

# From the SNM Brain Imaging Council

The SNM Brain Imaging Council provided an exceptional program of educational activities at both the 2007 Mid-Winter and Annual meetings of the SNM. Both programs were very well attended and stimulated renewed interest in brain imaging and enthusiasm for the future. To build upon this momentum, planning is underway, in collaboration with the SNM Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE), to support educational activities outside of the SNM in 2008 and beyond, aimed at neurologists, psychiatrists, and geriatric specialists.

The last 2 years have seen a substantial increase in the number of publications on  $\beta$ -amyloid imaging with PET in Alzheimer's disease (AD). Articles have appeared in many prominent journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet Neurology*, *Brain*, and *Neurology*. Evidence is accumulating that  $\beta$ -amyloid PET can detect AD before the development of dementia and reliably distinguish AD from frontotemporal dementia. Several companies have committed to the development of an  $^{18}\text{F}$ -labeled  $\beta$ -amyloid ligand for clinical use, with phase II and III trials likely to commence soon. The growing prevalence and community awareness of

AD is increasing demand for molecular imaging techniques that permit early detection and intervention.

Renewed interest has focused on the commercialization of dopamine transporter ligands and other tracers for PET and SPECT assessment of the dopaminergic system in Parkinson's disease and related disorders.

It is an exciting time to be in the field of molecular imaging of the brain, with clinical applications set to soar in the foreseeable future. SNM, through the Brain Imaging Council and the MICoE, will continue to educate nuclear medicine specialists and referring physicians about current and emerging brain imaging techniques to ensure growth in this field and successful adoption of new techniques.



**Christopher Rowe, MD**

*Christopher Rowe, MD  
President, SNM Brain Imaging Council*

# From the SNM Correlative Imaging Council

The SNM Correlative Imaging Council had a very busy and productive year. The first Walter Wolf Young Investigator's Award in Correlative Imaging was presented at the 54th SNM Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, to Jan Soyka, MD, of the University Hospital in Zurich, Switzerland, for his abstract, "Staging pathways in recurrent colorectal carcinoma. Is contrast-enhanced  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT the diagnostic tool of choice?" Dr. Soyka received a certificate and a \$500 prize. The annual award was created to encourage the use of correlative imaging in research by young professionals. The second award will be presented at the 55th SNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, to the primary author of the best scientific abstract demonstrating the importance of correlative imaging.

A proposal to establish an internship program was approved by the SNM Board of Directors. The Correlative Imaging Council will select an intern to serve on the council beginning with the 2009 Mid-Winter Meeting. The council will work with the Young Professionals Committee of the Academic Council to expand the internship program to all 9

SNM councils. Financial support for the internship program will be provided by SNM in the form of reimbursement for travel expenses and meeting registration up to \$1,500 per intern per year. Physicians, technologists, scientists, and others are encouraged to apply for the program by sending an e-mail to SNM leadership services ([nwenzel@snm.org](mailto:nwenzel@snm.org)).



**George Segall, MD**

The council organized a 6-hour categorical course and 4 90-minute continuing education sessions for the 2007 SNM Annual Meeting. All of the sessions were well attended, and attendee evaluations were good. The council, working with the SNM education department, organized a 2-day CT case review workshop in Philadelphia, PA, on October 5 and 6, attended by 144 physicians. Expert radiologists reviewed 100 CT cases evenly distributed among head and neck, thorax, and abdomen/pelvis. The council is taking the lead within SNM to organize more CT workshops.

Additional workshops are scheduled for the upcoming Mid-Winter Meeting in Newport Beach, CA, on February 15 and 16 and the 2008 SNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans on June 17 and 18. A fourth workshop is planned for August 2–3 in Seattle, WA. Physicians attending the workshop can apply the credit earned toward the CT credentialing recommendation of 500 CT cases reviewed with an expert.

The Correlative Imaging Council Board of Directors also held a strategic planning retreat in Philadelphia in October. The council was founded in 1978 to educate nuclear medicine professionals about the emerging technology of ultrasound. It was decided that the new mission of the council would be to provide education in CT, MR, and emerging molecular imaging technology. The focus will be on CT education in the coming year. Council members are encouraged to serve as officers. Please send an

email to Dr. Simin Dadparvar if interested (sdadparvar@uphs.upenn.edu).

SNM members are encouraged to join the Correlative Imaging Council and help support the council's mission. Planning and organizing educational activities is a good way to meet colleagues with similar interests, learn about the structure and governance of SNM, and ensure the availability of important educational opportunities, such as the CT workshops. The cost of membership is only \$10 per year. Interested SNM members can join at the time of SNM annual dues renewal or by sending an e-mail to SNM leadership services (nwenzel@snm.org).

*George Segall, MD*

*President, SNM Correlative Imaging Council*

## From the SNM Gastrointestinal Council

**T**he SNM Gastrointestinal (GI) Council, established in 2007, was created to increase awareness and promote utilization of a wide range of GI scintigraphic studies and to develop more universal standardization for these procedures. The council proposes to achieve these goals through educational program development for physicians, technologists, and other interested members of the SNM and imaging communities and a closer affiliation with the gastroenterology community (physicians, patient advocacy groups, etc). The council also works to improve reimbursement for more time-consuming and labor-intensive protocols and encourages the development and implementation of clinical trials needed to establish normative, control, and clinical values.

In the brief time since the GI Council's formation, the members have achieved several initial goals. The first was participation in the preparation of a consensus report on gastric emptying. A conjoint committee of the SNM GI Council and gastroenterologists from the American Neurogastroenterology Motility Society met to establish practice standards for gastric emptying studies. A joint publication, which will appear in the *American Journal of Gastroenterology* and the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, will describe a standardized meal and imaging protocol.

In another effort, Harvey Ziessman, MD, has agreed to head a committee to focus on cholescintigraphy standardization. The group will develop protocols and clarify the optimal cholecystokinin dose and rate of infusion for gallbladder ejection fraction.

The GI Council has agreed to organize and prepare continuing medical education programs on relevant topics for the upcoming SNM Mid-Winter (February 14–17, Newport Beach, CA) and Annual (June 14–18, New Orleans, LA) meetings.

As part of its initial organization, the council elected its first officers: Alan Maurer, MD, as president, and Mark Tulchinsky, MD, as secretary-treasurer. A technologist section representative, Margaret (Peggy) Stokes, CNMT, RT(N), and a Young Professionals Committee member, K.G. Bennett, MD, were appointed.

One major future goal of the council is to work on improving reimbursement for GI motility studies, which are perceived as time consuming and more complex than other imaging studies. We hope to be able to achieve new Current Procedural Terminology codes to cover newer applications, such as small bowel and colon transit studies. We will be looking for input from sites that currently offer these studies or are planning to do so.

As a new council, we are small but encourage all individuals interested in nuclear medicine GI procedures to join us and become active SNM GI Council members.



**Alan H. Maurer, MD**

*Alan H. Maurer, MD*

*President, SNM Gastrointestinal Council*