

Charting Continued Success

In June, the SNM Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan to provide direction over the next 3 y as the society continues to achieve its vision of improving human health by advancing molecular imaging and therapy. The plan, which was approved during SNM's 57th Annual Meeting, charts a course for SNM to become the leader in unifying, advancing, and optimizing molecular imaging and therapy. As we enter a new fiscal year, SNM remains committed to achieving the long-range objectives of the field and representing the needs of its members as the voice of molecular imaging and therapy.

The first goal in this plan positions SNM as the primary resource for education in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNM will continue its current valuable education and research activities. In addition, the society will develop new continuing education (CE) activities in hybrid imaging areas, develop and expand practice performance improvement and assessment activities, and increase core competency CE for physicians, pharmacists, and technologists. SNM will also incorporate non-nuclear molecular imaging into curricula and create related CE courses and sessions. Young professionals will remain a priority as the society continues to foster development and provide opportunities to engage in ongoing education and become involved in the field early on.

Second, SNM will serve as a key resource for radiopharmaceutical issues, including production, quality, development, approval, compliance, clinical trials, and dosimetry. SNM's Clinical Trials Network, established 2 y ago, continues to provide in-depth resources and expertise for the use of radiopharmaceuticals in clinical trials. Through collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and other regulatory and scientific agencies, SNM continues to align mutual interests and create a pathway to bring new molecular imaging agents to approval, ultimately improving human health.

Third, SNM will be the leader in educating and promoting collaboration among referring physicians and patient groups. To achieve this goal, SNM will educate and prepare patient advocacy groups to become powerful allies for maintaining and expanding access to nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNM will continue to raise awareness among referring physicians about the current value and future promise of molecular imaging and therapy as well as raise awareness and educate administrative decision makers about the benefits of appropriateness criteria and imaging studies. SNM also plans to assist researchers with bringing their discoveries from the bench to bedside.

Further, SNM will serve as a resource for revising practice guidelines and developing comparative effective-

ness research (CER) for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. The society will monitor the adoption of practice guidelines to ensure that patients receive the highest level of individualized care. SNM will also collaborate with other organizations to develop appropriateness criteria for all areas of nuclear medicine. CER is critically important to the future of our field, especially as evidence-based medicine becomes the new standard. SNM has risen to the challenge by hosting a workshop to define advanced imaging CER priorities and continues to lead the field in this area.

SNM will advocate for our members and the profession at the federal level to ensure the long-term vitality of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Over the past year and a half, a prolonged isotope shortage has threatened the treatment of patients across the country as well as contributed to a job shortage. The society will continue to work to ensure a stable domestic supply of isotopes. SNM will utilize multiple strategies to advocate for appropriate reimbursement for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging procedures and expand funding to support the future of the field. SNM will also continue its work with other major agencies, legislators, and the executive branch to educate them on key issues and concerns and support SNM's objectives, ultimately improving patient access to information vital for diagnosis and treatment.

One of SNM's key objectives is to continue to bring value to our members. Toward this end, SNM is taking steps to support fiscal sustainability and maintain a strong governance structure to help the society successfully navigate the future. The society plans to foster enhanced communication between leadership and membership, utilizing both existing and new forums. SNM's strategic plan also includes ways to enhance professional development opportunities so that society leaders and young members have the tools to carry out SNM's objectives both now and in the years to come.

These are only some of the many exciting initiatives that lie ahead. SNM looks forward to accomplishing these important objectives and to keeping you updated as we move forward together to achieve these long-range goals.



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