

A need to develop an ^{18}F -fluorothymidine (^{18}F -FLT) monograph was identified when the SNM Clinical Trial Network's (CTN) first centralized Investigational New Drug (IND) for ^{18}F -FLT received approval in September 2008. A new monograph would allow standardization of ^{18}F -FLT production requirements for the new CTN IND. During the summer of 2009 the monograph was written by members of the USP Expert Committee. The COP will review the draft monograph after it is published in the *Pharmacopeial Forum* for public comment. Another revision currently in progress covers ^{18}F -fluorodopa.

A continuing interest for the COP is addressing issues raised by the nuclear medicine community related to USP Chapter 797, which includes requirements for compounding of traditional nuclear medicine radiopharmaceuticals. In 2008, the COP established an interactive SNM Web site titled "Frequently Asked Questions" to address the community's questions. Current and past COP members continue to be involved in answering questions received. Each question is answered concisely, with a link to obtain additional information.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a final current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) rule for PET drugs on December 10, 2009. The

final rule applies to all FDA-approved PET drugs, including ^{18}F -FDG, ^{13}N -ammonia, and ^{18}F -fluoride. Facilities that produce these FDA-approved PET drugs are required to submit a New Drug Application or an Abbreviated New Drug Application for each PET drug by the effective date of the regulation (December 12, 2011). Until the effective date, FDA requires that all PET drugs (including INDs and Radioactive Drug Research Committee-approved PET drugs) be prepared in accordance with USP Chapter 823 (32nd edition) and the PET monographs, if available. After the effective date, investigational drug makers will have a choice to follow the final CGMP rule for PET drugs or to follow USP Chapter 823 (32nd edition). The COP will continue to revise the existing monographs to help expedite the USP review process.



Sally W. Schwarz, RPh, MS

*Sally W. Schwarz, RPh, MS
Chair, SNM Committee on Pharmacopeia*

From the SNM Publications Committee

In mid-2009, I assumed chairmanship of the SNM Publications Committee, following the outstanding leadership of Conrad Nagle, MD, as chair. The committee is entering a period of high activity.

Heinrich Schelbert, MD, PhD, and his team have done a remarkable job in moving *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)* to the top rank among medical imaging journals worldwide with an impact factor of 6.662, according to the 2008 *Journal Citation Reports*, published by Thomson Reuters. This top ranking places *JNM* ahead of other leading imaging journals—including *Radiology*, *Neuroimage*, and the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*—and is concrete recognition of *JNM*'s growing significance as a professional resource for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals. We are extremely grateful for Dr. Schelbert's vision and dedication. His term ends December 31, 2011, and a new editor (to be announced in early 2011) will begin working with new manuscripts in July 2011 as Dr. Schelbert continues to oversee the accepted ones. I am pleased to announce that Steve Larson, MD, has agreed to chair the search for the new editor of the journal, who will take over fully in January 2012. We look forward to continued growth and visibility of *JNM* among the world's imaging communities.

As of 2009, SNM members may purchase *Molecular Imaging*, a Decker journal, at a much-reduced price. Martin Pomper, MD, PhD, currently editor in chief of *Molecular Imaging*, has had good success with the journal, which now has an impact factor of 3.329, placing it 18th among all 90 imaging journals, further proof of the value of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging as diagnostic tools in an ever-complex discipline.

After much consideration and meticulous planning, 2009 saw *JNM* international subscriptions move to online-only, because *JNM*'s exceptional online format is a far quicker and more reliable way to access content from overseas. Those who wish to maintain a print library may still do so by paying an additional fee. Over the course of several years, SNM will consider moving further along this course.

As we move into 2010, I welcome and look forward to feedback from our readers regarding what works, what doesn't, and what they would like to see in the future.



Martin P. Sandler, MD

*Martin P. Sandler, MD
Publications Committee Chair*

From the SNM Correlative Imaging Council

The Correlative Imaging Council (CIC) had a very successful and productive year in 2009. Among the accomplishments, the third Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award was presented at the 56th SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, to Klaus Strobel, MD, for the "Impact of ¹⁸F-DOPA PET/CT on therapeutic management in patients with neuroendocrine tumors." He received a certificate along with a \$1,000 check from the Education ' Research Foundation of the SNM. This annual award was created in 2007 to encourage the use of correlative imaging in research by young professionals.

