

## Strengthening the Workforce Pipeline

*Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, MS, SNMMI President*

**A**s we begin a new year with all its immediate demands on our attention, we are also looking to the future and working to ensure that nuclear medicine (NM) and molecular imaging (MI) have an appropriate number of qualified professionals—physicians, scientists, and technologists—to continue advancing the field and improving patients' lives.

Frederick D. Grant, MD, chairs the Workforce Pipeline and Life-Long Learning Domain of the SNMMI Value Initiative and new strategic plan, which outlines steps for ensuring the strength of our profession going forward. Training pathways are key. SNMMI is collaborating with stakeholder organizations in NM and radiology to develop training program pathways that provide high-quality graduate medical education leading to dual certification in NM and radiology. In the meantime, we are reaching out to residents in diagnostic radiology and encouraging them to consider fellowship training in NM.

In addition, we are conducting outreach to facilities, hospitals, and academic centers to ensure that appropriate training and residency programs are implemented and supported. SNMMI is forging alliances with other organizations by continuing the dialogue with the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and American Board of Medical Specialties, as well as the Nuclear Medicine Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education on training pathways, certification, and assessment of current NM residency training programs. We are also expanding SNMMI educational opportunities that will help NM physicians and radiologists develop and update practice competency and expertise in state-of-the-art NM, MI, and radionuclide therapy.

Training pathways for NM scientists and technologists are equally important. The society is working to identify available training pathways for nuclear pharmacists and encouraging the development of new training programs. SNMMI also supports the efforts of the Technologist Section to standardize NM technologist training and is

working to increase recognition for NM technologists as experts in performing NM imaging and therapy.

SNMMI is conducting outreach to students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math careers, from science majors and graduate students to medical students and residents, to demonstrate the exciting and rewarding opportunities available in the broad NM/MI field. For example, we have compiled an email list of more than

1,300 diagnostic radiology/NM residents—and we expect the list to grow. We are now proactively reaching out to these residents, outlining SNMMI membership benefits and providing one-click access to free resident membership, which is followed by transitional, low-cost membership.

The SNMMI Recruitment Committee is also developing a web page through which residents, medical students, and faculty can learn more about NM and nuclear radiology. In addition, we are advocating for increased funds to support research grants to attract new talent to the field.

SNMMI is a member-driven organization, and there is strength in numbers. We are increasing efforts to demonstrate the value of both the NM/MI field and society membership. This includes identifying ways to strengthen outreach to potential new members and those who have let membership lapse at the end of their free student status. We are also enlisting the aid of residency programs and institutions that have encouraged SNMMI membership in the past to act as SNMMI ambassadors.

SNMMI is the professional home of all NM professionals. We must ensure that our programs not only meet their needs but also anticipate and fulfill expectations with innovative educational offerings, support, and advocacy. As 2018 gets underway, I am excited about SNMMI's new initiatives and optimistic about the future of NM and MI.



**Bennett S. Greenspan,  
MD, MS**