

## New SNM/SNMTS Officers

At their annual meeting, held June 13–17, in Toronto, Canada, the SNM and SNMTS announced new officers for 2009–2010.

### SNM Officers

**Michael M. Graham, MD, PhD**, professor of radiology and director of nuclear medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine (Iowa City) was elected SNM president and assumed that office on June 15. In a press release issued on June 13, Graham cited his intention to continue to advance nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and therapy through 3 main goals: (1) protecting and expanding reimbursement for nuclear medicine procedures; (2) providing high-quality member service by offering essential education; and (3) preserving and expanding available funding to support nuclear medicine research and development. Long active in national educational efforts in the field, Graham also pointed to the need for a focus on raising the quality and availability of life-long learning. “There is a pressing need to ensure that nuclear medicine physicians, scientists, and technologists receive standardized and continuing education so that their skills continue to keep pace with and advance at the same rapid speed with which the molecular imaging field as a whole is evolving,” he said.

Graham graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge) and earned master’s degrees in bioradiology and electrical engineering, both from the University of California at Berkeley. He received a doctorate in biophysics in 1973 from the University of California at Berkeley and his MD in 1976 from the University of California at San Francisco. From 1976 to 1980, he served as an intern and resident in internal medicine, followed by 19 y in nuclear medicine on the faculty at the University of Washington (Seattle). In 1999, he became director of nuclear medicine at the University of Iowa. A founder and chair of the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors’ Association, Graham has also served as a member and chair of the Nuclear Medicine Resident Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and a member and chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM). He is the author of more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, 9 book chapters, 125 scientific abstracts, and numerous reviews. He has served on the editorial board of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* since 1986 and as a consulting editor for *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* since 1996.



**Michael M. Graham, MD, PhD**

During his year as SNM president-elect, Graham was active in the start-up of the SNM Clinical Trials Network, a collaborative effort designed to address a widely recognized need for validated imaging biomarkers for use in streamlining the development and registration of investigational therapeutics. “The network was designed to create multicenter investigational new drug [IND] applications that will be available for cross reference in clinical trials of investigational therapeutics requiring INDs for imaging agents, to assess response to treatment, or to stratify patients for enrollment in clinical trials,” said Graham. Another activity in which he is involved is incorporating molecular imaging into training programs for nuclear medicine students. “My goal is to reach out to students and residents in a meaningful way and educate them about the amazing advances being made in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging today,” he said. “There is a pressing need for more in-depth and complete information about the benefits of nuclear medicine. Furthermore, this information needs to be accessible to young researchers both on the Internet and in published literature and journals.”

As SNM president, Graham also plans to establish a task force to develop high-quality, comparative-effectiveness PET imaging studies in response to President Barack Obama’s recent directive to the Institute of Medicine to balance health care costs and effectiveness.

**Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD**, director of nuclear medicine and PET in the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) assumed office as the 2009–2010 SNM president-elect.

“As SNM president-elect, I will continue to support SNM’s mission to improve health care by advancing nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and therapy,” said Delbeke. “I want to bring new technologies and biomarkers to the bedside to improve patient care.” Her vision includes: increasing reimbursement for life-saving molecular imaging therapies and procedures; addressing regulatory challenges to bring new biomarkers into clinical use by expanding collaborative efforts between the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institutes of Health, and industry and professional societies; providing high-quality educational materials and guidelines, in collaboration with other societies, to members and referring physicians; and facilitating national and international outreach to advance the profession internationally.



**Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD**

Delbeke earned her MD and PhD from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) and completed her post-graduate training at Yale University's New Haven (CT) Hospital and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and authored 5 books and more than 60 book chapters. Delbeke has served in numerous leadership capacities within SNM. She currently serves on the board of directors of the SNM Cardiovascular Council and holds a 3-y term on the board of directors of the SNM Education and Research Foundation. She is also a member of the SNM Education, Practice Standards, Health Care Policies, and Practice and Guidelines committees. She has served on the SNM PET Center of Excellence board of directors and as president, president-elect, treasurer, council member, secretary, and program chair of the SNM Southeastern Chapter.

"I am excited about SNM's leadership role in the rapidly emerging field of molecular imaging and therapy," added Delbeke. "The new technologies contribute to the personalized medicine revolution through advanced imaging tools that hold enormous potential for improving patient care and outcomes."

**George Segall, MD**, chief of the Nuclear Medicine Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System (CA) and professor of radiology at Stanford University (CA), assumed office as the 2009–2010 SNM vice president-elect. "SNM has provided major leadership on many fronts to promote molecular imaging and nuclear medicine," said Segall. "One of my goals for the future is to develop a continuing strategic plan and secure funding to make sure that work can continue. Specifically, SNM needs to ensure that the invaluable contributions of PET/CT to patient care are recognized and properly reimbursed by both public and private health insurers. We need to work with the FDA to stimulate more research and development of new radiopharmaceuticals, and we need to support the educational and other professional needs of SNM members and the training and mentorship of young professionals."



