

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.

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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