

From the SNM Committee on Pharmacopeia

The SNM Committee on Pharmacopeia (COP) has been actively involved in the new United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Chapter 797 regulations, which include requirements for the compounding of traditional nuclear medicine radiopharmaceuticals and for the environment in which they are compounded. The COP was interested in addressing the concerns of the nuclear medicine community raised by these new regulations. A document titled "Frequently Asked Questions" was prepared for presentation as an interactive feature on the SNM Web site (<http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=7882>). Each question is answered concisely, and users can click a button for additional information. New questions/answers continue to be uploaded.

In addition, a letter (approved and sent by the SNM Board of Directors) was written by the COP to the USP Sterile Compounding Committee discussing issues regarding the use of in vitro ^{99m}Tc -labeled red blood cells prepared with the Ultra Tag RBC Kit. The letter requested that any radiopharmaceutical compounded from sterile components in a closed sterile container, conforming to the standards for Low-Risk Level Compounding Sterile Preparations (CSPs) and administered within 1 h of the start of compounding, be allowed to be compounded under the Immediate-Use CSPs provisions. No response had been received by the end of 2008.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued proposed regulations on current good manufacturing practice (cGMP) for PET in 2005 and has not yet finalized these rules. Until final cGMP regulations are issued, FDA requires that all PET drugs (including investigational new drugs [INDs] and PET drugs regulated by Radioactive Drug Research Committees) be prepared in accordance with USP Chapter 823 and the PET monographs, if available. The current PET mono-

graphs often contain outdated information. In addition, a number of PET drugs utilized in clinical and clinical research practice do not have monographs. In order to expedite USP review, the COP is reviewing and revising some of the existing USP monographs, including those for ^{13}N -ammonia, ^{11}C -acetate, and ^{18}F -fluorodopa. These revised monographs will be submitted to the USP Medical Imaging and Radiopharmaceuticals Expert Committee for review.

SNM has created the SNM Clinical Trials Network, through which it plans to provide access to centralized INDs. The first centralized IND, for ^{18}F -fluorothymidine (^{18}F -FLT), received approval in September 2008. The SNM COP will prepare a monograph for ^{18}F -FLT to submit to the USP. This will allow standardization of production requirements for this new PET drug. As the network develops plans for additional radiopharmaceutical INDs, the COP plans to follow the progress with new monograph submissions. With multisite clinical trials planned, the network has the potential to rapidly bring new PET and SPECT drugs to the FDA for approval and is likely to have long-term effects on nuclear medicine.

The COP welcomes the opportunity to continue to serve the nuclear medicine community as molecular imaging expands to ensure growth in this field.



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From the SNM Young Professionals Committee

In 2004, 2 nuclear medicine residents, Gina Caravaglia, DO, and Kelly Pham, DO, saw a need for residents and young professionals to begin sharing ideas and helping each other professionally in an organized forum. With the guidance and support of SNM leadership, the Young Professionals Committee (YPC) became a subcommittee of the SNM Academic Council in August of that year. The YPC initially included only a few residents who were seeking to further the education and careers of young professionals in nuclear medicine.

The goals of the YPC are to:

- Provide the forum to ensure for nuclear medicine residents and fellows as well as young physicians and scientists the opportunity to enhance the educational experience and participation in the national organization;



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- Promote communication among residents/fellows, young professionals, and scientists;
- Establish a bond between residents/fellows, young physicians, and scientists and the SNM;
- Provide the opportunity for SNM to assist residents/fellows and young professionals to become better physicians; and
- Contribute to the growth of SNM and ultimately to the future of nuclear medicine

Membership in the YPC is limited to physicians, scientists, physicists, and pharmacists currently in or within 10 y of completion of training. The YPC is run by an executive committee made up of members of the group. The chair is appointed by the president of the SNM to a 2-y term; the chair then appoints various positions, including vice-chair, secretary/treasurer, and others.

Our 2007 Newsline annual review article noted that we had begun to enhance our sphere of involvement by increased participation in various programs at the SNM Annual Meeting as well as by representation on various SNM committees and subcommittees. In 2008, that sphere of involvement has continued to increase. At the 2008 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, the YPC sponsored 5 events, including a self-assessment module titled The Basics of MRI, which was a great success; a continuing education session on Practical Grantsmanship; the annual Business Meeting and Luncheon, with a continuing education session by Mark Rust, a contract attorney; and the second annual Robert J. Lull YPC Forum on Leadership, at which Henry Royal, MD, and Conrad Nagle, MD, discussed leadership in academic medicine and private

practice. In addition, the second annual YPC Knowledge Bowl, at which a good time was had by all, was sponsored by GE Medical Systems and McKesson and attracted more people than attended in the previous year. The YPC also became responsible for the Cases of the Day feature at the Annual Meeting, with excellent participation by SNM members.

For 2009, we look forward to even more growth. The Councils' Internship program, which seated several YPC members as interns for various SNM councils, will begin in early 2009. In addition, discussions have begun with the Academic Council to cosponsor an event at the 2010 Mid-Winter Meeting.

At the 2009 SNM Annual Meeting, the YPC will again sponsor the Robert J. Lull Forum as well as continuing education sessions on Intermediate MRI and Advanced MRI. The third annual YPC Knowledge Bowl will take place, as will the annual Business Meeting and Luncheon with a continuing education session.

During this past year, we saw the membership and interest in the YPC increase with multiple new members, some of whom are now involved with the executive committee. As we proceed into 2009 and under the leadership of our incoming chair, Sibyll Goetze, MD, after the 2009 Annual Meeting, the YPC is set to continue to grow, preparing the future leaders of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.

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From the SNM Nuclear Oncology Council

The SNM Nuclear Oncology Council (NOC) continues to be active in bringing together individuals with special interests in nuclear oncology applications and radioisotope therapy. The council also provides an opportunity for integration of the practice of nuclear medicine with superior patient care by facilitating excellence in education and research. Tremendous technological growth and advances in the fields of molecular imaging and therapy are providing opportunities for change and growth in nuclear oncology. In the NOC, we have been successful in collaborating with other SNM councils as well as similar professional societies and groups, such as the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO), the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Medical Internal Radiation Dose Committee, to expand (in a mutually beneficial way) the functions of our group.

The year 2008 was particularly productive for the NOC. Encouraged by high-quality abstracts presented by inves-

tigators from across the globe, the NOC has established a Young Investigator Award to support and encourage attendance at the SNM Annual Meeting by a clinician and a scientist who will present works related to the diagnostic or therapeutic aspects of oncology. Guidelines for the award were developed by the NOC board with the help of SNM administrative staff for announcement at the time of requests for abstract submissions for the 2009 Annual Meeting. In 2008, we awarded 3 prizes to the top 3 abstracts presented at a special symposium as rated by a panel of judges.

The NOC also performed extremely well in continuing its tradition of organizing highly successful educational ses-



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