

## Education in the “Big Easy”

Leading nuclear and molecular imaging physicians, technologists, laboratory professionals, pharmacists, scientists, and laboratory professionals representing the world's top medical and academic institutions and centers will come together at SNMMI's Mid-Winter Meeting, to be held January 23–27, 2013, at the Sheraton New Orleans. This year's meeting will provide first-class educational offerings highlighting current and emerging technical, pre-clinical, and clinical applications of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.

The 2013 Mid-Winter Meeting is a result of the dedication of several SNMMI volunteers—Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, associate chair of SNMMI's Scientific Program Committee; Peeyush Bhargava, MD, MS, program chair of the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) meeting; and Kathleen Krisak, CNMT, FSNMTS, chair of the Technologist Section Program Committee. With their guidance and direction, the Mid-Winter Meeting will once again offer a robust and relevant educational program.

The SNMMI PET Center of Excellence and Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation will be cosponsoring and organizing a 1-day PET/MR summit on Thursday, January 24, titled “A Different Spin on Nuclear Imaging: The Role of PET/MR in Molecular Imaging.” The workshop will provide a review of issues related to PET/MR technology, including brief primers on physics and instrumentation, emerging dual imaging biomarkers, and potential clinical applications in neurologic, cardiovascular, oncologic, and musculoskeletal disorders.

For the first time, ACNM will be sponsoring a plenary session, from 8:00 to 9:00 AM on Thursday, January 24. The ACNM program will continue with resident abstract presentations and several focused talks on quality improvement and maintenance of certification, PET/CT reporting, guidelines, novel radionuclide therapies, and much more. The program will conclude with the ACNM banquet and awards dinner on Thursday evening, where the ACNM leadership will recognize outstanding leaders in the field as well as resident abstract winners.

Friday begins the 3-day SNMMI/SNMMI-TS education program, which includes numerous educational sessions designed in collaboration with several of SNMMI's councils. The education sessions cover a wide variety of topics, including clinical use of dopamine transporter SPECT and amyloid PET, hybrid imaging in pediatric oncology, coding and reimbursement, PET and SPECT quantitation, PET pharmaceuticals in

brain imaging, and advances in clinical nuclear cardiology, among others.

In addition, SNMMI and ACNM are offering the ever-popular CT case review course for nuclear medicine physicians. On Friday, January 25, and Saturday, January 26, a total of 100 cases—25 each in head and neck, chest, abdomen and pelvis, and the musculoskeletal system—will be reviewed for credit. The SNMMI Correlative Imaging Council will host an MR Case Review session on Friday, January 25.

SNMMI's Clinical Trials Network will host educational sessions on Friday and Saturday, January 25 and 26, to provide physicians and technologists training on participation in pharmaceutical-sponsored, multicenter clinical trials. This year the program will review regulatory updates for PET manufacturers and researchers as well as improvement of quantitative PET imaging in clinical research.

More than an educational program, the SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting offers attendees the opportunity to reconnect with peers and expand their professional networks by meeting new colleagues. With participants from around the United States and across the globe traveling to New Orleans, the potential for collaboration is high. In addition, an Exhibitor Welcome Reception on the evening of Friday, January 25, will provide attendees the opportunity to see new technology and learn from manufacturers about their products.

This year we are also pleased to welcome delegates to the Sino-American Conference on Nuclear Medicine, which will be held during the Mid-Winter Meeting. We look forward to meeting with our Chinese colleagues and continuing our global efforts to advance nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.

Aside from connecting with colleagues during the meeting, New Orleans offers attendees a wonderful backdrop to enjoy their stay. The diverse beauty and charm of the “Big Easy” provides an ideal setting to enjoy world-famous music, food, and culture.

Additional information about the meeting, including registration details, can be found at [www.snmmi.org/mwm](http://www.snmmi.org/mwm). I hope to see you in the “Big Easy.”



Virginia Pappas, CAE

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