

The SNMMI Annual Meeting: Making History in Philadelphia

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SNMMI's 2018 Annual Meeting—the premier educational, scientific, and networking event for the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community—will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, June 23–26. We look forward to bringing together physicians, technologists, pharmacists, and scientists from around the globe to share research, network, and collaborate on “Imaging the Future of Human Health.”

SNMMI has enhanced the 2018 meeting with a number of new features in response to member feedback:

- This year's meeting is condensed to 4 days, beginning Saturday with scientific and categorical sessions.
- A Roommate-Sharing Program is offered to help with travel expenses.
- “Nuts and Bolts” sessions in each track will cover a wide variety of subspecialty areas and provide practical information to apply in the clinic.
- In a new Interactive Training Showcase in the Exhibit Hall on Sunday and Monday, major exhibitors will present 30-minute training sessions.
- At a Meet the Lab event in the Poster Hall, laboratory representatives will be available to discuss training opportunities.
- Specialty-area pub meet-ups (a specific pub/bar for each interest area) will provide an opportunity for convivial networking.

A Saturday evening Opening Ceremony will provide an overview of the meeting and our host city, Philadelphia. It will be followed by the Welcome Reception, which celebrates our highlight country, China. The president of the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine will speak at the Opening Ceremony, and the reception will showcase Chinese culture and food. The Chinese society has also organized scientific and continuing education sessions throughout the meeting.

Make plans to attend the Sunday and Monday morning plenary sessions and the Tuesday afternoon Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Highlights Symposium. These informative sessions include keynote speakers, significant awards and accomplishments, the SNMMI business meeting, installation of the new SNMMI president, a synopsis of research during the Annual Meeting, announcement of the Image of the Year, and much more.

Another highlight will be the 3-hour, hands-on Fluciclovine Live Training Session, a chance to learn how to interpret the newly approved agent. Registration is complimentary but separate from the Annual Meeting registration, and space is limited to the first 100 registrants.

The SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS), as always, will have a strong educational program. It includes the first history-focused session, which is on the evolution of licensure, certification, and professional status in the field. Featuring guest speakers from the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board and American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, it is part of the lead-up to the 2020 50th anniversary of the SNMMI-TS. In addition, the new Women in Nuclear Medicine Technologist Committee will host a session focused on work/life balance, as well as a networking event for women technologists.

The ever-popular Annual “Hot Trot 5K” run/walk will take place Saturday, June 23, at 7 AM, and now registration for the race can be easily added during the Annual Meeting registration process. Proceeds will be split between the SNMMI-TS Professional Development and Education Fund and the local charity, Bianca's Kids, which grants wishes to children in need.

As our field grows, we must focus on engaging more members in the work of advancing the profession. Graduates of this year's SNMMI Future Leaders Academy and the SNMMI-TS Leadership Academy will network with past graduates and society leadership during the Annual Meeting to help them find where their talents can best be used.

For medical students and residents, there will be networking opportunities with seasoned professionals and programming on exciting research areas, jobs, and career advancement. A new website for medical students and residents will also be launched at the meeting. In addition, SNMMI is reaching out to medical schools in the Philadelphia area to arrange student participation in the meeting.

The Exhibit/Poster Hall Opening and Welcome Reception will be Saturday, June 23, 6–8 PM. In addition to the new Interactive Training Showcases that many of the larger companies are presenting, there will be a special area on the Exhibit Hall floor for small businesses.

Ultimately, our focus is on improving patients' lives. The Patient Education Day program will be held Sunday, June 24. In addition to general sessions on nuclear medicine/

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risk stratification of early-stage Hodgkin leukemia patients compared to current staging systems and the predictive value of early PET response as well.”

Blood

PET/CT and Response Prediction in Esophageal Cancer

In an article e-published on February 8 ahead of print in the *British Journal of Surgery*, Harustiak et al. from Charles University, Motol University, General University Hospital, and Na Homolce Hospital (all in Prague, Czech Republic) reported on a study assessing whether ^{18}F -FDG PET can be used to predict histopathologic response early in neoadjuvant chemotherapy in adenocarcinoma of the esophagus and esophagogastric junction. The study included 126 patients, with a scanning protocol including 3 PET/CT studies: a baseline scan, a second scan in the third wk of the first cycle of neoadjuvant therapy, and a third after chemotherapy to evaluate tumor resectability and to exclude distant metastases. The authors followed the PET Response Criteria in Solid Tumors (PERCIST 1.0) in evaluating metabolic response. Of the 90 patients who underwent surgery, 27 had a histopathologic response, but no association was found between this response and median changes in SUV_{peak} or median total lesion glycolysis. A follow-up

analysis in 47 patients who underwent the second imaging ≤ 16 d after initiation of chemotherapy showed that changes in total lesion glycolysis (but not SUV_{peak}) were associated with histopathologic response. The optimal cutoff value for change in total lesion glycolysis was $\geq 66\%$. The authors concluded that ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT after the first cycle of chemotherapy “does not predict histopathologic response in patients with adenocarcinoma of the esophagus and esophagogastric junction.”

British Journal of Surgery

Reviews

Review articles offer an important way to stay up to date on the latest topics and approaches by providing valuable summaries of pertinent literature. The Newsline editor recommends several reviews accessioned into the PubMed database in late January and February. In an article in the February 1 issue of *Current Pain and Headache Reports* (2018;22:7), Howard et al. from Duke University Medical Center and Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center (both in Durham, NC) summarized the current “Utility of radionuclide bone scintigraphy in complex regional pain syndrome.” Villemagne et al. from Austin Health (Heidelberg and Parkville), the University of Melbourne, the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (Herston), and CSIRO

Health and Biosecurity (Melbourne and Parkville) (all in Australia) reviewed “Imaging tau and amyloid- β proteinopathies in Alzheimer disease” on February 16 ahead of print in *Nature Reviews. Neurology*. On January 29, ahead of print in *Current Pharmaceutical Design*, Signore et al. from the Sapienza University of Rome (Italy) and the Clínica Colsanitas Bogota (Colombia) described the “Current status of molecular imaging in inflammatory and autoimmune disorders.” Maurer et al. from the Technische Universität Munich (Germany) reported in the March issue of *Current Opinion in Urology* (2018;28:191–196) on “Prostate-specific membrane antigen-guided salvage lymph node dissection in recurrent prostate cancer: A novel technology to detect lymph node metastases.” In the February 11 online issue of *Diagnostics (Basel)*, Lenzo et al. from TheraNostics Australia (East Fremantle) and the University of Western Australia (Nedlands) published a “Review of gallium-68 PSMA PET/CT imaging in the management of prostate cancer.” On January 30, Lamichhane et al. from the University of Maryland School of Medicine (Baltimore) and the University of Maryland College Park reviewed “Liposomes: Clinical applications and potential for image-guided drug delivery” online in *Molecules (Basel)*.

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molecular imaging, radiation safety, and understanding clinical trials, there will be breakout sessions on neuroendocrine tumors, prostate cancer, and lymphoma.

In addition, SNMMI-TV will again be reporting on each day’s news and conducting interviews—providing one more

way to stay abreast of all that is happening. The virtual meeting and virtual poster hall will also extend the availability of programming.

I look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia for an exciting 4 days of learning and collaboration!