

SNMMI 2015 Annual Meeting: Focus on Quality

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The 2015 SNMMI Annual Meeting was a great success, as top research was brought together with the latest advances in technology to increase the quality of care for patients all over the world. More than 5,400 physicians, technologists, physicists, scientists, and exhibitors came to Baltimore, MD, for 5 days of informative scientific and educational sessions. SNMMI members, staff, and committees put together an excellent program of events and seminars.

During the opening plenary session, attendees were updated on SNMMI's activities in support of its strategic goal to advance the quality, value, and safety of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. The society has established a new quality department and committees that are striving to improve clinical practice, establish evidence-based benchmarks, and develop education programs and clinical data registries. Four appropriate use criteria are being developed and will be completed by November of this year. SNMMI also continues to collaborate with groups of stakeholders on solutions to many of the problems facing the profession, including supply issues, translation of new tracers into clinical use, and advancing nuclear medicine therapy. In addition, the society is working globally to share research, problems, solutions, and training, as well as to promote standardization through the Clinical Trials Network.

At the SNMMI-TS plenary session, the Technologist Section launched its new multiyear Quality Initiative, which aims to help technologists adjust to the changing health care environment by developing a quality system focused on evidence-based outcomes for the nuclear medicine community that will advance patient care. The initiative will foster collaboration with other organizations in developing programs such as webinars, continuing education programs for technologists, and new standards for education.

This year, SNMMI leadership was proud to present a best abstract award to each of the 43 countries attending the meeting. The awards were presented at a special reception during which leadership congratulated the awardees on their achievements and thanked them for their contributions to the profession and the meeting. Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, scientific program chair, and Alan Packard, PhD, general program chair, presented the awards.

In 2016, SNMMI will begin featuring a different country at each Annual Meeting. The first country to be featured will be Japan, with a program of educational sessions and a speech at the opening plenary.

On Sunday, June 7, The SNMMI Industry Forum brought together professional and industry stakeholders to discuss ways to advance a sustainable field of nuclear medicine.

Topics at the forum included the PET regulatory environment, outlook for future ⁹⁹Mo supply, the PET Medicare coverage environment, and a workshop on private payer PET evidence.

On Tuesday June 9, the SNMMI Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs Department sponsored 4 continuing education sessions at the Annual Meeting. These sessions provided opportunities for attendees to listen

to and interact with key government agencies. Sessions included "FDA: Imaging Drug Development—Regulatory Issues," "Medicare—Clinical Decision Support (CDS), Introduction and Implementation Considerations," "Regulatory Update from the NRC," and "New and Existing Isotopes—Adequate Supply or Shortages?"

The 2015 SNMMI Image of the Year was awarded to a team of researchers from the University Hospital Heidelberg and the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, Germany. The image highlights a theranostic drug, PSMA-617, a prostate-specific membrane antigen inhibitor that can be labeled for imaging or therapy. Initial studies in humans indicate that therapy with the agent is effective for both local disease and metastases.

SNMMI held its fifth annual Patient Program at the Annual Meeting, where patients and caregivers attended sessions on advances in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Featured topics included thyroid cancer, heart disease, and dementia.

A new SNMMI leadership team took office at the Annual Meeting, as Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, became president; Sally W. Schwarz, MS, RPh, BCNP, assumed the position of president-elect; and Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, MS, became vice president-elect. Leadership for SNMMI-TS also transitioned during the meeting, with Aaron Scott, MIS, CNMT, NMAA, taking the helm as president and Sara G. Johnson, MBA, CNMT, NCT, becoming president-elect.

I would like to thank all of our attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI volunteers and leadership for making this meeting productive. Each year it is our pleasure to provide attendees with the premier educational, scientific, and networking event in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, and I look forward to seeing you next year in San Diego, CA, June 11–15.



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