

International Focus on Theragnostics

Editor's note: Suresh C. Srivastava, PhD, Senior Medical Scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY), recently reported to *Newsline* on 3 international meetings of interest to the nuclear medicine community. These included the 4th International Conference on Radiopharmaceutical Therapy (ICRT 2011); the 43rd Annual Conference of the Society of Nuclear Medicine India (SNMICON 2011); and the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) International Conference. At the ICRT meeting, Srivastava was a featured keynote speaker on "Theragnostic radiopharmaceuticals: An emerging paradigm empowering personalized medicine." At the SNMICON meeting, he was honored with the SNMICON Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in the Field of Nuclear Medicine and delivered the keynote lecture on "Paving the way to personalized medicine: Production of certain promising theragnostic radionuclides at Brookhaven National Laboratory." *Newsline* asked him to share information and observations about these meetings that highlighted the growing global importance of therapeutic and combined therapeutic/diagnostic radionuclide applications.

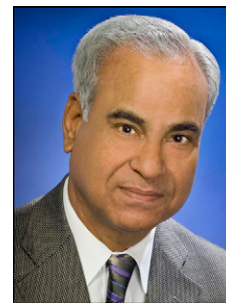
ICRT 2011

The ICRT 2011 was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, from November 28 to December 2 and was organized by the World Association of Radiopharmaceutical & Molecular Therapy (WARMTH). The congress was planned in conjunction with the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Asian Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine. The meeting included presentations on various applications of radionuclides for therapy of cancer and other disorders. The major objective of WARMTH is to set standards for provision of radiopharmaceutical therapy, particularly in development of uniform protocols for clinical practice of therapeutic nuclear medicine worldwide. The goals of this year's meeting, as in previous years, were to: (1) carry out an evaluation of the current status of radiopharmaceutical therapy on a global basis; (2) help in the transfer of important information on current trends in radiopharmaceutical therapy from developed to developing countries; (3) publish a technical document based on the proceedings of the symposium; (4) promote radiopharmaceutical therapy on a global scale, particularly in developing countries; and (5) formulate strategy documents for promoting the practice of radiopharmaceutical therapy around the world. More than 375 registered participants attended the meeting, representing more than 50 countries. The agenda, program, and abstracts were published in the *World Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (2011;10:141–248).

SNMICON 2011

The 43rd annual SNMICON was organized by the Society of Nuclear Medicine India and held in Chennai,

December 8 through 11. The theme was "Empowering Modern Medicine with Molecular Nuclear Medicine." More than 800 attendees participated, representing approximately 45 countries. The goals of the meeting were to: (1) understand the current status of practice in molecular nuclear medicine; (2) conduct CMEs, hands-on training, and other educational sessions; (3) look at economic and safety issues in molecular nuclear



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medicine; (4) integrate the practice of nuclear and molecular medicine among its wide group of stakeholders; and (5) promote "innovative and lateral" thinking. Although the meeting focused on the full range of molecular medicine practice and research, therapeutic applications were the focus of several educational and keynote sessions. Among other U.S. attendees on the scientific program were: Abass Alavi, MD (University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia); Ed L. Hansen, PhD (Asia–America Healthcare Corporation; Houston, TX); Alexander Kurikeshu, MD (American Cardiovascular Imaging; Beltsville, MD); Rao Papineni, PhD (Carestream Molecular Imaging and Health; Woodbridge, CT); Joseph Rajendran, MD (University of Washington; Seattle); Nand K. Relan, PhD (Stony Brook University Medical Center; NY); Ramesh Rengan, MD, PhD (University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia); and Partha Sinha, MD (University of Kentucky; Lexington).

AACR International Conference,

The theme of the AACR Conference, one of several special-interest AACR international meetings, held in Gurgaon, India, December 13–16, was "New Horizons in Cancer Research: Biology to Prevention to Therapy." With a focus on advances in tumor biology, cancer genetics, molecular epidemiology, and novel therapeutics, the conference sessions also gave special emphasis to some of the most common cancers occurring in India, including head and neck, cervical, lung, and breast cancers. Therapeutic presentations were integrated with presentations on diagnostics in most topic blocks, and molecular imaging and therapy were among the topics eliciting the most interest and discussion. More than 30 attendees from the United States made scientific presentations or moderated sessions.

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