

## The SNMMI 2017 Annual Meeting: Ushering in the Future with a Focus on Theranostics, Research, Education, and Value

Virginia Pappas, CAE, SNMMI Chief Executive Officer

**M**ore than 5,000 physicians, technologists, scientists and exhibitors gathered in Denver, Colorado, June 10–14, for SNMMI's 2017 Annual Meeting to share exciting research advances, learn about emerging technologies, new tracers and applications, appropriate use criteria, and much more. With our rapidly evolving field, continuing education (CE) is essential, and the Annual Meeting again provided opportunities to acquire advanced knowledge through a wide range of CE sessions and the CT and MRI case reviews, presented this year in collaboration with the University of Colorado. The Exhibit Hall provided a 1-stop showcase for cutting-edge molecular imaging devices, products, and services.

The focus was on theranostics at the Opening Plenary Session. The Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Lecture, titled "Theranostics: Looking Back and Moving Forward," was given by Richard Baum, MD, PhD. Johannes Czernin, MD, editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, provided a closer look at what the future of the field promises, if attention is concentrated on precision medicine and patient outcomes. Nuclear medicine and molecular imaging are truly expanding the frontiers of medicine with precision patient care.

The society's new Value Initiative was also introduced at the meeting. It addresses 5 critical domains that will guide the society's strategic plan over the next several years: Quality of Practice, Research and Development, Workforce Pipeline, Advocacy, and Outreach. The new strategic plan was approved at the Annual Meeting and will be made available soon. In addition to the 5 domains outlined in the Value Initiative, it includes a 6th: Organizational Strength and Stability. We must strengthen our sense of community and work collaboratively, ensure financial stability by growing support for SNMMI projects, encourage innovation, attract new members, and provide true value in membership.

The new SNMMI leadership team took office at the Monday plenary. Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, MS, became president; Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, is now president-elect; and Vasken Dilsizian, MD, became vice president-elect. The SNMMI Technologist Section officers for 2017–2018 are Kathleen Krisak, CNMT, as president; and Norman Bolus, MSPH, CNMT, as president-elect.

At the meeting, the Technologist Section established the baccalaureate degree with related upper-division coursework

as the professional level of medical imaging and radioisotope therapy education. The *Nuclear Medicine Technologist Scope of Practice and Standards* was revised to include MR imaging. The SNMMI-TS Quality Survey results and the Quality Committee's Five-Year Plan were also presented.

SNMMI is an international organization that relies on collaboration across borders. This year, the Annual Meeting's highlight country was Germany, which is doing cutting-edge research in all aspects of nuclear medicine, including theranostics. In a further recognition of German innovation, the 2017 Image of the Year went to a team of researchers from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and University Hospital in Heidelberg. The selected image demonstrates the ways in which combining the advantages of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -prostate-specific membrane antigen PET and intraoperative gamma and fluorescence imaging results in better tumor identification before and during surgery.

With the focus always on patients, Patient Education Day is an important part of the meeting. Patients and caregivers attended sessions on nuclear medicine advances in diagnosing and treating neuroendocrine tumors, prostate and thyroid cancers, and Alzheimer disease.

SNMMI introduced SNMMI TV this year, with daily coverage of meeting highlights and interviews on topics ranging from theranostics and the Clinical Trials Network to patient advocacy and molecular imaging applications in neurology and cardiology. The programming showed on 4 screens around the convention center, as well as on television at 3 nearby hotels. The videos are now available on the SNMMI YouTube site ([youtube.com/SNMChannel1](http://youtube.com/SNMChannel1)).

Thank you to all the attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI leaders and volunteers for making the Annual Meeting so productive! This is an exciting time for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Theranostics and precision medicine are the future of health care, and our field is at the forefront, developing innovative approaches for delivering the best treatment for the individual. Navigating the challenges and opportunities ahead will require attention to details and broad collaboration. Working together, we can make great progress in the year ahead. Please mark your calendars now for the SNMMI 2018 Annual Meeting, which will take place June 23–27 in Philadelphia, PA.