The CIC selected Amol Takalkar, MD, to serve as an intern on the council, beginning in 2009 at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting. He has changed the CIC Web site, adding information for all SNM membership, and created 12 CT case reviews posted monthly on the SNMTS Web site to benefit technologists. He has been an active member of the council and continues under council board member guidance on several key projects. Financial support for his internship program is provided by SNM in the form of reimbursement for travel expenses and meeting registration up to \$1,500 annually.

The council has taken the lead and responsibility in working with the SNM education department in training nuclear medicine physicians. Thus far, 7 CT for Nuclear Medicine Professionals courses have been offered, with great attendance. The council has organized 2D CT case review workshops. During each session attendees have earned 16 h of Continuing Medical Education credits. Expert radiologists have reviewed 100 CT cases evenly distributed among head and neck, thorax, and abdomen/pelvis. The fifth CT workshop was held at the SNM 2009 Mid-Winter Meeting on February 6 and 7 in Clearwater, FL, in conjunction with the American College of Nuclear Physicians, and had 244 attendees. Physicians who attended all 5 CT workshops received CT credentialing with documentation of 500 CT cases reviewed with an expert. The sixth workshop was held at the 2009 SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto, and was attended by 441 nuclear medicine physicians and 49 subsequent online attendees. The seventh course was offered last month at the SNM Mid Winter Meeting with the American College of Nuclear Medicine in Albuquerque, NM. The council will continue these CT courses as long as there is a need to train the membership.

Four continuing education (CE) sessions were held at the 2009 SNM Annual Meeting in various categories, such as CT contrast protocols, CT physics, and optimized PET/CT protocols (with 107 attendees); and controversies in management of thyroid cancer (with 194 attendees).

The CIC held a successful 1-d retreat on October 24, 2009, in Washington, DC, to plan educational programs and respond to membership requirements in 2010. Several educational activities were planned, including a categorical

CT course from basics to clinical in conjunction with SNMTS and 5 other CE courses on topics such as: lung scans vs. spiral CT in diagnosis of pulmonary embolism; superiority of PET/CT over MR imaging in brain, in conjunction with the SNM Brain Council; new era in bone imaging; multimodality breast imaging; and MR/PET imaging in diagnosis of liver metastasis. The courses are scheduled for the upcoming 57th Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT.



Simin Dadparvar, MD

In addition to the monthly SNMTS CT case reviews in 2010, CT webinars will be offered for SNM technologist members. A plan for an MR imaging case review webinar to serve the CIC membership is in place. The CIC will advance advocacy and public relations efforts by publishing on correlative imaging topics in the popular nonmedical literature. In addition, a plan was outlined to introduce the benefits of council membership to SNM chapters to increase the membership. The CIC also decided to become involved in Maintenance of Certification Part IV activities. The council has appointed a board member to champion this project over the next year.

The success of the CIC has been largely owed to those board members who contributed and brought in a wealth of knowledge and ideas. The council's sustained devotion to train nuclear medicine physicians on correlative imaging, such as CT, resulted in certification of several hundred participants. The Web site and publication of the biannual newsletter continue as the main avenues of communication with our members. Membership in the council has increased, and our goal is to further increase membership in the coming years. We continue to develop collaborations between the various councils and sections of the SNM. These activities have been essential in our efforts to strengthen the common cause of SNM by nurturing the professional aspirations and needs of our membership.

The new decade brings new promises in advancement of imaging technology and radiopharmaceuticals which translate into new challenges for membership education. SNM members are encouraged to join the CIC and help support the council's mission. Supporting the council will ensure the availability of important educational opportunities, such as CT and future MR imaging workshops. The cost of membership is only \$20/y. Interested SNM members can join at the time of SNM membership renewal or by sending an e-mail to nwenzel@snm.org.

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