

SNM Clinical Trials Network Validates 100th Scanner

The Clinical Trials Network (CTN) has been enjoying a good deal of press coverage. In March, SNM and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) were pleased to announce a collaboration to advance research for cancer imaging and therapies. NCCN will work with SNM and CTN to qualify imaging sites for their upcoming clinical research trials utilizing molecular imaging.

In April of this year, the CTN reached the milestone of validating 100 PET/CT scanners. Scanner validation is an essential component of the CTN imaging site qualification program, which works with sites to ensure high-quality imaging capability by assessing both equipment and personnel capabilities. This unique international program assesses PET/CT scanner performance to ensure that standardized imaging is occurring across sites involved in multicenter imaging trials. To have a scanner validated, imaging sites must first complete a 1-page imaging equipment form and submit this to CTN staff. The CTN Scanner Validation Committee reviews the information to assess imaging equipment capabilities. If acceptable, the unique CTN anthropomorphic chest oncology phantom and accompanying instructions are sent to the site. Scanned images and completed data collection forms are then returned to the CTN Core Lab for review. Once deemed acceptable, the site receives a Scanner Validation Certificate for each validated scanner. Achieving scanner validation is a major step for clinical imaging sites interested in participating in multicenter research studies.

The CTN is currently assisting with 4 multicenter clinical trials sponsored by major pharmaceutical companies. Two of these trials are utilizing ^{18}F -fluorothymidine (^{18}F -FLT) and are being carried out under the SNM Investigational New Drug program, with CTN playing a key role in facilitating availability of ^{18}F -FLT to the imaging sites. For all 4 trials, scanner validation is a key component toward full site qualification. In addition to site evaluation, CTN members assist in the development of imaging protocols and ensure the quality of study images. The actual study image acquisition and data management, including clinical review, are conducted by an imaging contract research organization.

Of course, properly research-trained technologists and physicians are a key factor in any successful clinical trial. To train imaging research personnel at sites, CTN maintains a comprehensive course curriculum on the practice of clinical trials, regulatory compliance, standardization in imaging, and general clinical research topics. The courses offer continuing medical education credits and are geared to all levels of experience.

To learn more about all of the CTN programs, please visit www.snm.org/ctn.

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our FY2011 budget goals. We also drafted a fundraising plan with the Education and Research Foundation of the SNM, identifying programs that are in line with our strategic goals. The plan also integrates funding for continuation of CMIIT programs, now a part of SNM's activities.

In an effort to improve communication, quarterly conference calls are now organized with the House of Delegates and the past presidents, in addition to the monthly conferences calls with the BOD and bimonthly calls with the Executive Committee. Minutes of governance meetings are also posted on the SNM Web site.

SNM leadership are committed to looking at the future of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine as a specialty. A Nuclear Medicine 2020 Task Force is currently working to bring together a broad cross-section of health care professionals to discuss the future of the profession and the SNM and make recommendations that will serve as guiding principles to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Also looking ahead, SNM will fully integrate molecular imaging activities into the society as the Bench to Bedside campaign comes to an end. This has brought up another discussion about a name change for the society. The new name under consideration, Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMI), would both retain the identity of nuclear medicine and embrace the future of molecular imaging. The rationale for changing the name has been addressed in a Newsline article in the May issue of *JNM*.

I cannot express what an honor it has been to serve as your president for 2010 and 2011. I thank everyone who has supported me, including SNM's BOD. I have great confidence in George Segall, MD, PhD, as your incoming president, and I know the society will be in good hands. Meanwhile, I will continue to be involved with the society on many levels, and I will continue to support SNM in achieving its mission to promote the field of molecular imaging and therapy.

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SNM President