

Trailblazing and Expanding Frontiers

Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, SNMMI President

It is a great honor to serve as SNMMI president, especially during such an exciting time, when the pace of innovation in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is bringing patients increasingly precise diagnoses and new therapies. The cutting-edge research presented at the Annual Meeting confirms that we are continually expanding the boundaries of what is known and possible in the quest to improve patients' lives.

Of course, innovation is nothing new for our field. Nuclear medicine trailblazed digital imaging, cross-sectional imaging, quantitative imaging, and multimodal imaging for many years. Now taking the lead in theranostics, it continues to be an innovator and groundbreaker in medicine.

SNMMI's Value Initiative and new strategic plan, launched in 2017, provide the blueprint for a vibrant future. As I outlined at the Annual Meeting as well as at regional meetings, we are making good progress on all fronts. As chair of the initiative, I look forward to working with the domain chairs: Gary L. Dillehay, MD, Quality of Practice; Richard L. Wahl, MD, Research and Discovery; Frederick D. Grant, MD, Workforce Pipeline and Life-Long Learning; Munir Ghesani, MD, Advocacy; Vasken Dilsizian, MD, Outreach; and Virginia Pappas, CAE, Organizational Strength and Stability. Their leadership is invaluable as we move forward.

As we continue efforts already underway—such as developing appropriate use criteria, promoting research studies and resulting papers to “make the case” more effectively for clinical applications, reaching out to medical students and residents and providing them with dedicated support, expanding resources and educational offerings for members, and pursuing ongoing advocacy initiatives—we are broadening our outlook through new approaches.

A broad-based vision document now in development to aid fundraising efforts will outline the roles of precision imaging in various medical conditions and of radiopharmaceutical therapy in cancers with unmet needs. Research funding is essential, and SNMMI is reaching out to a range of potential funding sources, including industry, foundations, and government agencies.

Translation of technologies to patient care cannot be done without industry partnership. I am excited to work with the Value Initiative Industry Alliance, cochaired by James Williams, PhD, and Jonathan Allis, DPhil. Representatives of the leadership organizations in the Industry Alliance met at the Annual Meeting and began plans for the year ahead. SNMMI is also reaching out to smaller companies through the Small Business Advisory Alliance, which will provide them with SNMMI resources, guidance, and opportunities to collaborate.

Collaboration is a key word as we take steps to realize our vision. A few examples:

- We are collaborating with peer organizations to raise visibility and improve understanding of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging with regulatory agencies and legislatures.
- We are working with leaders in imaging societies to bring our strengths together for better patient care and physician training.
- We are collaborating with U.S. and international medical societies to ensure uniform best-practice standards and training standards, as well as to hold joint symposia and create a range of educational offerings.
- We are participating in conferences and meeting with professional medical groups to increase the visibility of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging to residents to promote training, participation in fellowships, and dual certification.
- We are working closely with patient groups; our work is on behalf of patients, and they are strong advocates for new, effective procedures.



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We are now into the second year of the Value Initiative—Value Initiative 2.0! Our focus is on bringing more value to patients, anticipating and meeting our members' needs, growing the next generation of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals and leaders, encouraging innovative research, providing the evidence for and advocating for new radiopharmaceuticals and procedures, and raising awareness among all stakeholders of our field's critical role in precision medicine. We are also actively promoting women in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging by creating tools, events, and leadership opportunities.

To better support our efforts and initiatives, we will be creating a stronger and sustainable infrastructure for the SNMMI. Much of this work will be done behind the scenes, but we plan to spend a significant amount of time achieving this goal.

This is the work of many hands. I thank all those who are already actively involved and encourage others to join us. I look forward to working with the SNMMI leadership team, members, and staff as we forge ahead, trailblazing and expanding frontiers. I am optimistic and excited about the future of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and the value they bring to patient care!