



A Capital Success

The tremendous success of SNM's 54th Annual Meeting was in the sum of all its details. From the big—the stylized society banner hanging outside the Washington Convention Center announcing our determination to advance molecular imaging and therapy—to the small—the red buttons proclaiming “Molecular Imaging Week” worn by more than 150 members visiting Capitol Hill legislators—our meeting made an impact in the nation's capital.

Nearly 6,700 individuals—professional attendees, exhibitors, reporters, guests, and staff—attended our meeting. Our program provided the largest number of educational sessions ever presented, spotlighting innovative scientific research in more than 1,800 scientific papers and posters. Major publications—such as the *Washington Post* and *U.S. News and World Report*—and the HealthDay syndicate carried articles about new methods of molecular imaging that may lead to better diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, and ovarian cancer.

Frederic Fahey, DSc, and members of the Scientific Program Committee provided an outstanding program, which included the debut of the popular InfoSNM and Molecular Imaging (MI) Gateway. I have heard only praise for the program's content, speakers, and presenters.

We offered 98 scientific sessions (each with 7 oral presentations), 92 continuing education sessions, 12 categorical seminars, 6 special sessions, and more than 900 scientific posters. Our new continuing education scanning process went smoothly and efficiently. The maintenance of certification session for lifetime certificate holders was well attended, prompting a lively discussion in which many acknowledged its value. At the SNM MI District in the exhibit hall, we showcased our Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program as members of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and society staff fielded questions about specific board requirements and maintenance of certification. Because the meeting was located so close to our Reston, VA, headquarters, many staff members attended and interacted with members and attendees at the SNM MI District, promoting our journals, books, membership program, and educational products and services.

For the first time, more than 150 members from 33 states visited their senators and representatives on Capitol Hill to talk about issues facing the field of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine—such as funding cuts for basic nuclear medicine research, cuts for Medicare reimbursements of PET scans and other imaging tests, and minimum educational and credentialing standards for those performing molecular imaging and nuclear medicine diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Armed with background sheets, issue papers, and key points, SNM delegations helped further the society's priorities.

The “Hill” came to us as well. Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK), Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Christopher S. “Kit” Bond (R-MO) attended a society reception, personally accepting awards recognizing their outstanding support of the profession. SNM members and corporate representatives had the opportunity to meet with legislators and their staff to discuss issues related to molecular imaging and therapy. Dale E. Klein, chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was a featured guest at our opening session, and Gregory B. Jaczko, an NRC commissioner, also attended the meeting. Sessions presented by representatives from the NRC, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Food and Drug Administration were well attended.

SNM's name, logo, and identity project our new outlook in shaping the future of patient care with molecular imaging and therapy. An exciting video of the “new” SNM can be viewed from our main Web site (www.snm.org). Our redesigned Web site and our new site for the MI Center of Excellence present a unified organizational identity. The main Web site is visually appealing and easier to navigate, and the center Web site is designed as a state-of-the-art central repository for news, education, and research information on molecular imaging and therapy.

SNM's annual meetings are always true successes because exacting attention is paid to all the details and—more important—because of the incredible efforts put forth by our indispensable volunteer members, exceptional staff, and key participants. Come see for yourself when we hold our 55th Annual Meeting next June in New Orleans, LA.

I want to thank our “Bench to Bedside” donors. Funding for our many initiatives to advance molecular imaging and therapy comes from GE Healthcare, Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, IBA Molecular, Siemens Medical, Tyco/Healthcare Mallinckrodt (Corporate Circle members); Cardinal Health, MDS Nordion, Philips (Corporate Visionary members); Molecular Insight Pharmaceuticals (Corporate Contributor); and FluoroPharma (Corporate Friend).

On a final note, SNM welcomes 2 new staff members: Cecilia Noblett, director of membership, and Vincent A. Pistilli, chief financial officer (CFO). Noblett previously directed the membership departments for the National Association of Women Business Owners and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Pistilli, former CFO for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and the National Grocers Association, previously served 17 years in public accounting at BDO Seidman. ✧



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