

A Year of Significant Accomplishments

As I write my last column, I have to stand back and take a moment not only to catch my breath but to reflect on the society's achievements in a fairly short amount of time. The pace has been exhilarating, the experience invaluable, and the results staggering. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the SNMMI president. I've met some amazing people and worked with many dedicated members and staff. This organization truly has the best interests of the membership and the profession in mind and is an asset to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. At the start of my presidential year, the society had just approved a comprehensive and tactical strategic plan. That plan was critical to 3 of my presidential initiatives, including a 3-pronged focus on leadership, outreach, and collaboration. I specifically focused on establishing a pipeline for future leaders, enhancing SNMMI's leadership role within the international nuclear and molecular imaging community, and fostering collaboration with peer and affiliate organizations. I am excited to report on our most impressive successes in these areas.

To maintain its leadership position, the society must establish a conduit for identifying and training future leaders. I am happy to report that SNMMI's inaugural Future Leaders Academy event took place this year. Eleven young professionals attended this day-and-a-half meeting to discuss leadership issues, including conflict resolution, understanding different personality types when working as a group, and information about the leadership and governance structures of the SNMMI. The academy was a success; we received extremely positive feedback from the attendees and are planning for a subsequent event to likely take place the day before the 2015 Mid-Winter Meeting. This new program along with our existing programs and young professionals' activities will provide a pipeline for new leaders for the field and SNMMI.

The society's history and track record in advancing and optimizing nuclear medicine has been critical to its increasing prominence in the international nuclear medicine community. The SNMMI is playing an active, critical role in the Nuclear Medicine Global Initiative, a coalition of 13 international nuclear medicine organizations that meet to discuss the future challenges and promises of nuclear medicine and to develop workable solutions. One outcome of this initiative

was the development and publication of a consensus paper about pediatric dose optimization. SNMMI spearheaded this project, and we intend to continue our leadership role with the next topic this international group decides to tackle. In addition, the prominence of the SNMMI was reflected in the invitations I and our past president, Fred Fahey, DSc, received to participate in a summit sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, this year. The discussion centered on future technical issues in nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging, particularly as these relate to the developing world. We represented the U.S. nuclear medicine community. Our inclusion in this event is an indication of the high regard in which SNMMI is held by the IAEA and the international nuclear medicine community.

International outreach must be combined with domestic collaborations for the broadest effect. I have continued to foster better relations with other professional organizations, including the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, the American College of Radiology, and the American Board of Radiology. By working together, we are able to accomplish so much more for the profession through education, advocacy, and research. Ongoing open dialogue with these groups and others is critical to the continued success of nuclear medicine.

It has truly been a privilege and pleasure serving as president of SNMMI. I thank my fellow board members, committee chairs, delegates, council and center leadership, and the central office staff for the hard work, time, and effort put in to the success of the society and the field of nuclear medicine. It has been a challenging, invigorating, and rewarding year. I extend my heartfelt best wishes to our incoming president, Peter Herscovitch, MD—along with several strong cups of coffee for the occasional energy boost. I know he will do a fantastic job in moving forward the society's strategic goals and advancing the field.



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