

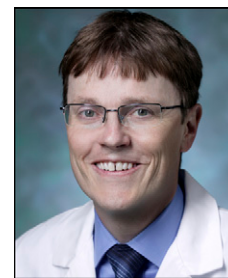
## From the SNM Cardiovascular Council

After a long period of steady adherence to myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI) (on an albeit very high professional level), the field of cardiovascular nuclear imaging has recently seen numerous new trends and changes. Those include: (1) the development of dedicated cardiac SPECT technology for faster acquisition, superior image quality, and reduced injected dose/radiation exposure; (2) the convergence of MPI and morphologic coronary artery imaging, stimulated by the success of CT angiography, by the increasing availability of SPECT/CT and PET/CT hybrid systems, and by the increasing body of evidence supporting complementarity of morphology and function; (3) a shift from SPECT toward PET as the more accurate technique (this will not only be stimulated by recent cuts in Medicare reimbursement for SPECT, as opposed to increases for PET, but novel  $^{18}\text{F}$ -based perfusion agents under clinical development will give this trend a further boost); and an increasing and not only experimental but also clinical and commercial implementation of nonperfusion, molecular-targeted imaging techniques. For the most part, this rejuvenation and new drive in cardiovascular imaging is a result of growing competition from alternative techniques, of increasing awareness of radiation exposure and potential test overutilization, and—most important—of an increasing need for diagnostic tests with high accuracy and biologic specificity, which stems from the ever-increasing diversity of therapeutic options in cardiovascular medicine.

It is evident that not only nuclear imaging but the entire field of cardiovascular imaging is in a phase of restructuring. At the same time, there is cross-pollination between cardiovascular nuclear imaging and other applications of nuclear medicine as a result of the introduction of new tracers and cameras. This is exciting but also challenging. On a professional society level, it results in an increasing

demand for education, in a need for timely updates of clinical and procedural guidelines, and in the necessity for continuous adaptation and preservation of professional structure on the highest possible level.

The SNM Cardiovascular Council (CVC) strives to assist the SNM, its leadership, and its members in meeting these needs by generating high-quality, state-of-the-art educational programs for the Mid-Winter and Annual Meetings and by participating in the development of practice guidelines, appropriateness criteria, and position statements. Most important, given the broad scope of current changes and the increasing diversity of cardiac imaging in general, the CVC also realizes that interactions with other societies active in cardiac imaging and with other organs within SNM become increasingly critical to advancing the field. This is a task that cannot be achieved by a single society or organ within a society. Hence, in the past and coming years, CVC has focused on improving its ties with other societies, such as the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, and the American College of Cardiology. The CVC has intensified interactions with the SNM PET Center of Excellence and Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence to work on joint educational programs, guidelines, and professional statements. The goal of these efforts is to position SNM well within the increasingly complex but also exciting world of cardiovascular imaging today and in the future.



Frank M. Bengel, MD

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President, SNM Cardiovascular Council

## From the SNM Gastrointestinal Council

The SNM Gastrointestinal (GI) Council marked its third year with completion of a multicenter trial that investigated infusion methodology and normal values for the sincalide-stimulated gallbladder ejection fraction test. The results, published in this issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, should lead to better practice standardization for performing this test. In order to facilitate adoption of the study recommendations, an entire continuing education session at the 2010 SNM Annual Meeting will be devoted to this topic. For the first time, 2 continuing education sessions will be organized by the GI Council at the Annual Meeting. The second session, organized in

collaboration with the SNM Pediatric Council, will address GI transit studies in adults and children. The GI Council is preparing to survey SNM members regarding their present methodology for performing the sincalide-stimulated gallbladder ejection fraction test. This initiative will assess current variability in practice, and results will be used to help us transition to a more standardized test practice.



Mark Tulchinsky, MD

Over the past year an initiative of screening the literature for pertinent studies was piloted. The envisioned goal is to bring articles with practice-changing content to GI Council members and, when appropriate, provide meaningful comments. A special committee will be formed to formalize this initiative.

A major goal this year is to broaden our scope so that we cover the many areas of clinical practice not represented by other SNM councils and centers of excellence (e.g., pulmonary, renal, musculoskeletal, benign thyroid disease, etc.) This would be accompanied by a name change from the GI Council to the General Nuclear Medicine Council. Final deliberation of this initiative was scheduled for the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting. This will considerably broaden the scope of our council and allow us to propose continuing

medical education and categorical courses for the Annual and Midwinter Meetings, as well as have input on SNM decision making as it pertains to the practice of general nuclear medicine.

Alan H. Maurer, MD, completed his 2-y term as president of the GI Council at the 2009 SNM Annual Meeting. I succeeded him as president, and it is my pleasure to inform the membership that Harvey A. Ziessman, MD, was recently elected as the next secretary-treasurer. Our current intern is Kelly Anne Holes-Lewis, MD, who is active in keeping members updated with regular newsletters.

*Mark Tulchinsky, MD  
President, SNM Gastrointestinal Council*

## From the SNM Nuclear Oncology Council

**T**remendous technological growth and advances in the fields of molecular imaging and therapy are providing opportunities for growth in nuclear oncology. The goal of the SNM Nuclear Oncology Council (NOC) is to bring together individuals who want to share their knowledge of these developments for improving practice and teaching other members of the nuclear medicine community. In the NOC, we have been successful in collaborating with other SNM councils as well as similar professional societies and groups, such as the American Society for Radiation Oncology, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Medical Internal Radiation Dose Committee, to expand in a mutually beneficial way the functions of our groups.

The year 2009 was particularly productive for the NOC. Encouraged by high-quality abstracts presented by investigators from across the globe, the NOC established in 2008 a Young Investigator Award to support and encourage attendance at the SNM Annual Meeting by a clinician and a scientist to present works related to diagnostic or therapeutic aspects of oncology. Guidelines for the award were developed by the NOC board with the help of SNM administrative staff. In 2009, we awarded 3 prizes to the top 3 abstracts presented at a special symposium as rated by a panel of judges.

The NOC organized several outstanding continuing medical education (CME) sessions during several SNM meetings. These sessions were delivered by leaders internationally recognized in their respective fields. We contributed to the development of educational workshops in numerous ways, including assisting in developing programs, reviewing abstracts, providing speakers and moderators, and providing travel fellowships for 3 young translational researchers.

For the 2010 SNM Mid-Winter Meeting in Albuquerque, NM, the NOC organized 2 CME sessions: the first on

diagnosis and management of lymphoma, including radioimmunotherapy; and the second on the issue of cardiotoxic chemotherapy, presented in association with the SNM Cardiovascular Council. For the SNM Annual Meeting in June 2010, we will have 1 categorical seminar and 4 CME sessions on a broad range of topics. All of the CE sessions are directed at practicing nuclear medicine physicians, focusing on a number of challenging and emerging topics of interest, whereas the categorical session will focus on promising diagnostic and therapeutic tracers. We are quite excited about these educational sessions and are certain that the CE sessions and categorical seminar that cover many aspects of nuclear oncology will generate significant enthusiasm among participants.

In 2008, the NOC became a participant in the SNM Councils and Center of Excellence Internships program. This new program is designed to identify and train future SNM leaders in the structure, governance, and operations of the organization; to prepare individuals for progressive levels of responsibility; and to ensure effective leadership that advances the mission and goals of the organization. An internship position for a single 2-y term as a nonvoting member was approved for each SNM council and the Center of Excellence. We have selected Daniel A. Pryma, MD, from the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) for the 2009–2011 NOC internship program.

The council's newsletter continues as a main way of communication with our members. Membership in the council has increased since the last period, and our goal is to further increase our membership in the coming years. For



**Maroun Karam MD**