

Renewed Energy for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

SNM's 58th Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, was an extraordinary event, with a palpable excitement among attendees that carried from the continuing education courses to the exhibit and poster halls. SNM welcomed more than 5,500 physicians, technologists, physicists, scientists, and exhibitors to the meeting, which offered more than 70 education sessions and 1,800 scientific papers and posters. The many attendees with whom I spoke over the course of the meeting had only positive comments about their experience in San Antonio.

The breadth and depth of the Annual Meeting education program was a highlight of the conference for many attendees. Hot topics at the meeting included integrated PET/MR imaging, radiation dose reduction, and radioimmunotherapy. Peter Herscovitch, MD, chair of the SNM Scientific Program Committee, did an outstanding job of organizing the continuing education sessions to ensure that attendees could attend as many courses of interest as possible. In addition, the Scientific Program Committee incorporated molecular imaging throughout the conference, echoing the efforts of the society to fully integrate molecular imaging into its activities.

Networking opportunities at the Annual Meeting were plentiful, allowing nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals to connect with others in the field in a casual environment. The annual welcome reception was hosted on Saturday evening by the Annual Meeting exhibitors, and a poster session mixer followed on Sunday, allowing poster authors a chance to interact with meeting attendees. The SNM Technologist Section party was a hit, as usual, bringing together a large group of technologists.

Those who attended the meeting may have taken note of the large contingent of international guests in San Antonio. More than 1,400 attendees at the SNM Annual Meeting traveled to San Antonio from abroad. In total 63 countries were represented—Canada, Japan, and Germany were among the countries with the most attendees. This is a marked increase from our international attendance in years past and reflects international participation throughout SNM's activities. At the San Antonio meeting, 1,268 abstracts were submitted from countries outside of the United States. *The*

Journal of Nuclear Medicine also represents an international base, with more than 1,000 submissions coming from abroad in 2010—a nearly 20% increase in 5 y. SNM's international membership continues to grow as well.

SNM is focused on strengthening its relationships with international societies to advance nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. In San Antonio, members from SNM's leadership team met with several international organizations, including the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Australia and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine, and the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology. It is our goal to collaborate with these groups on initiatives that will foster the growth of the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging around the world.

The SNM 2011 Annual Meeting brought an end to the organization's 5-y Bench to Bedside campaign to promote molecular imaging. The accomplishments of the campaign were celebrated throughout the meeting in various ways: a highlights video, a campaign reception, a poster display, and more. The Bench to Bedside campaign could not have become a reality without the support of our industry sponsors and our individual member donors. Their dedication to the field has truly made a difference, and we express our sincere thanks.

Each year SNM welcomes thousands of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals to its Annual Meeting and provide opportunities for education and networking. Our time in San Antonio resulted in a very successful and productive meeting. We look forward to next year's SNM 2012 Annual Meeting, June 9–13, in Miami, FL.



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