

Archive Project and History Fund

Frederic Fahey, DSc, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

As SNMMI historian, I would like to share some of the ongoing projects as well as thoughts on ways in which some of these initiatives might be supported in the future.

In 2015 we published a book, *The Highlights Lectures 1981–2009*, with summaries of the highlight presentations by Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, at SNM Annual Meetings during this period. It is a fascinating look through almost 30 years of history in our field as seen by one of our most beloved pioneers. This volume is available through the SNMMI bookstore at <http://www.snmmi.org/Store/Bestsellers.aspx?metadaind=84>.

Two significant anniversaries were celebrated in 2016. The first was the 40th anniversary of the first human imaging with ^{18}F -FDG. Joanna Fowler, PhD, presented the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Lecture at the opening plenary session of the 2016 SNMMI Annual Meeting and wonderfully summarized the activities leading up to this landmark event. She focused on the groundbreaking work of Alfred P. Wolf, PhD, at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY), and the lab's collaboration with the group under David E. Kuhl, MD, at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). As a participant in the events, Dr. Fowler provided an exciting and insightful overview of the extraordinary logistics and coordination required in 1976 to prepare the imaging agent in Brookhaven and deliver it to Penn for first-in-human imaging.

The year 2016 also marked the 75th anniversary of the first radioiodine treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, MA) by Saul Hertz, MD. In 1938, the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation of New York (NY) had provided funding for the cyclotron that supplied radioiodine for the 1941 treatment. SNMMI contacted the Markle Foundation, which graciously provided funds to help support the anniversary celebration of the first radioiodine treatment. The History Session at the Annual Meeting (our 7th in the series) focused on the history of radionuclide therapy. Rodney J. Hicks, MBBS, MD, from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Melbourne, Australia), gave an informative and entertaining presentation on medical uses of radium, from early use of ^{226}Ra to the more recent development of ^{223}Ra -dichloride (Xofigo) for treatment of bone metastases in prostate cancer. Frederick D. Grant, MD, from Boston Children's Hospital (MA), discussed the events leading to Dr. Hertz's work. Edward Silberstein, MD, of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (OH), courageously covered all other radionuclides used for therapy over the years. This fascinating session was presented to a full room of receptive attendees.

Working with the SNMMI Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council and the newly formed Radionuclide Therapy Center

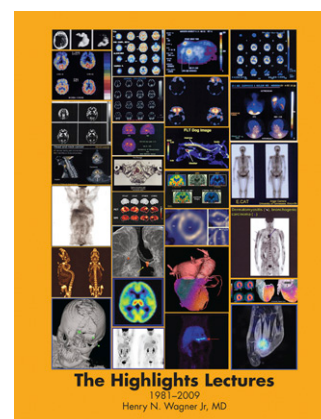
of Excellence, the SNMMI implemented the Saul Hertz Award, which recognizes contributions in radionuclide therapy. The inaugural recipient was Steven M. Larson, MD, from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC; New York, NY). At a special symposium in conjunction with this award, Wolfgang A. Weber, MD, also from MSKCC, introduced the awardee. Dr. Larson and Richard P. Baum, MD, PhD, from the Zentralklinik Bad Berka (Germany), presented lectures on theranostics. Barbara Hertz, Dr. Hertz's daughter, attended the symposium. The SNMMI Development Department, led by Larry Dilworth and Teresa Ellmer, worked with Ms. Hertz on an exhibit honoring her father as part of the SNMMI development booth at the Annual Meeting. This 20-panel exhibit included letters exchanged between Dr. Hertz and Karl Compton, PhD, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the time; pages from Dr. Hertz's lab notebook documenting his first patients; and testimonies from grateful radioiodine therapy recipients.

The Wall of Remembrance, which was introduced a few years ago to commemorate notable members who have passed away in the past 5 years, was displayed and very well received at the SNMMI 2016 Annual Meeting.

SNMMI has consulted over the past year with a professional archivist on organization of the materials in the current SNMMI historical archive and on development of a plan for moving forward. The goal was to detail a clear strategy for the most efficient and effective approach to preserving these materials and making them available to a



Frederic Fahey, DSc



This volume, released at the SNMMI 2016 Annual Meeting, contains the annual highlights lectures delivered by Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, from 1981 to 2009.

(Continued on page 20N)

FDA Approval of Imaging Agents: An Exciting Investment in Nuclear Medicine

Sally W. Schwarz, MS, RPh, BCNP, SNMMI President

With the recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of 2 new PET diagnostic drugs, Axumin (fluciclovine ^{18}F injection), for detecting biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer, and NETSPOT (^{68}Ga -dotatate injection), for localization of somatostatin receptor-positive neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) in adult and pediatric patients, the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is beginning the new year on a high note.

The approval of these PET diagnostic drugs is especially good news for patients. In addition to providing improved imaging, NETSPOT delivers a lower radiation dose than the SPECT alternative for NET imaging, which makes it more convenient. The SPECT study can require up to 72 hours, whereas NETSPOT provides results within 2 hours. Axumin offers the availability of an ^{18}F -labeled PET diagnostic for prostate cancer recurrence that can be produced offsite and distributed to a larger number of hospitals than the currently approved ^{11}C diagnostic. In addition, local Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reimbursement for both Axumin and NETSPOT followed their FDA approval, so patients can immediately benefit from use of these PET drugs.

I am pleased to report that SNMMI's Clinical Trials Network (CTN) was instrumental in the approval process for both Axumin and NETSPOT—helping with some of the key components of the Axumin trial (e.g., providing reader training) and facilitating a shortened regulatory review for NETSPOT.

SNMMI's Nuclear Medicine Clinical Trial Group, LLC, assists sponsors with effectively incorporating molecular imaging agents in multicenter trials through a variety of proven CTN-developed tools. It has developed

reader training for both Axumin and NETSPOT that is available for free online.

As this issue of the magazine goes to print, we are awaiting word on FDA approval of Lutathera (^{177}Lu -dotatate), which was granted priority review in June last year, with a decision set for December 28, 2016. Lutathera is a new peptide-receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) that targets neuroendocrine carcinoid tumors with radiolabeled somatostatin analogue peptides. Lutathera would work in tandem with NETSPOT—first diagnosis of the target cancer tissue using NETSPOT, then delivery of the PRRT to cancer cells identified by NETSPOT. Such companion diagnostics are truly the future of personalized medicine!

Once Lutathera is approved, the Therapy Center of Excellence will conduct outreach to referring physicians and has already planned an educational session for the 2017 SNMMI Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

The effectiveness of these new imaging agents and their success in gaining FDA approval and reimbursement hold promise for further investment in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. In turn, more physicians and scientists will be encouraged to pursue a molecular imaging career path. The future is, indeed, bright for our field!

I wish everyone a happy, productive new year and look forward to working with you to expand the frontiers of molecular imaging and provide ever more effective health care.



**Sally W. Schwarz,
MS, RPh, BCNP**

(Continued from page 19N)

wider audience of interested scholars and researchers. It is clear that this effort will require a long-term investment of time and dollars. As a result, SNMMI, in collaboration with the Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, is developing a Heritage Fundraising Campaign for both the short and long terms. The expectation is for the Heritage Campaign to raise funds from individuals, corporate partners, and foundations that will provide the

support needed to move into the next phase of our archive plan as well as for long-term storage and management of these materials. The Heritage Campaign will be launched in early 2017, and SNMMI members will be kept informed of opportunities to participate.

Please visit our website at www.snmmi.org/history, and do not hesitate to contact me (historian@snmmi.org) with any questions or comments.