

Strengthening Connections around the World

In today's global society, working with our nuclear medicine and molecular imaging peers around the world is both necessary and beneficial to the field. By sharing expertise and collaborating on new projects, we are able to enhance the care we are able to provide to patients.

SNMMI has been an active participant in the global conversation, collaborating with long-standing partners as well as forging relationships with new international organizations. The second half of 2013 was particularly eventful for the society as we attended international meetings, held discussions with peer societies, and continued work on the Nuclear Medicine Global Initiative (NMGI).

In late October, I and several SNMMI representatives traveled to Lyon, France, to attend the Annual Meeting of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM). During the meeting we had the opportunity to meet with leaders from the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging international community as well as see the advances taking place in the field in Europe.

Continuing its successful partnership with EANM, SNMMI met with the association's leadership while in France. We discussed the status of current collaborative guidelines and planned for future joint guidelines. In 2013, 3 joint guidelines were published on the topics of small bowel and colon transit, telenuclear medicine, and lymphoscintigraphy and sentinel node localization in breast cancer. We also discussed several other areas of focus at the meeting, including developing global standards for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, training and education for nuclear medicine physicians, and the state of the specialty.

SNMMI also formally met with the Society of Nuclear Medicine, India (SNMI), at the EANM meeting, marking the first time the societies have discussed collaboration. Several ideas were considered, including increasing representation of the Indian society at the SNMMI Annual Meeting, offering SNMMI educational opportunities for SNMI members, a possible exchange program of nuclear medicine physicians, scientists, and technologists, and others. We are pleased to have had this initial meeting with SNMI, and we look forward to working with the society in the future.

During the EANM meeting, SNMMI also participated in the NMGI meeting, which was chaired by SNMMI past president Frederic H. Fahey, DSc. At the 2012 EANM meeting, pediatric dose optimization was chosen as the first topic for the group. The working group reported on several projects, including a literature review on pediatric dose optimization and plans to develop a white paper summarizing the data, the development of educational content on the topic, and a survey of existing protocols for pediatric imaging. Timelines were also set for these projects. As the pediatric dose optimization initiative moves closer to completion, the NMGI participants are beginning to look toward the next topic for the group. The topic and an organizational leader will be chosen in early 2014.

Outside of the EANM meeting, SNMMI also participated in the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine (JSNM) Annual Meeting in November 2013. The 2 groups have developed a strong working relationship over the past several years and, during a meeting with the JSNM leadership, discussed continuing their work together in the coming year. This included offering joint continuing education courses and continuing progress made by both the JSNM Clinical Trials Network and the SNMMI Clinical Trials Network.

How nuclear medicine and molecular imaging are practiced around the world varies greatly, offering us the opportunity to both learn from our international colleagues and to improve our specialty. Meeting with our peer societies from across the globe is a priority for SNMMI. Through our work, we strive to be a leader in improving the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging worldwide.



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