

SNM Annual Meeting Heads to San Antonio

In only a few short months, the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community will come together at SNM's 2011 Annual Meeting, June 4–8 in San Antonio, TX. As the foremost event for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals, the Annual Meeting offers an exceptional opportunity to learn about recent clinical and scientific advances, network with a diverse community of peers, and see new imaging technologies firsthand.

The field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is changing so quickly that it is imperative for scientists, technologists, physicians, and laboratory professionals to stay abreast of the latest research, techniques, and emerging issues. SNM's Scientific Program Committee (SPC) has developed an outstanding education program for attendees. For the first time we will offer 7 self-assessment module sessions, a nuclear cardiology technology workshop, and 6 scientific integrated sessions. New topics on the program include health care reform, the future of nuclear medicine from physicians' perspectives, and an update on radioimmunotherapy. The SPC, under the guidance of Peter Herscovitch, MD, has reviewed more than 2,100 abstracts submitted for this year's scientific sessions. These abstracts represent 10 tracks that encompass more than 60 categories.

Several plenary session speakers have been selected at this time. Bruce R. Rosen, MD, PhD, director of the Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston), will give the Wagner lecture on PET/MR at the opening plenary session. Andrew M. Savo, senior imaging specialist, molecular imaging, for GE Healthcare, will present on how to succeed in tough times at the technologist plenary session. For the first time, we will accept questions during the plenary sessions through text message and Twitter.

In addition to the scientific and education program, the meeting will offer many opportunities to interact with a wide network of molecular imaging professionals—those working in preclinical and translational as well as clinical molecular imaging modalities. The San Antonio meeting promises to be well attended by professionals from all over the world. To help facilitate networking among attendees, SNM has planned various events for the meeting. This year, a welcome reception will be held on Saturday, June 4; a poster session mixer on Sunday, June 5; and the Technologist Section party on Tuesday, June 7; other events will be held throughout the meeting.

More than 150 exhibitors will attend the San Antonio meeting to showcase and demonstrate technologically advanced molecular imaging and nuclear medicine products. With medical device manufacturers, biomarker developers, molecular imaging companies, and others in attendance,

attendees will have a unique opportunity to see and learn about new equipment, technologies and products. I encourage you to set aside time to walk through the exhibit hall.

This year's Annual Meeting marks the end of the society's 5-y Bench to Bedside campaign. Since the campaign began in 2006, much has been accomplished to advance molecular imaging and transform SNM into an organization that welcomes all modalities. These changes are reflected throughout SNM's membership categories, meeting programming, publications, and other offerings.

Through the campaign, SNM has become the leading voice for media and policymakers on key molecular imaging issues. SNM's Web site has become a central repository for education and research information, and we have been a proactive advocate on Capitol Hill for reimbursement and research funding. We have developed curricula and educational resources and have facilitated the use of molecular imaging biomarkers in clinical trials and improved standardization, in addition to many other activities. One of the benefits of bringing the entire molecular imaging community (nuclear and multimodality imagers, as well as researchers in optical, ultrasound, and MR imaging) together within one society is the rich exchange of ideas that takes place. Insights or techniques developed for one imaging modality are often applicable to problems in another.

We are excited to head south for this year's Annual Meeting, as San Antonio offers visitors a rich cultural and historical experience. A crossroads and a meeting place where sounds and flavors mingle and merge, San Antonio has worked tirelessly to retain its sense of history and tradition while carefully blending in cosmopolitan progress. While in town, take some time to enjoy the acclaimed restaurants, visit the unique shops and Mexican markets, and explore the Riverwalk and historical attractions.

SNM's Annual Meeting is an effective way for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals to hear about new research, earn continuing education credit, see and learn about new equipment and products, and meet and interact with colleagues. We look forward to welcoming physicians, scientists, technologists, laboratory professionals, and students to the SNM Annual Meeting this June. For more information or to register, please visit www.snm.org/am.



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