in Alzheimer’s disease (AD), and the use of MI probes to evaluate drug delivery, development, and therapeutic efficacy.

Karl Herholz, MD, from the Wolfson Molecular Imaging Center (Manchester, UK), opened the session with an enlightening discussion of brain tumor imaging in his talk “Brain Tumors: Beyond FDG.” The high uptake of ^{18}F -FDG in normal brain tissue often interferes with its use as a brain tumor imaging agent. Several other tracers, including amino

acids (e.g., methionine, fluorotyrosines, iodomethyltyrosine), cellular proliferation markers (e.g., fluorothymidine), intermediary metabolic probes (e.g., choline, acetate), and hypoxia agents (e.g., ^{18}F -fluoromisonidazole) have been used for clinical assessment of brain tumors. The uptake and retention of many of these agents have been correlated with tumor grade. These agents have been used to measure properties associated with chemotherapy delivery and efficacy as well as for treatment planning for radiotherapy. Several more promising tracers are in the pipeline. These include receptor-based probes and labeled chemotherapeutics that may find utility in assessing treatment strategies.

The second lecture, “PET/SPECT in CNS Drug Development,” was given by P. David Mozley, MD, senior director, imaging, Merck Research Laboratories (West Point, PA). Dr. Mozley provided an overview of the use of MI in the development of new central nervous system therapeutics. He discussed the need for multimodality imaging that uses

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MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION UPDATE



MOC Featured at Annual Meeting

New requirements for maintenance of certification (MOC) will be the focus of special activities and sessions at the 54th Annual Meeting of the SNM June 2–5 in Washington, DC. Attendees visiting the SNM Molecular Imaging District (Booth 1031, Exhibit Hall) will see demonstrations of the SNM Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program (LLSAP) modules. SNM staff and American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) board members will be available at the booth to answer MOC questions.

Two special sessions will be featured on June 5 at the Washington Convention Center. The first, “Are You Ready for MOC,” was designed for ABNM diplomates with time-limited certificates and will be held in Room 201 from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. The next session, “MOC: Its Impact on Lifetime Certificate Holders,” will follow at 9:45 in the same room and was created to provide clarification for diplomates with lifetime certification (those certified before 1992).

The ABNM and SNM have received numerous questions about MOC for lifetime diplomates. Although

they are not required to participate in MOC (i.e., the ABNM will not revoke certification for those who do not participate), lifetime diplomates are strongly encouraged to do so. If a lifetime diplomate chooses to participate in MOC, all 4 components must be completed, including the MOC (recertification) exam (Part 3). The timing of these exams is dependent on original date of certification. Diplomates with lifetime certificates who choose to participate in MOC and were originally certified:



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- Between 1972 and 1976 are required to take the MOC (recertification) exam by 2015;
- Between 1977 and 1986, by 2016; and

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of types of radiation emergencies, initial medical actions at the incident site and/or medical facility, and key steps in patient care. In addition to online access, federal, state, and local medical response teams will be able to download REMM information on laptop computers for quick access in field deployment or training sessions. Users may also register for automatic e-mail updates to the toolkit. Future plans include formatting the REMM material for use on personal digital assistant devices, additional multimedia graphics, and expanded topic areas, such as follow-up patient care for long-term radiation effects. A team of subject matter experts from the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute and National Library of Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collaborated on the development and design of the REMM tool.

*U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services*

NIH Awards for New Investigators

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, announced in March a special program to fund new investigators who propose highly innovative research projects that could have "exceptionally great" effects on biomedical or behavioral science. The NIH Director's New Innovator Award program offers grants of up to \$1.5 million in direct costs over 5 years.

"New investigators are the future of science, and innovative ideas are its lifeblood," said Zerhouni. "This flagship program underscores NIH's commitment to supporting these 2 critical elements of the research enterprise. The New Innovator Award, funded through the NIH Roadmap Common Fund, complements longstanding activities in both areas at the NIH level and at its institutes and centers."

The application period opens on April 25 and closes on May 22, 2007. NIH expects to make at least 14 awards in September 2007. New investigators who have not yet obtained an NIH R01 or similar funding are eligible to apply. Applicants must hold an independent research position at an institution in the United States and must have received a doctoral degree or completed a medical internship and residency in 1997 or later.

"We want proposals in a broad range of scientific areas relevant to the NIH mission and from a diverse pool of applicants," Zerhouni said. "We're shortening the application and emphasizing the significance of the research, what makes the approach exceptionally innovative, how the applicant will address challenges and risks, and the applicant's qualifications for the grant. We aren't requiring applicants to present preliminary data, although we'll allow it if they choose to do so."

Application instructions are available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-07-009.html>. More information on the NIH Director's New Innovator Award is at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/innovator_award/.

National Institutes of Health

In Memoriam: Robert M. Donati, MD

Robert M. Donati, MD, a distinguished nuclear medicine practitioner and administrator, died on January 10 at St. Mary's Health Center in St. Louis, MO. He was born in 1924 and earned his bachelor's and medical degrees from St. Louis University (SLU). After an internship, residency, and fellowship in nuclear medicine, he joined the faculty of the SLU School of Medicine. He was assigned to teaching and patient care at the John Cochran Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, where his research focused on hormonal control of red blood cell production. In the 1960s, he served in Vietnam as a captain in the Army Medical Corps and was director of the Division of Radiation Biology at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC. His research on wound healing and protection against the effects of nuclear radiation won him the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. On his return to SLU he became director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine and in 1974 was appointed as a professor of medicine and radiology. In 1976, he was named chief of staff at the St. Louis VA Medical Center. Seven years later, he received the Exceptional Service Award from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In the 1980s, Dr. Donati went on to serve as senior associate dean of the SLU School of Medicine. On his retirement he received the Alumni Merit Award, and a scholarship was established in his name.

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- Between 1987 and 1991, by 2017.

Those diplomates with time-limited certificates (certified in 1992 and later) will take the exam at the regularly designated times. These and other topics will be covered in detail in the 2 educational sessions at the SNM Annual Meeting

Additional MOC Note: The ABNM has changed the start date for obtaining self-assessment credits from 2006

to 2007. Self-assessment credits received by completing SNM LLSAP modules in 2006 will apply to the 2007 requirement.

For more information about MOC visit the SNM LLSAP Web site at www.snm.org/llsap. For a preview of MOC activities at the Annual Meeting, visit www.snm.org/am.

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