

## SNMMI Annual Meeting Highlights History, Looks to Future

**S**NMMI celebrated its 60th Annual Meeting this year, held June 8–12 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The meeting offered attendees an opportunity to reflect on the great advances in the field and those who brought those advances to clinical practice, as well as to learn about new tracers, therapies, and modalities that will have significant effects on patient care in the future. More than 5,700 physicians, technologists, physicists, scientists, and exhibitors gathered at the meeting. Thirty-one percent of attendees were from outside of North America; countries with the highest attendance included Japan, Germany, The Netherlands, China, and France.

Scientific Program Committee Chair Peter Herscovitch, MD, noted that this year's meeting offered more than 110 continuing education sessions and more than 2,000 scientific papers and posters. Courses included those on emerging PET radiotracers, dementia, neuroendocrine tumor imaging, novel targeted radiopharmaceutical therapies, and hybrid imaging. The meeting also featured a special session honoring Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, nuclear medicine pioneer and visionary, who died last year. In the exhibit hall, 150 companies showcased the latest in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technology.

A highlight of the meeting was the SNMMI plenary session on Sunday, June 9, at which Val Lewington, MD, of Guy's & St. Thomas' National Health Service Foundation Trust (London, UK), presented the Henry N. Wagner Jr., MD, Lecture, "Moving molecular radiotherapy into the mainstream: Have we reached the tipping point?" Later that day, Josh Mailman, a patient advocate, presented "Many the miles—A patient's journey for better outcomes" at the SNMMI Technologist Section plenary.

SNMMI honored several leaders in the field at its 2 plenary sessions. S. Ted Treves, MD, professor of radiology (nuclear medicine) and director of the Joint Program in Nuclear Medicine at Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA), was named as this year's recipient of the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award for his contributions to the nuclear medicine profession. Dean F. Wong, MD, PhD, professor and vice chair of Radiology, and professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, Environmental Health Sciences, and Carey School of Business at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD), received the prestigious Paul C. Aebbersold Award for achievement in basic nuclear medicine.

A new leadership team for SNMMI was welcomed at the Annual Meeting as Gary Dillehay, MD, became president, Peter Herscovitch, MD, assumed the position of president-elect, and Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, moved into the vice president-elect position. The leadership for SNMMI's Technologist Section also changed hands during the meeting, with Scott Holbrook, BS, CNMT, taking the helm as president and April Mann, NCT, RT(N), becoming president-elect.

During the Annual Meeting, SNMMI released a new position statement on appropriate and adequate reimbursement for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging radiopharmaceuticals. The statement reviews SNMMI's stance that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) should utilize its authority to reform the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System, which designates the reimbursement rates for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging procedures. CMS should consider new and unique options for bundled payments for these unique drugs, using current data—rather than 2-year-old data—for setting current rates. The complete statement is available at [www.snmmi.org](http://www.snmmi.org).

SNMMI's 2013 Image of the Year was chosen from a presentation by Patrick Flamen, MD, PhD, and his colleagues. The image—an  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT scan—illustrates the effectiveness of  $^{223}\text{Ra}$ -dichloride in treating bone metastases in breast cancer patients with bone-dominant disease.

In Vancouver, SNMMI held its third annual—and most successful—Patient Program at the Annual Meeting, where more than 75 patients and caregivers attended sessions on advances in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Topics featured included dementia, neuroendocrine tumors, and lymphoma.

Our time in Vancouver was quite productive, thanks to our attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI volunteers and leadership. I look forward to seeing you next year as SNMMI travels to St. Louis, MO, June 7–11, for another successful Annual Meeting.



**Virginia Pappas, CAE**

*Virginia Pappas, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer*