New Website for Preclinical Imaging Community

The Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE) Preclinical Imaging Task Force was created to reach out to the preclinical imaging community by pooling and sharing its experience in designing imaging laboratories and programs, conducting animal imaging research, and analyzing various types of imaging information.

The first resource for the animal imaging community is now online. The Best Practices in Preclinical Imaging Web site was designed as a resource for education, networking, and answers for the preclinical imaging community, including optical, MR, CT, PET, SPECT, and ultrasound imaging. It is a work in progress, and we expect it to improve and grow with input from the community.

This site was designed to facilitate dialogue on common issues related to heating, anesthesia, regulatory oversight/burden, and other topics in which examples of the ways in which various institutions manage these issues can be of value. It contains examples of ways to conduct imaging experiments, links to interesting references and discussion forums, information on equipment manufacturers, and descriptions of various factors related to imaging both metabolism and anatomy.

Another goal of the site is to provide a framework of information to help in setting up and operating imaging systems and designing imaging experiments. One size does not fit all with respect to preclinical imaging, which involves a wide range of modalities and specific experimental conditions; thus, the idea is to suggest how best to conduct experiments and to offer a starting point for individuals new to the field. The task force set out to describe the important factors in sufficient detail that individuals can decide which elements should apply to their own projects. The Web site includes examples of standard operating procedures that can be adapted to meet local requirements.

We invite you to visit our Best Practices in Preclinical Imaging Web site and have a look around. Join the forums to add or answer questions. Submit suggestions on how we can improve things for the small but growing preclinical imaging community. The site is available at www.snm.org/preclinical. Access is through a simple registration process or SNM membership.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Newsline Editor:

Thank you for including our publication on nuclear medicine in Iran and developing countries in the May issue of Newsline (*J Nucl Med.* 2010;51[5]:14N–22N). The following data are offered as an update: Of the 131 nuclear medicine departments in the country, 53 (40.5%) are owned by the public sector and 78 (59.5%) by the private sector. Sixty-two departments (47.3%) are established in hospital settings, and 69 (52.7%) are free-standing centers. Of the 164 installed γ cameras, 85 (51.8%) are owned by the private sector and 79 (48.2%) by the public sector. Seventy-four γ cameras (45.1%) are installed in hospital settings and 90 (54.9%) are in free-standing imaging centers. The number of nuclear medicine departments per million inhabitants is 1.75, and the number of γ cameras per million inhabitants is 2.2. In 2010, 84 γ cameras (51.2% of the nation's total) have been installed in Tehran, representing 70 nuclear medicine departments (53.4% of the nation's total). Iran, with almost 75 million individuals, has only 2 SPECT/CT machines and no PET or PET/CT (although plans are being implemented now to install the first later this year). Nuclear medicine residency training in Iran is now offered as a 4-y program. In Figure 2, the data for Iran should have been 1.7 to reflect consistent 2005 data for comparison with other countries.

In addition, as the result of errors of translation, the names of the Iranian Research Institute for Nuclear Medicine and the Center of Tehran University for Endocrinology and Nuclear Medicine were rendered incorrectly in the article, and we would like to take this opportunity to correct them.

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