

## SNMMI Annual Meeting Highlights Research, Looks to Future of the Field

This year's SNMMI Annual Meeting was a success, as top research from around the world and the latest advances in technology were brought together in one place. Held in St. Louis, MO, June 7–11, the meeting welcomed 5,365 physicians, technologists, physicists, scientists, and exhibitors. Twenty-seven percent of attendees were from outside of North America; countries with the highest attendance were Japan, Germany, and The Netherlands.

Scientific Program Committee Chair Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, noted that this year's meeting offered more than 100 scientific sessions, with close to 750 oral presentations and more than 1,150 posters displayed in the poster hall. The SNMMI Annual Meeting provides attendees with an in-depth review of molecular imaging technologies, clinical applications, and translational and advanced research topics. Educational course topics this year included dose optimization, multimodality imaging, targeted radioisotope therapies, imaging in infection and inflammation, and the status of DOTA agents. In the exhibit hall, more than 175 companies showcased the latest in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies.

A highlight of the meeting was the SNMMI plenary session on Sunday, June 8, at which award-winning author, NBC news correspondent, and lymphoma survivor Jonathan Alter presented the Henry N. Wagner, Jr. Lecture on "The Future of Patient-Centered Medicine." On Monday, June 9,



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Barry A. Siegel, MD, professor of radiology and medicine and chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis), received the 2014 Benedict Cassen Prize for research in nuclear medicine and presented a lecture titled "What Have We Learned from the National Oncologic PET Registry?"



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A new leadership team for SNMMI was welcomed at the Annual Meeting as Peter Herscovitch, MD, became president; Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, assumed the position of president-elect; and Sally W. Schwarz, MS, RPh, moved into the vice president-elect position. Leadership for SNMMI's Technologist Section also changed during the meeting, with April Mann, MBA, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), taking the helm as president and Aaron Scott, MIS, CNMT, becoming president-elect.

SNMMI's 2014 Image of the Year was chosen from an abstract presented by Nobuyuki Okamura, MD, PhD, of Tohoku University School of Medicine (Sendai, Japan), and his colleagues (scientific paper 136). The image—a PET image acquired with the novel tracer  $^{18}\text{F}$ -THK5117—demonstrated differential distributions of amyloid tracer and tau/neurofibrillary tangle tracer in patients with Alzheimer disease. This research sheds critical light on the pathology of Alzheimer disease and has the potential to help in development of better diagnostic methods and effective treatments.

In St. Louis, SNMMI held its fourth annual Patient Program at the Annual Meeting, with more than 100 patients and caregivers attending sessions on advances in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Topics included colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, thyroid cancer, and neuroendocrine tumors.

I would like to thank our attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI volunteers and leadership for making this meeting productive. The future for the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is bright, and I look forward to seeing you next year as SNMMI travels to Baltimore, MD, June 6–10.

Virginia Pappas, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer, SNMMI