- 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.

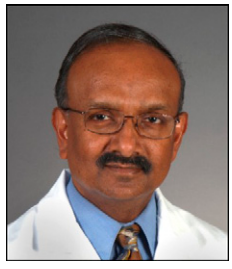
During this past year, we saw the membership and interest in the YPC increase with multiple new members, some of whom are now involved with the executive committee. As we proceed into 2009 and under the leadership of our incoming chair, Sibyll Goetze, MD, after the 2009 Annual Meeting, the YPC is set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

William C. Lavely, MD
Chair, SNM Young Professionals Committee

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 investigators 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.



Joseph G. Rajendran, MD

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

sions during several meetings of the SNM. These sessions were delivered by leaders internationally recognized in their respective fields. We contributed to the development of educational workshops in numerous ways, including: assisting in developing programs, reviewing abstracts, providing speakers and moderators, and providing travel fellowships for 3 young translational researchers.

The NOC has continued to develop a constructive collaboration with ASTRO, initiated in 2006, and has arranged workshops and satellite seminars during the ASTRO annual meetings. NOC members also gave individual talks during these meetings. NOC presented 1 categorical seminar and 7 continuing education (CE) sessions covering many topics at the SNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, in June 2008. One of the CE sessions was held in collaboration with the SNM Brain Imaging Council. We were encouraged by attendance and participation in all these sessions.

For the SNM Mid-Winter meeting later this month in Clearwater, FL, the NOC is organizing 2 continuing medical education (CME) sessions: 1 in collaboration with ASTRO and the other in collaboration with the SNM Cardiovascular Council. For the SNM Annual Meeting in June 2009, we will have 1 categorical seminar and 5 CME sessions on a broad range of topics. All of the CE sessions are directed at practicing nuclear medicine physicians, focusing on a number of challenging and emerging topics of interest, whereas the categorical session will focus on the role of molecular imaging in clinical trials. We are quite excited about these educational sessions and are certain that the CE sessions and categorical seminar that cover many aspects of nuclear oncology will generate significant enthusiasm among participants. Developing collaborations with other councils and societies goes far beyond individual contributions and enhances the common good of the NOC in particular and the SNM in general. The NOC is partially sponsoring the 3rd International Symposium on Radionuclide Therapy and Radiopharmaceutical Dosimetry to be held in Toronto, Canada, in June 2009 alongside the SNM Annual Meeting.

Beginning in 2008, the NOC has been a participant in the SNM Councils and Center of Excellence Internships program. This new program is designed to identify and train future SNM leaders in the structure, governance, and operations of the organization; to prepare individuals for progressive levels of responsibility; and to ensure effective leadership that advances the mission and goals of the organization. An internship position for a single 2-y term as a nonvoting member has been approved for each SNM Council and the Center of Excellence. We have selected Daniel A. Pryma, MD, from the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) for the 2009–2011 NOC Internship Program.

The success of the NOC has been largely owed to those members of the council board who contributed and brought in a wealth of knowledge and ideas. The council's newsletter continues as a main beacon of communication with our members. Membership in the council has increased since the last period, and our goal is to further increase our membership in the coming years. We continue to develop collaborations between the various councils and sections of the SNM. These activities are essential in our efforts to strengthen the common cause of SNM and to nurture the professional aspirations and needs of our membership.

Joseph G. Rajendran, MD
President, SNM Nuclear Oncology Council

2008 Nuclear Cardiology Review

Advances in instrumentation and image processing, along with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a new pharmacologic stress agent, were the highlights of 2008 in nuclear cardiology. Clinical trials of several radiotracers of interest to the nuclear cardiology community proceeded during the year, while cardiac PET perfusion imaging gained additional acceptance for clinical nuclear cardiology practice.

Rapid Image Acquisition

Several advances in SPECT instrumentation for myocardial perfusion imaging were featured in 2008. The new instruments offer rapid acquisition and improved spatial resolution compared with conventional devices. The D-SPECT Cardiac Imaging System (Spectrum Dynamics; Orangeburg, NY) has an L-shaped gantry adjacent to a reclining patient chair. During imaging, the camera system does not move about the patient. Instead, images are acquired by use of rotating vertical panels equipped with cadmium zinc telluride solid-state digital detectors housed inside the gantry. The vendor indicates that the camera has a 10-fold improvement in sensitivity and a 2-fold improvement in spatial resolution relative to conventional Anger cameras, permitting acquisition of a gated SPECT myocardial perfusion study in as little as 2 min. The CardiArc Camera (CardiArc; Canton, MI) system features a circular gantry that forms a 180° arc about a patient sitting in an upright chair. Within the gantry are vertical boards with 4 × 4-cm detectors. The camera uses slit/slat collimation. Interposed between the patient and the detector panels is a thin lead sheet with 6 vertical slots to collimate the photons. During imaging, the sheet rotates back and forth over a distance of about 9 in, with an angular sampling frequency that is significantly better than conventional SPECT cameras. Initial tests by the vendor indicate that a gated myocardial perfusion study can be acquired within several minutes on this system. Siemens Healthcare (Erlangen, Germany) announced the release of IQ-SPECT, a feature that can be used to enhance cardiac imaging on its Symbia cameras. IQ-SPECT uses