

SNMMI Therapy Center of Excellence

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As a follow-up to the very successful initial joint National Cancer Institute (NCI)–SNMMI Workshop on Targeted Radionuclide Therapy (TRT) held in spring 2013 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD, the second NCI–SNMMI Workshop on Targeted Radionuclide Therapy was held October 24 and 25, 2014, at NIH. The workshop brought together individuals and international collaborators from multiple scientific disciplines, industry, and government agencies. The goals were to review what had been learned to date about implementation of TRT, discuss the most promising agents moving forward, and investigate a path to bring these to the clinic. The 2-day event for each workshop included a small but diverse group of stakeholders.

During these workshops it was agreed that TRT is important in patient care and may be underutilized in the medical community. As a result of these workshops, it became clear that a new center should be formed within the SNMMI to address the issues identified in the most effective and efficient manner and to promote education and outreach. The new center also aligns with SNMMI's strategic goal to increase appropriate utilization of radionuclide therapy.

The SNMMI Board of Directors agreed and approved the creation of the new SNMMI Therapy Center of Excellence in April 2015. The new center is an organizational component within the SNMMI dedicated to all aspects of development and utilization of TRT. The new center will bring together physicians, scientists, government and regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders to share ideas, develop educational offerings, and advance utilization of radionuclide therapy by addressing educational needs, reimbursement issues, credentialing, and more. The center will aim to increase appropriate utilization of radionuclide therapy.

SNMMI has begun furthering discussions about TRT. This year, through the efforts of the TRT Working Group of the Outreach Committee, SNMMI is holding joint symposia at the American Society of Clinical Oncology, North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society, and Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) annual meetings. These interactive symposia will cover all aspects of TRT, bringing together a group of experts in each therapeutic area to explain the utility of TRT in patient care.

At the 2015 SNMMI Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD, a dedicated workshop on “Advances in Prostate Cancer: Imaging, Staging, and Management” reviewed cutting-edge therapies and recently approved therapies available for clinical use. The session addressed ways that medical oncologists and molecular imaging personnel can collaborate to battle prostate cancer by linking investigational and approved clinical approaches with novel agents that target glucometabolism, lipogenesis, androgen receptors, and amino acids.

In a new therapy-focused initiative, SNMMI and RSNA will have a session on “Theranostics: Contributions of Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine and Targeted Radionuclide Therapy in Clinical Oncology” as part of the RSNA Annual Meeting program in 2015. This session will provide examples of paired diagnostic studies and treatments using nuclear medicine methods. The talks will address thyroid cancer, metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, peptide receptor radionuclide therapy, and malignant hepatic lesions.

NCI and SNMMI agree that TRT is important in patient care and may be underutilized in the medical community. Through these workshops, we have begun to understand the challenges and opportunities for use of TRT as perceived by the medical oncology, radiation oncology, imaging, basic science, and other relevant communities, as well as to outline potential areas for future research. SNMMI plans to continue this dialog with our counterparts and hold disease-specific workshops throughout the remainder of the year.

The Therapy Center of Excellence will provide professional networking and educational opportunities while serving as a resource for development and implementation of society policy. We hope to help address pressing issues for TRT, including adequate and effective funding for research. The center will be accepting new members during 2015 and 2016. For more information, contact SNMMI Leadership Director Nikki Wenzel at nwenzel@snmmi.org.



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