

A President's Year in Review

With my term as president ending in June, I look back on the past year and am pleased to say it was very productive for SNM. We have completed many projects that have advanced the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and started several new projects to strengthen the future of our profession.

As I began my term last June, the society had just concluded its 5-year molecular imaging Bench to Bedside campaign and had fully integrated molecular imaging into all of SNM's activities. The evolution of nuclear medicine into a more broadly based discipline of molecular imaging and changes in SNM's mission led us to propose changing the name of our society to the "Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging." We have explained the reasons for the proposed name to members throughout the year and have listened to their feedback. At the SNM Annual Meeting this month in Miami Beach, FL, voting members will be able to cast their ballot in favor or against the proposed name.

One of my main goals upon taking office was to strengthen our strategic partnerships with other professional groups. By working with groups such as the Alzheimer's Association, Men's Health Network, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, and others, we have reached patients with easy-to-understand information about nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. We have also collaborated with medical professional groups, including the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Neurology, and the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, to educate other physicians about the value of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.

SNM has also strengthened its international relationships over the past year. We have maintained and developed new alliances with our counterparts around the world, including the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine, 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. We have also worked closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology on several educational activities. Global cooperation on education, clinical practice guidelines, and research helps maintain high standards and advances the field.

SNM worked with the American College of Radiology (ACR) to define future training pathways for nuclear medicine professionals. The joint report of the ACR–SNM

Task Force on Nuclear Medicine Training was simultaneously published in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and *The Journal of the American College of Radiology* in May 2011. We continue to work with the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to set high professional standards for the field.

The Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging 2020 Task Force was formed in 2011 to discuss the future of our profession and our society and to define guiding principles to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Task force members agreed that the *most desirable* scenario was the evolution of nuclear medicine into a more broadly based primary specialty of molecular imaging advanced by partnerships and collaboration. However, they also agreed that the *most likely* scenario was a field that is advanced by dual-certified professionals who practice the broad-based discipline of molecular imaging. SNM will now integrate these scenarios into its future goals and objectives.

To help define our goals and objectives, we have identified 5 strategic priorities, or banner issues: new radiopharmaceuticals, radioisotope therapy, new molecular imaging technologies, value/quality, and dose optimization. Specific goals will be identified for each banner issue, which will be supported by education, comparative effectiveness research, government relations, communications/outreach, and other SNM activities. By concentrating on the topics that are most relevant for our field, we can make significant progress in each area.

It has been an honor to serve as SNM president over the past year. I want to thank the SNM staff for all their hard work that made my work much easier. I also want to thank my colleagues—too many to name—who volunteered their time and shared the vision. Having an opportunity to shape the future and work with so many dedicated, hard-working individuals was the greatest privilege. I will remain active within the society, and look forward to working with Frederic Fahey, DSc, when he becomes president at the Annual Meeting in Miami Beach. I know the society will continue to successfully advance nuclear medicine and molecular imaging under Dr. Fahey and in the years to come.



George Segall, MD

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