

SNM and Global Cooperation

Globalization is not just a trend in the international economy of goods and services—it also involves sharing ideas. The field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging has seen an increased level of global cooperation in harmonization of procedure guidelines, consistency in clinical research protocols, consensus on appropriate use, and agreement on radiation protection standards. Collaborating with societies from around the world has allowed each society to be teachers as well as students as we leverage our strengths to advance the field.

SNM has a diverse membership, which makes the organization an enriching experience for everyone. SNM represents members from more than 80 countries; these members account for 12.5% of the society. Our 2011 Annual Meeting welcomed almost 1,500 international attendees from 63 countries. *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* also represents an international base, with more than 800 submissions—73% of all submissions—coming from outside of the United States. SNM strives to be an international professional society that meets the educational and scientific needs of its members, as well as a global partner in advancing the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNM leadership works diligently to develop strategic alliances with key regional nuclear medicine organizations to assist them in expanding the scope and quality of nuclear medicine outside the United States. These strategic alliances stretch across the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, touching every continent where SNM members reside and practice.

The relationship between the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) and SNM is closer than ever. As in previous years, EANM is hosting an educational session, “Neuroreceptor Imaging,” at the 2012 SNM Annual Meeting. SNM will also be hosting an educational session, “Nuclear Medicine in Skeletal Disease,” at the 2012 EANM meeting in Milan, Italy.

During the 2011 EANM meeting, the SNM leadership presented the results of the 2020 Task Force and discussed the possibility of collaborating on guidelines. A joint committee was formed, and representatives from EANM and SNM are reviewing existing guidelines for possible endorsement. In the future, the 2 organizations will also work together to develop collaborative guidelines; to date, 3 possible topics have been identified.

At the EANM meeting, efforts regarding clinical trials were also discussed. SNM established the Clinical Trials Network (CTN) in 2008 to facilitate the effective use of molecular imaging agents in clinical trials. CTN has become a global network of imaging sites with the resources and expertise for high-quality imaging in research. Our associations are exchanging information about SNM’s

Clinical Trials Network and EANM Research Ltd. (EARL) to assess the possibility of reciprocity between qualified sites. CTN has validated scanners at 118 sites in North America, Europe, and Asia, and the number is increasing. In addition to exploring opportunities to work with EARL, SNM is reaching out to other societies, such as the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine, to promote the use of imaging biomarkers in clinical trials.



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SNM has also made a commitment to build professional relationships with nuclear medicine and molecular imaging societies in Asia. The Wagner–Torizuka fellowship, created in 2008, is designed to provide extensive training and experience in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging for Japanese physicians in the early stages of their careers. The first Sino-American Conference on Nuclear Medicine was held in Beijing, China, in February 2011 to develop relationships among young professionals. These and other efforts have helped to enhance global collaboration for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals.

In cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), SNM has worked to develop an educational program on nuclear medicine and molecular imaging for developing countries. The program includes Webinars and teleconferences on important topics for practicing physicians. In addition, SNM has supported several IAEA international conferences. Also on the global front, an SNM representative serves on the governing council of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, which is dedicated to the progress and promotion of nuclear medicine throughout the world.

SNM has developed alliances with several other nuclear medicine and molecular imaging societies throughout the world. These alliances include ongoing support of the growth and activities of the Asia & Oceanic Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Australia–New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine, Society of Nuclear Medicine India, and the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine.

International standards are replacing national standards in all fields of professional activity. Expanding the global knowledge base is the best way to advance nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. It is important for SNM to be part of the process.

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