

## From the SNM PET Center of Excellence

In 2009 the PET Center of Excellence (PET CoE) implemented several exciting programs for the PET/CT community, including a webinar series about PET, molecular imaging, and clinical trials. This series, "Molecular Imaging Concepts and Practices," launched in November, brings together experts from the PET CoE, the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, and the Clinical Trials Network to provide a brief, 1-h webinar each month. The series will continue through June 2010. The PET CoE also launched the PET E-library and PET E-community, member benefits designed to allow PET CoE members to ask and answer questions, post comments, post and review images, and provide updates/information to the PET COE community regarding PET and PET/CT.

In 2007 when the PET CoE created the PET Utilization Task Force (PET UTF), a mere 12-member group, the goals were small and potential outcomes were undetermined. Only 2 y later, the PET UTF has far exceeded many expectations. Now a 35-plus-member task force, the PET UTF has created a comprehensive program, PET Professional Resources and Outreach Source (PET PROS), geared toward educating professionals involved in PET/CT in various ways. The PET PROS program contains specific information to help referring and interpreting physicians, technologists, and industry representatives understand and appreciate the potential of PET/CT when used appropriately. The PET PROS program includes the following features: practice guideline summaries, elements of PET/CT reporting guidelines, PET/CT educational brochures, fact sheets for patients, an online collection of PET/CT

application PowerPoint presentations, and a cost effectiveness e-library and reimbursement survey. Last month the PET PROS program launched a Payer Relations Kit that includes information on charges allowed for PET/CT, instructions for reporting, and tips on handling denials and contacting payers. After the third strategic planning meeting in as many years, we are pleased to report that response to the PET PROS program has been overwhelmingly positive. The program will continue to grow over the next year.

One of the most important initiatives of the PET CoE has been the increased focus on cost effectiveness research. In fall 2009, the PET CoE submitted on behalf of SNM a proposal to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for conference support (R13). This funding mechanism supports conferences that will help to further the AHRQ mission to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care. The expected outcome of this workshop will be a summary of findings, which will serve as a guide for the medical imaging field and the comparative effectiveness research/health services community.



**George M. Segall, MD**

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President, PET Center of Excellence*

## From the SNM Academic Council

The SNM Academic Council is dedicated to the scientific interchange of ideas among SNM members who have an interest in training and education in nuclear medicine. Our mission is to promote expertise in the training of graduates and undergraduates in nuclear medicine, which also involves mentoring and leadership training. We provide a forum for discussion of issues and problems of mutual interest and concern to the nuclear medicine community. This includes assisting nuclear medicine residency program directors in fulfilling regulations of the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and alerting program directors to changes in board and credentialing requirements.

At the 2009 SNM Mid-Winter Meeting, the Academic Council cosponsored 4 sessions with the American College of Nuclear Physicians: 2 on leadership (1 by Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA; and 1 by Jay Harolds, MD); a session on maintenance of certification by Leonie Gordon, MD; and a session on attracting residents to nuclear medicine by Michael Graham, MD, PhD.

The Academic Council sponsored 2 sessions at the Association of University Radiologists (AUR) annual



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