



New PET NSCLC Clinical Trial

The American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) announced in March the opening of a new clinical trial, titled “Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) as a Predictive Marker of Tumor Response and Patient Outcome: Prospective Validation in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer” (ACRIN 6678). The trial is designed to determine whether PET can effectively and consistently measure quantitative changes in ^{18}F -FDG uptake during chemotherapy and thereby provide early indicators and predictors of the effectiveness of therapy in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

Under principal investigator Wolfgang Weber, MD, of the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center, this will be one of the first clinical trials initiated by the Oncology Biomarker Qualification Initiative (OBQI), a new and innovative collaboration among the National Cancer Institute, Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The OBQI initiative will work to provide data to qualify biomarkers for use in clinical trials and ultimately speed new drug therapies to clinical application. Some OBQI projects, including this trial, will be funded through public-private partnerships coordinated under the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and executed through the auspices of the NIH Biomarker Consortium. More than 10 sites throughout the United States are expected to enroll 228 patients in ACRIN 6678 over a 2-year period. To view the entire protocol, summary, and supplementary data, visit http://www.acrin.org/6678_protocol.html. Questions about participation can be directed to protocol manager Donna Hartfeil at dhartfeil@phila.acr.org.

*American College of
Radiology Imaging Network*

Nominations for ACMUI

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced on March 30 a request for nominations for the position of nuclear pharmacist on the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI). The term of the individual currently occupying this position will end September 2008. Committee members currently serve a 4-year term and may be considered for reappointment to an additional term. Nominations are due on or before May 29, 2007.

The ACMUI advises NRC on policy and technical issues in the regulation of the medical use of radioactive materials. Responsibilities include providing comments on changes to NRC rules, regulations, and guidance documents; evaluating certain nonroutine uses of radioactive material; providing technical assistance in licensing, inspection, and enforcement cases; and bringing key issues to the attention of the NRC for appropriate action. According to the NRC announcement, ACMUI members must possess the medical and technical skills needed to address evolving issues. The current membership includes the following professionals: nuclear medicine physician, nuclear cardiologist, medical physicist in nuclear medicine (unsealed byproduct material), therapy medical physicist, radiation safety officer, nuclear pharmacist, 2 radiation oncologists, patients' rights advocate, Food and Drug Administration representative, state representative, and health care administrator.

Nominees must be U.S. citizens and be able to devote approximately 160 hours per year to committee business. Members who are not federal employees are compensated for their service and reimbursed for travel, secretarial, and correspondence expenses. Full-time federal employees are reimbursed for travel expenses

only. The selected nominee will undergo a thorough security background check. Security paperwork may take the nominee several weeks to complete. Nominees will also be required to complete a financial disclosure statement.

Interested candidates should submit an electronic copy of resumes or curriculum vitae to Ashley M. Tull (amt1@nrc.gov). The resume should include education, certification, professional association membership and committee membership activities, and duties and responsibilities in current and previous clinical, research, and/or academic position(s), including traditional nuclear medicine practice, preparing and dispensing radiopharmaceuticals, and shipping and receiving radioactive material.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

HHS Launches Online Radiation Response Toolkit

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt announced on March 8 the release of a new downloadable diagnostic and treatment toolkit designed for physicians providing medical care during a radiation incident. The electronic information package, available through the Radiation Event Medical Management (REMM) Web site (<http://remm.nlm.gov>) includes easy-to-follow procedures for diagnosis and management of radiation contamination and exposure, guidance for the use of radiation medical countermeasures, and a variety of other features to facilitate medical responses.

“The REMM toolkit is part of our effort to improve public health emergency preparedness and response,” Leavitt said. “It reflects the department’s commitment to help instill a spirit of preparedness throughout our nation.”

Guidance on diagnosis and treatment in the toolkit includes description

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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.

*N. Lynn Barnes, MEd
Director of Education, SNM*