**George Segall, MD**

Segall earned his BA from the University of California at Berkeley and his MD from the University of Southern California (Los Angeles). He completed medical residencies in internal medicine at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Los Angeles and in nuclear medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine. He has served at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Palo Alto Health Care System since 1986 and was named chief of the nuclear medicine service there in 1998. At Stanford, Segall has been a professor in the department of radiology since 2006

and is also a professor in the department of cardiovascular medicine.

Having held numerous leadership posts at SNM, Segall is currently serving on the board of directors of SNM, chairs SNM's Commission on Education, and is the 2009 vice president of SNM's PET Center of Excellence. He is a member of the SNM Northern California Chapter, where he has served as president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer, councilor, and scientific program chair. He is a director of the ABNM and of the American Board of Medical Specialties. Segall has published more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and authored 6 book chapters.

### SNMTS Officers

**Cybil Nielsen, CNMT, MBA**, became the 2009–2010 president of SNM's Technologist Section (SNMTS). She is the nuclear medicine technology program coordinator for Jefferson Community and Technical College (Louisville, KY). Over the past year, she has served as president-elect of the SNMTS in preparation for her role. "I am determined to use my term to its fullest to enhance the profession of nuclear medicine technology," said Nielsen. "We have been on a path over these past several years of advancing the profession through the elevation of the entry-level curriculum and the creation of an advanced practice pathway. In addition, we have recently worked with other stakeholder groups to develop a consensus regarding the practice of CT in fusion imaging. I expect to continue to work toward these goals to the benefit of all nuclear medicine professionals."



**Cybil Nielsen, CNMT, MBA**

Nielsen received her bachelor of health science degree in nuclear medicine technology from the University of Louisville and worked in staff and management positions in nuclear medicine before accepting her current position. She earned an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion). She has served in a number of leadership positions, including president of the Southeastern Chapter of the SNM (SECSNM) and the Kentucky Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists. She has also chaired and been a member of various SNMTS and SECSNM committees and task forces. She is a frequently invited speaker on nuclear medicine topics.

During her term as president, Nielsen expects to advance the molecular imaging and nuclear medicine profession by developing important initiatives that support SNMTS goals. One example of a critical initiative that has come to fruition as the result of several years' effort by members is the new Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate program—the nation's first master's-level program in nuclear medicine technology. Nielsen will lead efforts to encourage educational institutions to adopt the recently updated SNMTS-recommended curriculum for nuclear medicine technology.

In addition, she will lead efforts to implement SNMTS's new strategic plan, which reaches out to member and nonmember technologists to strengthen both the society and profession.

**Kathy Hunt, CNMT, MS**, was named president-elect of the SNMTS. She is an assistant professor and program chair of nuclear medicine technology, Division of Allied Health, at the Baptist College of Health Sciences (BCHS; Memphis, TN). Among her areas of focus will be the importance of licensing and accreditation for nuclear medicine technologists across the United States. "It is critical for the nuclear medicine profession to have a unified voice on important issues such as licensure, education, and accreditation," said Hunt. "Toward that end, since fewer than half of states require the licensure of nuclear medicine technologists, my first goal as president of SNMTS is to establish a grassroots initiative to require licensure in every state. SNMTS also needs to promote and expand online education offerings to help technologists keep current with new hybrid imaging systems and radiopharmaceuticals, reimbursement issues and regulations. Finally, I intend to lead SNMTS in efforts to strengthen its relationship with accreditation and credentialing agencies. In these ways, we can provide technologists and the profession with every opportunity to advance in the coming years."



**Kathy Hunt, CNMT, MS**

Hunt received an undergraduate degree in biology from Lambuth University (Jackson, TN) and an MS in leadership and policy studies from the University of Memphis (TN). Before joining BCHS in 1998, she helped to develop its baccalaureate degree in radiological sciences while employed at Baptist Memorial Hospital (BMH) in Memphis. From 1990 to 1998, she directed and was primary instructor for the hospital's nuclear medicine technology certificate program. She was also a faculty member for BMH's School of Nuclear Medicine Technology from 1979 to 1990, teaching courses on radioimmunoassay, bioassay, nuclear medicine instrumentation, and counting statistics.

Hunt served on the SNMTS Executive Board as member-at-large and as secretary. She has held numerous committee appointments and was chair of the SNMTS Entry-Level Task Force and of SNMTS's Educators Committee. She served as president of the SNMTS Southeastern Chapter in 2006. She is a site visitor for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Nuclear Medicine Technology and has served as a member of the Past Presidents Executive Council of the West Tennessee Organization of Nuclear Medicine Technologists and past chair of the Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists' Student Affairs Committee. She has contributed to SNM's *Curriculum Guide for Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology* and other publications and received the 2006 Rose Y. Temple Distinguished Faculty Award from BCHS.

*SNM*