

SNM's PET CoE Embraces New Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

A large part of promoting molecular imaging and nuclear medicine is supporting the educational and professional needs of our members. PET/CT is an important and valuable component of the clinical work of our members, and the SNM PET Center of Excellence (PET CoE) is dedicated to all aspects of the development and utilization of PET/CT in the detection and management of disease. The primary foci of the PET CoE are educational programs and practical issues directly related to PET/CT, including clinical practice and procedure guidelines, as well as reimbursement. Taking on research, education, and advocacy, the center is constantly growing and working to meet its objectives.

The PET CoE has undergone a major revitalization since 2007. Over the past 2 y, the center has worked diligently to provide the PET community with a direct link to important information within the field. Through the development of a PET e-library, the PET e-community, and a well-attended and highly rated categorical course at the SNM Annual Meeting, the PET CoE is quickly becoming the “go-to reference guide” for PET/CT. In addition, with the creation of the PET Utilization Task Force, the PET CoE has taken an even greater role in guiding the community toward the appropriate use of PET/CT.

The imaging physician is often on the front line of PET utilization and therefore needs to have as much information about PET readily available as possible. The PET CoE provides imaging physicians with continuing education, such as workshops, CT case reviews, online Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program modules, and a library of PET references. The center also provides physicians with a certificate of training to document all of the educational activities in which they have participated.

The PET CoE Web site allows physicians to access all of the educational resources they need in a single place. For example, the e-library houses full-length PowerPoint presentations, as well as other educational tools, complete with charts and diagrams. In addition, with the goal of creating a central repository for the PET imaging community, the PET CoE created an e-community on the Web site to allow members to ask questions and post comments or information about PET. This community provides a venue for the exchange of ideas, research discussion, hot topics,

images, and any additional information that PET CoE members believe is important to the profession.

The PET Professional Resources and Outreach Source (PET PROS), the brainchild of the PET Utilization Task Force, is a resource page that was developed to provide referring physicians, interpreting physicians, and patients easily accessible, print-and-take information about the numerous benefits of PET scans. PET/CT offers patients major benefits for many diseases and conditions—including earlier diagnosis, accurate staging and localization, and precise treatment and monitoring. As a direct result of a PET/CT scan, patients will have a better chance for a better outcome. Because nothing like PET PROS currently exists, we believe that it is important to show our leadership in bringing these important tools to our physician community by offering valuable and convenient resources at their fingertips.

PET/CT has advanced by leaps and bounds since the technology was first introduced more than a decade ago. Now, new challenges and exciting developments lie ahead—giving the PET CoE plenty of opportunities to lead the community forward. For example, new radiopharmaceuticals are emerging, and there is much work to be done in ensuring that they are safe, effective, and reimbursable. We will continue to work on expanding coverage for PET/CT, a battle that is progressing slowly but steadily. We will also stay ahead of the curve and anticipate changes that are just around the bend; for example, educational requirements for physicians to read CT and MR will be an issue in the future as fused technologies become more widespread.

SNM's PET CoE will continue to actively seek new opportunities to advance the future of the field and proactively support our members in taking advantage of these opportunities.



George Segall, MD

*George Segall, MD
President, PET Center of Excellence
SNM Vice President-Elect*