

Hippocrates and Certification

The Hippocratic tradition in medicine is strong. Put the patient first and do no harm. This is what we expect of ourselves and what patients and the public expect of us. When we forget this, we do damage to the practice of medicine and to the confidence patients have in us.

Physicians have a special place in society. They are generally held in high esteem and rewarded accordingly. Doing damage to the trust that patients and society have in us has consequences. Physician certification and continuing competence have increasingly been put under scrutiny by the public. Maintenance of certification has been our response. That is, it is not enough to pass a certification exam at the completion of specialty training, but one must now demonstrate learning and competency over a lifetime of practice.

That is why it is a particular embarrassment and blemish not only to a specialty but to medicine in general when it is nationally reported that the questions on a specialty certification exam are known ahead of time by the exam takers, that questions are passed down each year to candidates planning to take the exam, and that most

questions are unchanged from year to year. This sends the wrong message and teaches the wrong values to trainees. It is particularly upsetting when the voices and leaders of the specialty play a game of ostrich with the public and pretend to be shocked at and unaware of these practices.

Fortunately, what has happened recently to the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Radiology cannot happen to the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM). To its credit, the ABNM has always been conscious of the importance of exam security. The board goes to great lengths to maintain the security of its licensing exams. Medicine must police itself or others will do it for us. More important, it is the right thing to do.



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SNM 2012 Annual Meeting in Miami

The 2012 SNM Annual Meeting will be held in Miami Beach (FL) from June 9 to 13 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The annual meeting will offer the latest educational content, an engaging and cutting-edge scientific and educational program of presentations, virtual learning opportunities, networking events, and an exhibit hall with the latest technologies.

Among the specialty workshops planned are the Student Technologist Registry Review, including a mock registry examination (June 9 and 10), Nuclear Cardiology Technologist Certification and mock examination (June 7–10), and Nuclear Medicine Board Review (June 9 and 10). Special sessions will include: Emerging Technologies Sessions, this year focusing on Alzheimer disease imaging agents and new molecular imaging hardware, 3 FDA sessions, and a Patient Program of suggested Annual Meeting talks and events of interest to patients and patient advocacy communities.

As part of SNM tradition, the annual meeting will include a plenary session on June 10, featuring the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Lecture, and a June 11 plenary session including the Cassen Lecture. At the June 12 Highlights Lecture, 4 distinguished practitioners will summarize significant presentations and scientific work reported at the meeting in general nuclear medicine, oncology, cardiac imaging and therapy, and neurologic applications. Among many other scheduled events are the

SNMTS New Professionals Reception (June 9), Technologist First-Timers Breakfast (June 10), American College of Nuclear Medicine Nuclear Medicine Residents Organization Networking Luncheon (June 11), Poster Hall Mixer (June 11), and SNM Technologist Party (June 12).

As preparation for the meeting, applications are available for SNM-funded travel awards for laboratory professionals, technologists, and nuclear medicine trainees. Among these awards is the Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation Lab Professional Award for Contributions to Molecular Imaging, recognizing innovative/novel and high-impact tools, techniques, and practices in molecular imaging developed by non-PhD laboratory professionals (application deadline, March 31); SNM Travel Awards, supporting attendance of 22 students and postdoctoral or clinical trainees to present molecular imaging abstracts at the meeting (deadline, April 13); and the SNMTS Travel and Student Travel Awards, supporting registration, travel, and accommodations for 27 nuclear medicine technologists and students to present abstracts at the meeting (deadline, April 13). For more information and application materials, see: www.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=11027. For more information on the SNM Annual Meeting and to preregister, see: <http://www.snm.org/AM>.