

agent that can activate a latent gene. If the expression of that gene can be imaged in vivo, patients demonstrating the activation could be immediately identified as candidates for therapy.

One measure of the interest being generated by molecular imaging was the attention it drew at the Radiological Society of North America annual meeting in November. Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), delivered the Eugene P. Pendergrass New Horizons Lecture, focusing on the ways in which molecular imaging “has the potential to define itself as a core interdisciplinary science for extracting spatially and temporally resolved biological information at all physical scales from Ångströms to microns to centimeters in intact biological systems.” Zerhouni described molecular imaging as playing a major role in the transition to “P4 medicine”—the concept of predictive, personalized, preemptive, and participatory medicine—“where patients will be given clinical information from molecular imaging prior to symptoms being expressed and prior to loss of function.”

The Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative, which is gathering and analyzing neuroimaging and neurocognitive data on more than 800 patients using both PET and functional MR imaging, was cited by Zerhouni as an example of a successful partnership, funded by the NIH, that is working toward P4 goals.

Translation of molecular imaging from research to clinical imaging and medical intervention is the next critical

step. NIH has established funding for translational medicine through the National Center for Research Resources. This national consortium will focus on translational research and the acceleration of clinical applications through Clinical and Translational Science Awards. Twenty-five institutions currently participate in this consortium, which has a budget of \$500 million and a goal of 60 participating institutions by 2012. The newest national institute of health, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, is working under the directorship of Roderic Pettigrew, MD, PhD, to develop clinical aspects of molecular imaging as part of its mandate to develop technologies for early disease detection and assessment.

The stage is set to take molecular imaging to the next level. NIH is fully engaged and actively funding translational research; imaging societies such as SNM are committed to bringing all molecular imaging modalities into clinical practice; and the promise of molecular imaging’s role in improving medical care is becoming clear to clinicians and the general public. We at SNM look forward to working with all parties (the government, industry, academia, and other imaging societies) to advance the molecular imaging revolution and bring the benefits of personalized medicine to patients everywhere.

Members of the SNM Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence Editorial Board

From the SNM Academic Council

The SNM Academic Council’s mission includes helping residency directors fulfill Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) regulations, helping teachers teach more effectively, improving the educational experience of our residents, keeping program directors informed of changes in board and credentialing requirements, enhancing research output by residents and others, providing leadership training and maintenance of certification materials, and helping our young nuclear medicine professionals achieve their goals.

As the new year begins, I continue to be thankful to many people in the Academic Council. Bennett Greenspan, MD, is doing an excellent job of arranging conferences at the SNM Mid-Winter and Annual meetings and the Association of University Radiologists (AUR) meeting. He and Leonie Gordon, MD, serve as members of the SNM Board of Directors, and Dr. Gordon also works hard for us by serving on the Residency Review Committee in nuclear

medicine for the ACGME. I will be presenting 2 talks relevant to the activities of the Academic Council at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting. Lorraine Fig, MD, is doing a wonderful job of improving communication with the membership. Heather Jacene, MD, continues to edit and produce our Academic Council newsletter. Amol Takalkar, MD, is working on organizing a mentorship program for members. Our past president, Darlene Metter, MD, is very active in the ACGME, American Board of Nuclear Medicine, and other organizations. Gary Smith, PhD, continues to be an able leader of the program directors and graciously attended the last Organization of Program Directors Associations meeting in Chicago, IL, at my request.



Jay Harolds, MD

We are encouraging program directors to attend the AUR/Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR)/Society of Chairmen in Academic Radiology Departments (SCARD) meeting in Seattle, WA, in March to network with others; take courses in a variety of areas, especially those relevant to education; and work to influence radiology decision makers on topics such as the need for nuclear medicine residents to rotate through CT training. Panel discussions sponsored at this meeting by the Academic Council in 2006 and 2007 resulted in 2 papers being accepted for publication in *Academic Radiology* and 2 more in preparation. This year the joint AUR/APDR/SCARD meeting will include numerous hours on informatics, multiple hours on how to teach and evaluate programs, sessions on satisfying ACGME requirements, 13.5 hours on molecular imaging or biology; 2 hours on radiation safety, radiopharmacy, and regulatory issues; and other topics. This meeting is a particularly good venue for presentation of papers and exhibits by young investigators, including residents. Program coordinators in radiology also meet at the AUR meeting, and Jennifer Duane, residency training administrator from the Harvard nuclear medicine program, will be applying for a scholarship to defray her expenses to attend the meeting as our representative from the nuclear medicine coordinators. This meeting provides an excellent venue for the discussion of important issues—particularly given the fact that we are all so busy at the SNM Annual Meeting that it is sometimes difficult to attend Academic Council sessions.

In general, we are seeing a growing trend toward more cooperation between radiology and nuclear medicine groups. The American College of Radiology (ACR), under the direction of John Mountz, MD, PhD, helped organize numerous excellent educational sessions at the last SNM Annual Meeting. Peter Conti, MD, PhD, presented a report at a meeting of the ACR Commission on Nuclear Medicine. I was glad to see a number of radiology and nuclear technologist groups represented at the ACR Manpower Commission meeting. I am secretary of the board of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), which is increasing its cooperation and collaborative interaction with other technologist groups, in part as a result of the outstanding leadership of Jerry Reid, PhD, ARRT executive director. The ARRT is also now offering an exam for picture archiving and communication system administrators, in addition to numerous other exams.

I am on SNM's Advanced Practice Task Force, and we are making progress in finding a suitable name for what

some are calling in the interim the "advanced practice technologist." One session at the 2007 Radiological Society of North America annual meeting focused solely on this topic (and included multiple past and future presidents of SNM, as well as Virginia Pappas, SNM chief executive officer, and Michael Nelson, SNM chief operating officer). The issue of what to call this new position in diagnostic imaging was also discussed at a meeting of the ACR Human Resources Commission.

I am indebted to Dominique Delbeke, MD, and R. Edward Coleman, MD, among others, for the help they gave me regarding the ACR guideline on PET/CT passed last year. With the permission of SNM president Martin Sandler, MD, some of the exact wording from the SNM PET/CT guideline was carried over into the ACR document. Dr. Delbeke is also doing a fabulous job on the SNM Education Committee. The first 100 of 150 PET/CT teaching cases are now available online through SNM.

We wish the SNM Young Professionals Committee continued success and congratulate the current president, William Lavelly, MD, and past president, Dr. Takalkar, for their excellent work. This group's meetings at the SNM Annual Meeting had outstanding attendance—a real tribute to the organizing abilities and enthusiasm of the participants. Robert J. Lull, MD, who helped found this group and who died in 2005, would have been proud of their achievements. We hope that the Young Professionals Committee members will continue to work with us in Academic Council activities and that many of them will become members of the council.

The Academic Council is looking at the possibility of sponsoring educational meetings at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting that might generate revenue and allow us to expand the scope of our activities. Our council newsletter will continue to evolve, with more on leadership, teaching, and strategies for satisfying ACGME regulations. I also want to make it clear to the nuclear medicine community that we are open to membership for those who are interested in advancing the academic mission and learning more about leadership and communication issues. We are developing a section for the nuclear medicine residency program coordinators in the council. We would like to invite ACGME leaders to the SNM meeting for a special session. Finally, I hope we can establish a model mentoring program that eventually will have wide participation from various sectors of the SNM membership.

Jay Harolds, MD
President, SNM Academic Council