

SNM Travels to Miami Beach for 2012 Annual Meeting

Before we know it, June will be upon us, and the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community will unite at SNM's 2012 Annual Meeting. Held this year June 9–13, in Miami Beach, FL, the meeting will continue to build on past successes, offering attendees a comprehensive educational program on the latest clinical and preclinical topics, expanded networking opportunities, and an exhibit of cutting-edge nuclear medicine and molecular imaging products and equipment.

The SNM Annual Meeting educational program was designed to provide high-quality content on topics that matter most for physicians, technologists, pharmacists, physicists, scientists, and laboratory professionals. The SNM Scientific Program Committee (SPC), under the leadership of Peter Herscovitch, MD, has organized more than 75 expert-led continuing education sessions on molecular imaging technologies, clinical applications, and translational and advanced research topics. The meeting will also offer 8 categorical sessions and up to 15 self-assessment module sessions. Hot topics for this year's meeting include brain imaging, hybrid imaging, health care reform, multimodality breast imaging, and radiopharmaceutical development.

I'm pleased to report that abstract submissions for the SNM Annual Meeting scientific sessions have increased by more than 20% this year. The SPC has reviewed more than 2,600 abstracts submitted for this year's scientific sessions, which are grouped into 10 tracks representing 57 categories. In total, the SNM Annual Meeting will offer 88 oral scientific sessions for physicians/scientists/pharmacists and 8 oral sessions for technologists/technologist students. In addition, there will be 2 "Meet the Author" poster sessions, as well as a special poster session, featuring presenting authors from the Molecular Targeting Probes track, held Sunday evening during the Poster Hall Mixer.

Our plenary sessions this year at the Annual Meeting will be excellent. On Sunday, June 10, Kirk Frey, MD, PhD, of the University of Michigan Medical Center (Ann Arbor), will present the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Lecture on "Molecular Imaging of Neurodegenerative Disease" at the SNM plenary. Later that afternoon, Betsy de Parry, author and cancer survivor, will speak at the SNMTS plenary session on "Guiding the Journey: Helping Patients through Illness."

Monday's plenary session will include the Cassen lecture, the presentation of several SNM awards, and the SNM Business Meeting. During this plenary SNM members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed bylaws amend-

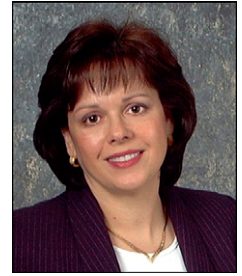
ment to change the society's name to the "Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging." I encourage all full and associate SNM members to make time to attend this plenary session and vote on the name change. It is an important step for the society, and every vote matters. You can find more about the reasoning behind the name change in the November and December issues of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

We know education takes place not only in the classroom but also in the exchange of ideas with colleagues. To facilitate this, SNM has planned multiple networking events for Annual Meeting attendees. A welcome reception will be held on Saturday, June 9, and a first-timers' orientation and poster hall mixer will take place on Sunday, June 10. The meeting will end with the annual technologist party on Tuesday, June 12, themed "Tanks, Tees and Techs!"

This year's SNM Annual Meeting exhibit hall will be remarkable. Demand for booths is the strongest in years, and we expect the hall to sell out early. More than 150 of the industry's top nuclear medicine and molecular imaging product and service providers—medical device manufacturers, biomarker developers, molecular imaging companies, and others—will be on hand to share (and in some cases, unveil) the latest innovations in patient care. Taking time to meet with the vendors will allow attendees to make the best decisions about products and services.

The experience of the SNM Annual Meeting would not be complete without spending some time exploring the local scene. Miami Beach is a wonderful destination for our meeting, with beautiful beaches, vibrant Art Deco architecture, and outstanding entertainment options.

The SNM 2012 Annual Meeting promises to be an event full of learning and fun. Each year I look forward to connecting with nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals to find out how SNM can better serve both its members and the field. I look forward to seeing you in Miami Beach as we all take steps to advance the field. For more information or to register, visit www.snm.org/am.



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