

CMIIT Sponsors Breast Cancer Imaging Meeting at NIH

The centerpiece of the SNM Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation (CMIIT, formerly the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence) activities each year is an annual multimodality molecular imaging symposium at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This year, CMIIT is sponsoring “Breast Cancer Imaging: State of the Art 2011” to be presented April 21 and 22 at the Natcher Auditorium on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD.

The program committee—Jason Lewis, PhD, David Mankoff, MD, Sandra Swain, MD, and I—has designed a 2-d symposium that brings together individuals from multiple clinical and scientific disciplines associated with the diagnosis, staging, and treatment of patients with breast cancer. The conference will address the need for synergy between diagnostic radiology and molecular imaging as it is applied to the care of breast cancer patients. Speakers include expert diagnostic radiologists, molecular imaging physicians and scientists, oncologists, surgeons, economists, and radiation oncologists.

During the meeting, we will review the current state of imaging of breast cancer, from the screening mammography controversy and advanced screening technology to local and distant staging and response to treatment. Although breast cancer diagnosis and staging have been primarily in the realm of diagnostic radiology, mammography, ultrasound, MR, and CT imaging, the importance of molecular imaging is increasing, and this symposium will

address the best way to integrate these previously separate disciplines going forward. Along with imaging lectures will be lectures on local and systemic treatment by clinical experts who care for breast cancer patients. These lectures will emphasize the role of molecular imaging in conjunction with radiology in enabling better treatment selection and evaluation and the ideal approach to assessing response to treatment. Timely topics on the agenda are cost effectiveness and radiation risk, with an additional look into the future of molecular imaging in breast cancer and the potential of personalized, targeted care. Abstracts from our poster presenters can be found in the back of this issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

Part of the formula for these meetings is the participation of patient groups and other societies active in these areas. We are proud that a number of groups have joined us in supporting this meeting.

Our meeting coincides with the spring cherry blossom season in Washington, and I hope you will consider bringing your family with you to our nation’s capital. Please visit www.snm.org/breast2011 for additional information, including the names of participating groups. I look forward to seeing you there!

Maxine S. Jochelson, MD
Chair, Breast Cancer Symposium Program Committee

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breaking free of dogma. If our craft groups, journals, and professional societies cannot evolve and adapt, we should find new ones. It is indeed encouraging that the nuclear medicine community is willing to critically consider its future through the medium of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. However, it must also not succumb to hopelessness but rather be proactive in charting its own course. Molecular imaging and molecular biology are natural partners in the development of personalized medicine, and the diagnostic techniques that we develop will inevitably enhance

patient treatment selection, planning, and monitoring, and, thereby, outcomes.

REFERENCE

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Rodney J. Hicks, MD
Professor of Medicine and Radiology
University of Melbourne
Director, Centre for Cancer Imaging
The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Melbourne, Australia