

Raising Awareness of the Need for Domestic Isotope Supply

In the past several years, the isotope shortage has plagued the nuclear medicine community, and it is still one of the most pressing issues facing nuclear medicine technologists today. A major initiative that continues to serve as a focus for SNM is the development of an awareness campaign focused on ensuring the domestic supply of ^{99}Mo . Without a domestic supply of ^{99}Mo , potential shortages will only worsen, which is why it is imperative that we take action now. As we, the nuclear medicine community, strive to find alternative solutions, SNM has made finding a permanent domestic supply of ^{99}Mo a top priority.

On November 6, the U.S. House of Representatives took a significant step forward by approving H.R. 3276—the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009. This bill allocates \$163 million toward investment in the domestic supply of ^{99}Mo . The bill will also seek to phase out the export of highly enriched uranium for the production of medical isotopes, which is a matter of national security. Over the next several months, SNM will continue to roll out its awareness campaign and work with key advocates in the fight for Senate approval of the bill.

To achieve this goal, SNM seeks to encourage discussion from both nuclear medicine professionals and others who work in areas that impact health care in the

United States regarding the domestic isotope supply and the positive effect on patient care. SNM will continue to work with industry stakeholders and other medical organizations to build support for the passage of this timely and critical piece of legislation.

Although finding a domestic supply of medical isotopes is a high priority, SNM is also working on practical steps that nuclear medicine technologists can take to utilize the current supply of ^{99}Mo to its fullest. Scheduling patients according to when the radiopharmacy receives its greatest supply of ^{99}Mo is one short-term solution. Utilizing alternative radiopharmaceuticals in place of ^{99}Mo is another.

For more information and for additional recommendations on utilizing the current supply of ^{99}Mo , visit the SNM Web site at www.snm.org and click on Government Relations—Domestic Isotope Availability.



Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT

*Cybil J. Nielsen, MBA, CNMT
SNMTS President*

SNM Enjoys Smooth Operations

Despite a shaky economy, I am happy to report that SNM membership remains strong. Thanks to the support of our membership, we have been able to make some changes at SNM headquarters that have improved our overall operations.

One of the benefits of technology is its ability to instantly connect people with the information they need. In this day and age, online learning tools—such as webinars—are becoming commonplace because of their flexibility, which provides busy professionals with the benefits of continuing education live or in the comfort and convenience of their homes or offices. SNM recognizes the importance of continuing education and has leveraged technology to allow our members to take advantage of these opportunities—even without being physically present.

In addition to taking place live, some of these webinars are available “on demand” on our Web site for future reference, which is a feature that allows members to fit education into their busy schedules. Over the next year, SNM’s planned monthly series of webinars includes

offerings from the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, the PET Center of Excellence, and the Clinical Trials Network. The SNM Learning Center regularly offers several webinars through which attendees can earn credits. SNM’s Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs department provides webinars on the basics of coding and hot topics in nuclear medicine coding and reimbursement.

Another way in which SNM has embraced the power of technology has been through upgrading to the latest version of iMIS, the information management system we use that enables us to better serve our members. Over the past year, SNM has launched a multiphase initiative to upgrade its IT systems and infrastructure in order to continually deliver improved services to our members. As part of the scope, SNM has identified and implemented



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ways to more efficiently process membership renewals, e-mail address changes, and other record requests using the new technology.

At SNM headquarters, we will continue our efforts to utilize technology to its fullest to bring our members the most accessible and beneficial features. We also invite you to take advantage of the online learning tools we offer and

engage with the community through social networking sites so that you can stay on the cutting edge of the field and bring nuclear medicine and molecular imaging to the next level of excellence.

*Virginia Pappas, CAE
SNM Chief Executive Officer*

From the SNM Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence

As the SNM Bench to Bedside campaign approaches its fifth year, the activities of the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE) are broadening, and plans begun in summer 2006 are bearing fruit. Some of our notable accomplishments in the past year include:

- A comprehensive and very well received survey of PET tracers in use recently completed by the Future Tracers Task Force. This database will be a valuable resource as we push for approval of the many promising radiopharmaceuticals now under investigation.
- Since the launch of the MolecularImagingCenter.com Web site in June 2007, usage has more than quadrupled. The section of the site dedicated to patients and advocates is the most visited, and we have recently added 9 patient fact sheets to that section. Resources for optical and other imaging modalities are being added to the site every week.
- Our Preclinical Imaging Task Force has developed resource materials for a new microsite to address the needs of laboratory professionals and researchers in small animal imaging.
- The MICoE Education Task Force has worked tirelessly to press for changes to the nuclear medicine curriculum that will cover up-and-coming PET tracers as well as non-nuclear molecular imaging agents and instrumentation. We have accumulated a substantial repository of educational resources, posted on our Web site, for programs to pursue molecular imaging topics. We are also developing a scientist's curriculum for graduate study.
- At the 2009 SNM Annual Meeting we sponsored 2 of the most highly attended categorical sessions and 9 continuing education sessions. Molecular imaging is becoming a prevailing theme in every scientific track at the meeting. Two major research grants, funded by the Education and Research Foundation of SNM, and 3 abstract awards, funded by MICoE, were supported to

recognize and support the work of promising young researchers.

- A new webinar series has been taking molecular imaging to physicians, scientists, technologists, and laboratory professionals through interactive educational sessions over the Internet.
- SNM membership categories are being updated and expanded to bring parity to scientists-in-training and lab professionals. A major membership drive is expanding the diversity of SNM membership into molecular imaging modalities that were not imagined when the society was incorporated 58 y ago.
- The MICoE hosted a very well-received symposium on multimodality cardiovascular molecular imaging last May on the National Institutes of Health campus. More than 200 attendees gave the scientific program an outstanding evaluation. An SNM supplement dedicated to this meeting will be published later this year. This year we will host a Molecular Neuroimaging Symposium in the same venue on May 6 and 7. We envision that these symposia will become an annual event.



Henry VanBrocklin, PhD

The MICoE was charged with guiding the SNM through the transition from a nuclear medicine society to an organization that welcomed all disciplines involved in the many facets of molecular imaging. SNM now counts optical physicists and nanobiologists among its members, and we believe that the appeal of a strong society that unites all molecular imaging disciplines will grow in the coming years.

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President MICoE*