

The Technologist Section will keep bringing new scholarships and grants to members. Five new technologist award categories have been approved to cover travel expenses for technologists' first-time oral presentations at the annual meeting, completion of a bachelor's degree, enrollment in an advanced practitioner program, student travel, and clinical advancement to gain the appropriate education in additional modalities (such as CT, MR imaging, etc.).

In addition to these continuing resolutions, SNMETS had numerous successes last year. We approved a new Scope of Practice for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist that includes performing CT scans and administering contrast (oral and intravenous)—with appropriate education—as well as in vitro testing (blood glucose testing and urine pregnancy testing) and transmission imaging. The Technologist Section also set into motion a strategic plan that will continue our work with existing educational programs to facilitate training about principles and concepts through

preceptorship tracts, scholarships and grants, and networking. We are working on developing marketing messages and a recruitment campaign targeted at those in emerging technologies, advanced imaging modalities, and molecular imaging and therapy. To grow our membership, we need to grow and attract technologists early in their careers. SNMETS voted to extend the free trial student program for up to 24 months and allow student members to receive free registration to our annual meetings. We also welcome related nonnuclear imaging professionals to join the Technologist Section.

Moving these goals—our SNMETS resolutions—is an exhausting (yet extremely satisfying) process, and we can always use new hands. Please consider making your own resolution to get active with SNMETS!

David Gilmore, MS, CNMT, NCT, RT(R)(N)
President, SNMETS

Meeting Needs of Today, Tomorrow

This past year, SNM grew and adapted to meet the changing needs of health care, our members, and the profession.

The society adhered to its **strategic plan** and underwent **rebranding**, a process in which SNM and SNMETS officers reviewed all of the elements of our brand and took action to strengthen and broaden our image as an innovator in supporting nuclear medicine *and* advancing molecular imaging and therapy. SNM's new look—including development and redesign of our main Web site, our **Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence** (MICOE) Web site, and our logo—visually expresses our mission, signaling our intent to address the many needs of the profession's practitioners and non-imaging specialists.

MICOE members have created the foundation to support society programs; developed standard definitions and terminology; initiated new SNM and molecular imaging community Web sites to provide online information, education, and training; designed a curriculum for residents; strengthened collaborative relationships within the wider medical community (for example, with the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Chemical Society, American Academy of Neurology, and American Heart Association); introduced a monthly MI Newsline column and "Focus on Molecular Imaging" review articles for this journal; produced a quarterly newsletter and a monthly e-mail research news service; presented industry partners with news about MICOE activities and available funding oppor-

tunities available through SNM's successful **Bench to Bedside** campaign (\$4.3 million raised to date from corporate/individual donors); provided molecular imaging experts as speakers; shaped a media campaign to promote molecular imaging and nuclear medicine; and recommended new clinical/research awards and grants.

SNM and MICOE officers held meetings with representatives from key federal agencies [the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Science and Technology Policy]; met with members of key associations, research organizations, and companies; created an outreach database; and planned workshops, training, and summits. Recommendations—in the form of a white paper—from a retreat that focused on imminently emerging technologies appear in this month's *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. SNM's third MI summit, focusing on how to move molecular imaging techniques into mainstream medicine, will be held this month.

Our 2007 **Annual Meeting** in Washington, D.C., provided the opportunity to air professional concerns with Capitol Hill decision makers. Our meeting week was declared **Molecular Imaging Week**, and more than 100 SNM members took part in the first SNM **Capitol Hill Day** to meet congressional leaders and talk about issues facing the



Virginia Pappas

field of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine, including research funding, reimbursement, and Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence (CARE) in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy legislation. Representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, FDA, and NIH attended or gave presentations to our attendees, and the society honored specific legislators for their outstanding support of the profession. SNM remains the lead champion on Capitol Hill for the basic sciences related to nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and therapy; the society is a staunch supporter of funding for clinical research at NIH and domestic medical isotope production enhancement for medical applications and scientific research.

The **Technologist Section** continues to advocate strongly to provide opportunities for those interested in extending their professional education to the graduate level and upgrade minimum educational requirements for nuclear medicine technology certification to a bachelor's degree at entry level. SNM emphasizes promoting standardized, legislated legal scope of practice and augmenting the knowledge base and skill sets to include fusion imaging with the latest technologies.

SNM continues to expand valuable educational and training opportunities at our **Mid-Winter Educational Symposium** and **Annual Meeting**. The 2008 Annual Meeting will host the second MI Gateway area, offer abstracts from a new MI track, and feature related continuing education programs. SNM took a leadership role in **maintenance of certification** and offers nearly 30 Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program modules. The society continually debuts new educational activities, ensuring that members remain abreast of rapidly occurring advances, best practices in patient care, and proven practice-management techniques. Our **diagnostic CT and PET/CT cases**—a new component

of SNM's practice improvement program—enable nuclear medicine physicians and radiologists to meet the PET/CT and diagnostic CT training and credentialing recommendations as published by SNM. SNM supports and trains nuclear medicine **residents and fellows**, offering comprehensive educational programs to meet Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) requirements. SNM plans to conduct educational forums with imaging advocacy coalitions, patient groups, pharmaceutical companies, and NIH advisory councils.

MICOE and PET centers of excellence, along with the multidisciplinary research offered in our journals, continue to promote the work of our scientists. *JNM* and the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* are now published online in advance of print publication to bring new research to readers at the earliest possible date. New **awards, grants, and fellowships** in the areas of multimodality molecular imaging are being offered. Nearly 100 million people have read or heard about SNM efforts this past year in online and print publications and on radio and television broadcasts. SNM has been recognized as *the* number one mover and shaker in the field of radiology from a publication covering the profession.

SNM's leaders, volunteers, and staff are passionate about expanding services to members and improving the practice of nuclear medicine and advancing molecular imaging and therapy. If you have any questions about SNM programs or services, please contact headquarters staff members, who are committed to providing you with high-quality assistance.

Virginia Pappas, CAE
Chief Executive Officer, SNM

Physics Applications in Nuclear Medicine: 2007

The past year saw some revolutionary changes in methods and resources available for internal dose assessment, as well as excellent progress in instrumentation. Significant advances were seen in detector development and image analysis methods, and new tools and information for dosimetry became available. Electronic resources continued to play a significant role in these essential areas of investigation.

Radiation Dose Assessment

RADIATION DOSE ASSESSMENT RESOURCE (RADAR) TASK GROUP AND WEB SITE: Standardized dose estimates are needed regularly by SNM members for new and existing

diagnostic agents, to gain U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, to allow use in research institutions and medical centers, for quick reference for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and other applications. Basic data and models underlying these dose estimates are also regularly needed by the scientific community. The RADAR group established an information Web site (www.doseinfo-radar.com) in 2002 that has been regularly updated. This site has provided dose calculational tools and data to SNM members and others, averaging 20,000–25,000 page visits per month. In 2007, RADAR was given official task group status within SNM.

The focus of the RADAR task group is to: