

of Nuclear Medicine and the American Board of Radiology. SNM has recently launched its new Practice Performance Assessment Program, which includes projects to assist diplomates in meeting MOC Part IV requirements.

CT education efforts include the Interactive Diagnostic CT cases, which are intended to assist physicians in meeting the 500 CT case-reading recommendations published by both the SNM and American College of Radiology in 2005 and provide DICOM datasets so that participants can experience education in a virtual setting. Other activities that offered CT case-reading opportunities were the live workshops held at the SNM Mid-Winter and Annual Meetings. Three of these workshops are available online through the Learning Center (<http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=939>).

MI activities increase each year. The 2010 Mid-Winter meeting included the Nanomedicine Summit. Another set of Bench-to-Bedside sessions will be offered at the Annual Meeting, as well as categorical and other sessions organized by the MI Center of Excellence. The MI Gateway will be held for the third year, and the MI scientific track will continue, culminating with the MI Basic Science Summary Session, which has always been well attended.

SNMTS has been actively working on its 2 major education initiatives: meeting its recommendation of a baccalaureate degree for entry-level nuclear medicine technologists (NMTs) and establishing a nuclear medicine advanced associate (NMAA) designation for technologists. The Educators' Committee has been working with selected programs in its Pilot Transitioning Program in an effort to help those programs incorporate the *NMT Curriculum Guide* (4th ed). The goal is to transition these programs by the June 2010 meeting. The programs will then provide models for other programs that wish to transition to a 4-y program.

The first NMAA program began in September 2009. An update was provided at the Mid-Winter Meeting, and sessions are planned at the 2010 Annual Meeting to include students' and preceptors' experiences during this first year. The NMAA Scope of Practice has been approved by SNMTS and SNM leadership. Other tasks include working with states to enable development of more NMAA programs around the country.

SNM is up for re-accreditation this year. With the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education Revised Criteria now guiding all activities, efforts have focused on involving all aspects of SNM in meeting the criteria and raising the bar on content and evaluation of education activities. The outside focus on commercial support and conflicts of interest has created challenges in planning and meeting budget for this year's SNM Conjoint Mid-Winter Meetings and Annual Meeting.

The third year of the Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Strategic Plan focused on SNM representation, education for young professionals, and increased involvement in SNM leadership initiatives. The internship program continues to be quite popular, and most SNM committees now have young professional members. The YPC has been active over the past year, offering the opportunity to exchange information, ask questions, and obtain updates on activities and issues relevant to all young professionals. The YPC newsletter is distributed quarterly, and YPC continues to organize activities (both continuing education and others) at the Annual Meeting. The YPC held a summit in conjunction with SNM leadership in September, and many new initiatives resulted from that discussion, including increased mentoring efforts, activities involving chapters, and more involvement of the YPC in the Mid-Winter and Annual Meetings.

Efforts to increase the number of scientist members continues to be at the top of the list for the committee.



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## From the SNM MIRD Committee

In 2009, an SNM Medical Internal Radiation Dose (MIRD) Committee commentary on a named quantity for deterministic effects to address interest in  $\alpha$ -emitters was published (1), as was Pamphlet 21 (2), which unified the dosimetry formalisms of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and MIRD and which initially raised the issue addressed in the commentary. An abridged version of a comprehensive review of

$\alpha$ -emitter dosimetry and radiobiology (MIRD Pamphlet 22) was e-published on January 15 in the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (unabridged version available at <http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=2199>). Together, these publications and other ongoing



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efforts of the committee address therapeutic radiopharmaceutical dosimetry. In dosimetry for diagnostic agents, the committee will be publishing a commentary on weighting factors used in effective dose calculations.

At the 2009 SNM Annual Meeting, the committee sponsored and organized jointly with SNM a combined International Radiopharmaceutical Dosimetry Symposium/ $\alpha$ -Emitter Symposium. By all measures the symposia were successful. All 389 seats were booked. A central feature of the sessions—a lead-off invited clinical speaker, followed by proffered physics/dosimetry abstracts, gave an opportunity for greater interaction among the dosimetry/physics community and physicians. Early morning refresher courses were well attended and made up a significant component of the symposia.

Yuni Dewaraja, PhD (University of Michigan; Ann Arbor), was welcomed as the newest member of the MIRD Committee. Ann McAnn (New York University Medical Center, NY), 1 of 2 interns working with the committee, is developing, with Barry Wessels, PhD, a Web teaching module to illustrate kidney radiobiology/dosimetry described in Pamphlet 20 (3). Working with Pat Zanzonico, PhD, at Memorial–Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY), Ande Bao, PhD (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio), our second intern, will evaluate the biodistribution of  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  in bone to improve red marrow dosimetry calculations for this International Atomic Energy Agency–promoted radiopharmaceutical used in pain palliation.

Looking forward, the committee will complete a multiyear effort to update the Cristy–Eckerman S values used in OLINDA (4,5) with S values based on the University of Florida phantoms (6–9). These phantoms are based on direct segmentation of patient images and better account for the marrow–bone architecture (10–18). The resulting red-marrow S values are expected to be substantially more accurate than current values for this important and often dose-limiting organ. ICRP will also use S values derived from these phantoms for future tabulations of radiopharmaceutical doses (e.g., as in ICRP 53). The S values will be made available on the SNM Web site, along with a Web tool for their use in absorbed dose calculations.

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## From the SNM Committee on Pharmacopeia

One of the charges for the SNM Committee on Pharmacopeia (COP) is providing input to the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) for revision and development of USP monographs. This year a monograph for  $^{13}\text{N}$ -ammonia (approved and sent by the SNM Board to the USP

Expert Committee on Radiopharmaceuticals & Medical Imaging Agents) was written by the COP. In addition, the COP has revised the existing  $^{11}\text{C}$ -acetate monograph and has submitted it to the SNM Board of Directors. After review, the board will submit this monograph revision.