

New Officers for SNMMI and SNMMI-TS

At the SNMMI Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD, from June 6 to 10, both the SNMMI and SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) welcomed new officers. Elected at an earlier meeting by the memberships of the 2 organizations, these individuals will serve in these positions through June 2016.

SNMMI President

Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, tenured associate professor of radiology and biomedical engineering at the University of Southern California (USC; Los Angeles), became the 2015–2016 SNMMI president. “Over the next year, I will focus on developing appropriate use criteria and devising methods for quantifying the quality and value of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in this era of evidence-based medicine,” he said. “I will also work to facilitate the timely clinical translation of novel radiotracers.”



Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA

Jadvar received his bachelor degree in chemical engineering from Iowa State University (Ames) followed by a master’s in biomedical engineering from the University of Wisconsin (Madison), as well as a master’s in computer engineering and a doctorate in bioengineering from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). His medical degree is from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (IL). He also earned a master of public of health degree from Harvard University (Cambridge, MA) and an executive master’s in business administration from USC. He has completed a number of executive educational certificate programs at Harvard Medical School, the University of Cambridge (UK), the University of Oxford (UK), and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia).

Jadvar completed his internship in internal medicine at the University of California San Francisco, followed by residency in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine at Stanford University (CA) and clinical fellowship with the Harvard Joint Program in Nuclear Medicine. He also served as a visiting associate in bioengineering at the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena). He has been an attending physician at the USC Keck Medical Center and Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center since 1999.

Throughout his career Jadvar has been active in contributing to nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. He has provided dedicated service as an SNMMI member, as vice president–elect, president–elect, member of the House of Delegates, director-at-large on the board of directors, chair of the Committee on Publications, president of the PET Center of Excellence, member of the SNMMI Correlative Imaging

Council board of directors, and member of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* editorial board. He also served as vice chair of the SNMMI Scientific Program Committee, is a member of the SNMMI Pacific Southwest Chapter, and is on the Steering Committee of the Western Regional SNMMI.

Jadvar is a past president of the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) and a recipient of the SNMMI Mark Tetalman Young Investigator Award, the Western Regional SNMMI Distinguished Scientist Award, and the Academy of Radiology Research Distinguished Investigator Award. He is on multiple journal editorial boards and serves as associate editor of *Radiology*, assistant editor of the *American Journal of Roentgenology*, and deputy editor of *Clinical Nuclear Medicine*. He is a National Institutes of Health (NIH)–funded investigator and a member of multiple NIH review panels, as well as the Imaging Technology and Informatics review panel of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. He has written more than 120 journal articles, published 4 books and 25 book chapters, holds 9 patents, and has delivered more than 250 invited presentations.

Among his plans for the coming year are to advance the SNMMI strategic plan by encouraging activities that will increase appropriate utilization of targeted radioisotope therapy. “A new SNMMI Therapy Center of Excellence has been proposed that will give focus to and create a home for this important and rapidly expanding area within nuclear medicine,” he said. “The goal of the center would be to create synergy among the current and future efforts of the SNMMI in this area.”

SNMMI President-Elect

Sally W. Schwarz, MS, RPh, BCNP, a professor in radiology at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO) assumed office as 2015–2016 SNMMI president–elect. “As SNMMI president–elect and a nuclear pharmacist, I want to ensure that safe and effective radiopharmaceuticals for both diagnosis and therapy are made available as soon as possible,” she said. “In the year ahead, I will be working with both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on processes to help develop an expedited parallel review process.”



Sally W. Schwarz, MS, RPh, BCNP

Schwarz received her undergraduate degree in pharmacy from the University of Iowa (Iowa City) and a master’s degree in radiopharmacy from USC. She is board certified in nuclear pharmacy by the American Pharmacists Association. At Washington University, she is codirector of the school’s cyclotron facility and nuclear pharmacy and serves as secretary of the Radioactive Drug Research Committee.

Previously, she served as the nuclear pharmacist for the Division of Nuclear Medicine and was the pharmacist representative on the Nuclear Regulatory Advisory Committee.

