

Chinese Nuclear Medicine Society Focuses on International Ties

The 8th national conference of the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine (CSNM) was held May 16–18 in Changsha, China. The meeting, which is held every 4 y, was attended by more than 700 nuclear physicians, technologists, physicists, radiochemists, and others, including representatives from the international nuclear medicine community. Attendance was high, despite the fact that the meeting coincided with limitations on travel and public gatherings imposed as a result of concerns about the H1N1 virus.

International outreach was one of the themes of the meeting and reflected the decision of the Standard Committee (board of directors) of the CSNM to enhance efforts to keep up to date with the latest developments in worldwide molecular imaging and expand cooperative interchanges with other nuclear medicine societies, especially the SNM. The Standard Committee proposed, among other activities, a Sino-American nuclear conference in September 2010, a young scholar exchange program, and a more active role in the international clinical trial network suggested by SNM. The CSNM also moved to establish working groups for on-the-job training, quality assurance projects, multicenter clinical trials, continuous education, public relations, a survey on nuclear medicine services throughout the country, as well as other issues to advance nuclear and molecular medicine and related disciplines in China.

Enthusiasm was high at the conference, with representatives from every corner of the country and more than 1,000 submitted scientific abstracts. Among the keynote lecturers were Alexander McEwan, MD, a past SNM president, and Heinrich Schelbert, MD, PhD, editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. McEwan addressed the topic of

molecular imaging, emphasizing a range of needs beyond compounds with targeting potential. Schelbert reviewed major considerations in nuclear cardiology in the era of molecular imaging. In other lectures, Gaojun Teng, MD, an expert on MR imaging, discussed the development of targeted MR probes and Jiahe Tian, MD, president of CSNM, briefed the conference on the contribution of some 120 PET/CT facilities in mainland China. He pointed out the 4-fold increase in related publications included in the *Science Citation Index* over the past 4 y. In other invited lectures, Gerrit C.L. Ho, MBBS, MSc, from Hong Kong, Dorothy Yen, MD, from Taiwan, and speakers from north America and Europe covered the latest developments in radioactive ligands, multimodality imaging, small animal imaging, and advanced clinical applications of molecular imaging.

Of 33 papers presented for competitive review, 10 won prizes for excellence in presentation, study design, innovation, and other categories of recognition. Another 56 oral presentations and 172 scientific and educational posters covered significant developments in nuclear medicine since the last CSNM conference in 2005.

Along with my colleagues in the CSNM and the attendees at the meeting, I am confident that the conference will have a positive effect in allowing us to build on efforts to keep pace with rapidly expanding endeavors in the world of molecular imaging.

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