

SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting Heads to San Antonio

In only a few short months, SNMMI will host the 2015 Mid-Winter Meeting—an exceptional educational program of scientific content in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. The meeting, which will be held January 22–25 at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio in San Antonio, TX, brings together leading nuclear and molecular imaging physicians, technologists, pharmacists, scientists, and laboratory professionals representing the world's top medical and academic institutions and centers.

To kick off the meeting, the SNMMI PET Center of Excellence and SNMMI Clinical Trials Network will co-sponsor a 1-day summit on Thursday, January 22, titled “Coverage with Evidence Development and Life after NOPR,” covering the current reimbursement and clinical environment for PET imaging. Presenters will provide an overview of evolving requirements for national PET coverage decisions, cover lessons learned from the NOPR experience, and discuss how the molecular imaging community must adapt to meet new challenges, including evidence development for amyloid PET. The course also will provide practical information for clinicians, administrators, and technologists who are performing PET procedures in their clinical practice.

Also on Thursday, the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) will sponsor a day-long program for attendees. A plenary session, “Appropriate Use Criteria—Where Are We Now, Where Are We Going and Where Do We Fit In?” will be held from 7:10 AM to 8:10 AM, followed by resident abstract presentations and several focused talks on appropriate use of nuclear medicine for consultants, challenging cases in pediatric nuclear medicine, and using evidence-based medicine appropriately in imaging. The program will conclude on Thursday evening with the ACNM/SNMMI conference banquet and awards dinner, at which the ACNM leadership will recognize outstanding leaders in the field as well as resident abstract winners.

Friday, January 23, begins the 3-day SNMMI/SNMMI-TS education program, which includes educational sessions designed in collaboration with several of SNMMI's councils. The sessions cover a wide variety of topics, including new radiopharmaceutical reimbursement, updates on treating cancer and assessing response, molecular imaging of inflammation, pediatric response to radiopharmaceuticals, molecular imaging of dementia, PET myocardial perfusion imaging, and grant proposal writing, among others. Technologist track sessions include discovering and transitioning to clinical research, technologists in the laboratory, and uses for PET/CT in oncology, cardiology and neurology.

SNMMI and ACNM will once again offer the popular CT case review course for nuclear physicians. On Friday, January 23, and Saturday, January 24, a total of 100 cases—25 each in head and neck, chest, abdomen and pelvis, and musculoskeletal system—will be reviewed for credit. In addition, an MRI Case Review session will be held on Saturday, January 24, that includes 20 cases on the brain and body.

I would like to express my appreciation to several volunteers who have been instrumental in building the education program for the SNMMI 2015 Mid-Winter Meeting. These individuals include Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, chair of SNMMI's Scientific Program Committee; Tracy Yarbrough, MD, PhD, program chair of the ACNM meeting; Nicolaas Bohnen, MD, PhD, chair of SNMMI's Mid-Winter Meeting Scientific Program Committee; and Kathleen Krisak, CNMT, chair of the Technologist Section Program Committee. They have worked diligently to ensure that the program covers relevant topics with high-quality speakers.

The SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting also offers attendees the opportunity to network with peers and meet new colleagues who share similar interests. In addition to the ACNM banquet, SNMMI will host an exhibitor welcome reception in the exhibit hall during the evening on Friday, January 23. The exhibit hall will also be open during the day on Friday and Saturday, and attendees will be able to visit with the top nuclear medicine and molecular imaging product and service providers to experience the latest in technology.

In addition to attending the scientific sessions while in San Antonio, meeting participants will also have the chance to explore the city and all it has to offer. From the historic Alamo to the graceful River Walk, stellar art exhibits, and increasingly acclaimed culinary and retail scene, San Antonio has come to define both classic and contemporary Texas.

SNMMI has developed a program of first-class offerings highlighting the current and emerging technical, preclinical, and clinical applications of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Additional information about the meeting, including registration details, can be found at www.snmmi.org/mwm. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio in January.



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