Within SNMMI, Schwarz currently serves as chair of the Committee on Radiopharmaceuticals and cochair of the Coalition for PET Drug Approval. She has held several positions with the Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council, including president, and remains involved as the leadership representative. Schwarz is also a member of the FDA Taskforce and previously served on the Clinical Trials Network Manufacturing Committee. In addition, she has dedicated significant time to the Missouri Valley SNMMI Chapter, serving as chapter councilor. She serves on the Physical Analysis Expert Committee for the U.S. Pharmacopeia, is chair of the Washington University Positron-Emitting Radionuclides and Cyclotron Safety Subcommittee, and serves as treasurer for the International Society of Radiopharmaceutical Sciences. She has published 25 journal articles and 11 book chapters and has been an invited speaker for more than 50 presentations.

Schwarz's goals for the coming year include working to raise awareness and understanding of core concerns, such as isotope availability and radiopharmaceutical development, as well as U.S. Pharmacopeia and regulatory issues. She will also continue development of a database for Investigational New Drug compounds to facilitate access to chemistry manufacturing and controls information. In addition, she is interested in developing a "qualified person" training program for pharmacists and chemists that would focus on courses needed to release manufactured PET drugs.

SNMMI Vice President-Elect

Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, MS, professor of radiology at the Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Regents University (Augusta), assumed office as the 2015–2016 SNMMI vice president-elect. "In the year ahead I will focus on working toward the establishment of a reliable domestic source of radionuclide production that can be used for diagnostic clinical studies, research, and radionuclide therapy," he said.

Greenspan holds a master's degree in medical physics from the University of California Los Angeles and earned his medical degree at the University of Illinois (Chicago). He completed residencies in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine and is certified in diagnostic and nuclear radiology by the American Board of Radiology (ABR) and in nuclear medicine by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. He has held previous faculty positions at the University of Rochester (NY), the University of Missouri–Columbia, and Washington University (St. Louis, MO).

Greenspan serves on the SNMMI Quality and Evidence Committee, is a reviewer for quality assurance in nuclear



Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, MS

medicine for the American College of Radiology (ACR), and is a committee member on the PET Quality and Reporting Task Force of SNMMI's PET Center of Excellence (where he also serves as a board member). Greenspan is a fellow of the ACR and the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) and currently serves on the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine (ABSNM) and the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. He is the previous chair of the SNMMI Committee on Councils and currently serves as cochair of the ACR Nuclear Medicine Procedure Guideline Committee. At SNMMI, he has also served on the Board of Directors and the boards of the Academic Council, Advanced Associate Council, Nuclear Oncology Council, and Computer and Instrumentation Council. He has been president of the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP), the Missouri Radiological Society, the SNMMI Academic Council (twice), the Missouri Valley Chapter of SNMMI (twice), and the ABSNM. Greenspan has also served on the boards of the ACNM, the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Computed Tomography Laboratories, and the Academy of Radiology Research. He has served on the executive councils of the ACNP and the ACR Intersociety Summer Conference and continues to serve on committees and task forces of the SNMMI, ACNM, ACR, Radiological Society of North America, Association of University Radiologists, and American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

As SNMMI vice president-elect, Greenspan will focus on demonstrating the value of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and ensuring the highest quality and safety standards, in part through development of more appropriate use criteria and reporting guidelines for commonly used SPECT and PET imaging agents. He will also work to encourage more efficient and timely approval of novel radiotracers. His ultimate focus is on benefiting patients. "These improvements can lead to more appropriate utilization of diagnostic nuclear medicine exams and also radionuclide therapy, which will benefit patients," he said. "These goals can be facilitated by working closely with other societies and governmental agencies."

SNMMI-TS President

Aaron Scott, MIS, CNMT, NMAA, from the Gwinnett Medical Center (Lawrenceville, GA), is the 2015–2016 SNMMI-TS president. He received a bachelor of science degree in biology from Clark Atlanta University (GA) as well as a bachelor of science degree in nuclear medicine from the Medical College of Georgia (Augusta). He also earned a master of imaging sciences degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (Little Rock, AK).

