

From the SNM Correlative Imaging Council

The SNM Correlative Imaging Council had a very productive year in 2008. The second Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award was presented at the 55th SNM Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, to Donna J. Cross, PhD, of the University of Washington, Seattle, for her abstract, "Olfactory tract dysintegrity and cortical metabolic change in aging and MCI." Dr. Cross received a \$500 prize. The annual award is given to the best scientific abstract presented by a young professional to demonstrate the importance of correlative imaging.

The Correlative Imaging Council selected an intern to serve on the council beginning in 2009 at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting in Clearwater, FL. Amol Takalkar, MD, was selected among the young professional applicants for a 2-y term at the council. He will work with the council members on several key projects. Financial support for this internship program is provided by SNM in the form of reimbursement for travel expenses and meeting registration up to \$1,500 annually.

The council has taken the lead and responsibility working with the SNM education department in training nuclear medicine physicians. Thus far, 4 courses of "CT for Nuclear Medicine Professionals" have been arranged with great attendance. The council has organized 2-d CT case review workshops. During each session the attendees have earned 16 h of Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. Expert radiologists have reviewed 100 CT cases evenly distributed among head and neck, thorax, and abdomen/pelvis. The first CT review workshop in Philadelphia, PA, on October 5 and 6, 2007, was attended by 144 physicians. The second CT workshop at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting/American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) Annual Meeting, in Newport Beach, CA, on February 16 and 17, 2008, was attended by 221 physicians. The third CT workshop at the SNM Annual Meeting, in New Orleans, LA, on June 17 and 18, 2008, was attended by 449 physicians. The fourth CT workshop at Seattle, WA, on August 2 and 3, 2008, was attended by 126 participants. The fifth CT workshop is scheduled at the SNM 2009 Mid-Winter Meeting on February 6 and 7 in conjunction with ACNP. Physicians who have attended all 5 CT workshops can apply for CT credentialing with documentation of 500 CT cases reviewed with an expert.

The Correlative Imaging Council held a categorical course on bone imaging at the SNM Annual Meeting in June, 2008, in New Orleans, LA. The attendance was moderate because of conflicts with other categorical seminars in nuclear oncology.

The Correlative Imaging Council board of directors held a strategic planning retreat in Seattle, WA, in August 2008. It was decided to

continue the CT educational courses in the upcoming year and provide education in CT, MR, and other emerging molecular imaging techniques. Therefore, because of popular demand for these courses, the council planned a 2-d CT course and several CME courses at the upcoming SNM Annual Meeting in June in Toronto, Canada. Because of the huge demand for more technologist education, the Correlative Imaging Council would like to continue as leaders in CT education and plans to focus on technologists as the highest priority in 2009. The board discussed developing Web casts/podcasts for CT courses specifically focused on helping nuclear medicine technologists pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists exam. Another suggestion was to develop online monthly CT cases for technologists that would include teaching file or interesting cases for the council's membership.

It is a very exciting time to be in the field of molecular imaging with advances in technologies such as PET/CT, SPECT/CT, and other emerging modalities and the development of new tracers for oncology and other diseases. SNM members are encouraged to join the Correlative Imaging Council and help support the council's mission. Supporting the council will ensure the availability of important educational opportunities, such as CT workshops. The cost of membership is only \$10/y. Interested SNM members can join at the time of SNM dues renewal or by sending an e-mail to SNM leadership services (nwenzel@snm.org).



Simin Dadparvar, MD

Simin Dadparvar, MD

President, SNM Correlative Imaging Council