

It's Official: SNM Members Endorse Name Change

On June 11, in a plenary session and business meeting as part of the SNM Annual Meeting in Miami, FL, membership voted by an overwhelming majority to change the society's name to the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. This is the first name change for the society since its founding almost 60 years ago. George Segall, MD, who presided over this year's Annual Meeting, said, "We feel the new name accurately reflects the evolution of the field, as well as the society, to image physiology at the molecular and cellular levels rather than at the organ level, as we have done traditionally in the past."

The SNM Board of Directors approved the proposed name change in April 2011 and over the following year solicited feedback from members, including a formal survey. About 75% of respondents favored the name change. In January 2012 at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting, the SNM House of Delegates supported by greater than a two-thirds majority a proposed amendment to the SNM bylaws that would change the society's name. The society plans to phase in the use of the new name on publications, Web sites, and other branded materials over the coming year, with an eye toward minimizing cost and ensuring continuity.

"The name 'Society of Nuclear Medicine' served us well for many years and has come to represent the most



Attendees at the SNM Annual Meeting in Miami endorsed the proposal to rename the society.

prestigious international organization in the field of nuclear medicine," said incoming SNM president Frederic H. Fahey, DSc. "However, the time has come for us to embrace our role in the expanding field of molecular imaging, including the emergence of imaging technologies beyond those that utilize radioactivity."

SNM Annual Meeting: Looking to the Future

The SNM Annual Meeting, held June 9–13 in Miami Beach, FL, was attended by more than 5,000 physicians, technologists, pharmacists, physicists, scientists, and laboratory professionals. Active scientific, educational, and technical and industry exhibit programs not only covered state-of-the-art activities in molecular imaging and nuclear medicine but actively looked toward the evolution and future of these and related disciplines. The meeting offered more than 75 expert-led continuing education sessions on molecular imaging technologies, clinical applications, and translational and advanced research topics. The meeting included 11 categorical sessions and 20 self-assessment sessions. Other sessions included: a Nuclear Medicine Physician Board Review, Student Technologist Registry Review and Mock Exam, NCT Review and Mock Exam, and CT Case Review sessions.

In his address on June 10, outgoing SNM president George Segall, MD, outlined 4 key elements of a new global cooperation initiative. These elements included: (1) development and promotion of new radiopharmaceuticals; (2) promotion of wider understanding and use of radioisotope therapy; (3) encouragement of evidence-based data on hybrid modalities; and (4) support for investigation and harmonization of approaches that document and sustain the value of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.

The annual Highlights Session, with 4 speakers representing general nuclear medicine and cardiac, neurologic, and oncologic topics, concluded the meeting on Wednesday. The Highlights lectures will be presented in their entirety in the September and October Newsline issues.

This year's Annual Meeting offered 89 scientific presenter sessions for its physician/scientist/pharmacist program and 8 presenter sessions for the technologist/technologist student program, as well as a record high of 1,465 posters in the poster hall. "We're delighted to report that abstract submissions for this year's meeting increased by more than 20%," said Peter Herscovitch, MD, chair of the SNM Scientific Program Committee (SPC) "The SPC reviewed more than 2,600 abstracts that were submitted for this year's scientific sessions. Accepted abstracts were grouped into 10 tracks representing 58 categories." Among the hot topics pointed out by Herscovitch were amyloid brain imaging, hybrid imaging, health care reform, multimodality breast imaging, and radiopharmaceutical development.

SNM continued its Virtual Meeting program this year with 70 of the most popular sessions captured on more than 100 h of video and available to view online or on mobile devices. CME, ACPE and VOICE credits will be available through the Virtual Meeting and are accessible at www.snm.org.