He was a nuclear medicine team leader at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, chief nuclear medicine technologist at Rockdale Medical Center (Conyers, GA), and a nuclear medicine



Aaron Scott, MIS, CNMT, NMAA

technologist at Emory University Hospital (Atlanta, GA) and Decatur PET Imaging (GA). He is certified by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board.

Scott has served in several leadership positions within the SNMMI-TS, most recently as delegate-at-large and on the Strategic Planning Committee. On the local level he is involved with the Southeastern SNMMI Chapter Technologist Section and the Georgia Society of Nuclear Medicine, having served as president of both organizations. He also received the SNMMI-TS Outstanding Technologist Award in 2009.

“SNMMI-TS is here to serve its members,” Scott said. “I want to hear what they want. I’m proud to be working with such an amazing group of technologists, who are committed to the highest standards of care and excellence.” He looks forward to expanding SNMMI-TS involvement in evidence-based medicine, including quality and safety assessment and improvement. “SNMMI, including the Technologist Section, is embracing this effort wholeheartedly,” he said. “SNMMI-TS has launched a multiyear quality initiative that will enhance quality through education and training, as well as raise public awareness of the safety of nuclear medicine procedures.”

SNMMI-TS President-Elect

Sara G. Johnson, MBA, CNMT, NCT, research coordinator for nuclear medicine and a staff nuclear medicine technologist with the Veterans Affairs San Diego (CA) Healthcare System, is the 2015–2016 president-elect of the SNMMI-TS.

Johnson has nearly 30 years of nuclear medicine experience, with a career that began while on active duty with the U.S. Navy. During almost 8 years of service, she practiced nuclear medicine in Okinawa, Japan, and at bases in the United States. After leaving the Navy, she served as chief technologist at the University of California San Diego

(UCSD) Medical Center and was also the founder and first program director of the UCSD Nuclear Medicine Technologist Program. She later worked in the commercial sector as a clinical specialist for DuPont and Bristol-Myers Squibb, specializing in nuclear cardiology.

Johnson has an associate degree from the George Washington University (Washington, DC). She earned bachelor degrees in business administration and management as well as an MBA from the University of Phoenix (AZ). She is one of the authors of the *Nuclear Cardiology Technology Study Guide*. She has been involved with the SNMMI-TS at the local, regional, and national levels for many years and became an SNMMI-TS fellow in 2012.

“Patients who rely on nuclear medicine must have the highest-quality scans and treatments provided in a timely and cost-effective manner,” Johnson said. “The front-line nuclear medicine technologist is the key to ensuring that this goal is achieved. In the year ahead, I will work to provide opportunities for nuclear medicine technologists to enhance their skills and professional expertise, with special emphasis on the needs of the front-line technologist.” She added, “I want to ensure that professional skills are maintained and enhanced through high-quality and easily accessible educational opportunities for all nuclear medicine technologists. Nuclear medicine must continue to be forward thinking by anticipating imaging and treatment growth opportunities. Through advocacy and education, we can properly prepare our nuclear medicine professionals for the challenges of an ever-changing health care environment.”



**Sara G. Johnson,
MBA, CNMT, NCT**

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facing our field. Dissolving the ABNM and creating a NM/DR pathway is only one such option. Other strategies could involve closer collaboration between ABR and ABNM as well as training program leaders, in such areas as dual training pathways, credentialing in hybrid imaging, assessment of the adequacy of the 4 month NM component of DR residencies, and MOC programs.

There should be broad involvement of the nuclear medicine community, with input actively sought from ABNM diplomates and the SNMMI membership. This discussion should acknowledge the challenges of the current environment of evidence-based medicine. We must support the value and quality of nuclear medicine while at

the same time incorporating new technologies resulting from scientific advances in our field.

Given the lack of more information about the ABR/ABNM proposal and the lack of a robust discussion of other options, SNMMI cannot support the current proposal. We would, however, welcome a discussion with ABNM and ABR leadership about this proposal as well as other options. We suggest a small working group consisting of members of SNMMI leadership and members of your group to meet and discuss the proposal in depth as soon as possible. We also look forward to the time when ABNM will be reaching out to its diplomates, so that we can involve our membership in this important discussion.