

The SNMMI 2018 Annual Meeting—New Energy and Excitement in Nuclear Medicine

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Intensity, energy, and excitement characterized SNMMI's 2018 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia—from the continuing education (CE) courses to the exhibit and poster halls. SNMMI welcomed more than 5,000 physicians, technologists, scientists, and exhibitors to the meeting, which took place June 23–26 in Philadelphia. The meeting offered 350 hours of continuing education, with more than 195 CE and scientific sessions and more than 1,600 scientific papers and posters. These were selected from 2,235 submitted abstracts—a 10% increase over last year and the highest number submitted since 2014.

The breadth and depth of the Annual Meeting education program was a highlight of the conference for many attendees. SNMMI's Scientific Program Committee, under the leadership of Umar Mahmood, MD, PhD, created an outstanding program including sessions ranging from new tracers and emerging technologies to “Nuts and Bolts” education in each track, allowing each attendee to build a schedule covering all their areas of interest. Eight specialty tracks included anatomic imaging, cardiovascular imaging, general clinical specialties, instrumentation and data analysis, molecular targeting probes, neuroscience, oncology and therapy, and pediatrics. With nuclear medicine playing an increasing role in precision medicine and therapy, theranostics was an important focus throughout the meeting.

Networking opportunities at the Annual Meeting were plentiful, allowing attendees to connect in both social and professional settings. The Hot Trot 5K kicked off the meeting early Saturday morning, followed by interest-focused “Drink and Think” gatherings at local pubs, the ever-popular Poster Mixer, and Women in Nuclear Medicine events, among others.

The Saturday evening Opening Ceremony provided an overview of the meeting and introduced China as the Highlight Country. Chinese drummers and dragons then led the way to the Welcome Reception and Exhibit Hall Opening. The Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine organized scientific and CE sessions throughout the meeting.

The Exhibit Hall provided a showcase for cutting-edge molecular imaging devices, products, and services. New this year, Interactive Training Showcases in the hall featured 30-minute training sessions on the use of new technologies and equipment by major exhibitors. In addition, a Fluciclovine Live Reader Training Session was offered Saturday to train physicians to interpret these scans in recurrent prostate cancer patients.

International attendance at the meeting was high; more than 60 countries were represented among the scientific abstracts featured during the Annual Meeting. International attention was even higher, with 17 sessions live streamed to International Atomic Energy Agency Member States.



The Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, and Cassen lectures and the de Hevesy and Aebersold award winners are covered in this issue of Newsline, as well as new SNMMI fellows inducted this year. Additional award winners will be featured in upcoming issues. The Highlights Lectures, summarizing the scientific achievements presented at the meeting, also will appear serially in upcoming issues.

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

SNMMI TV provided daily coverage of meeting highlights and interviews with key leaders and researchers, interwoven with in-depth reports from featured institutions, session coverage, and attendee surveys. In addition to showings throughout the meeting, the videos are available on the SNMMI YouTube site (SNMChannel1). Further coverage and photos can be found on SNMMI's social media sites on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, as well as on the society's website at www.snm.org.

SNMMI is offering a Virtual Meeting for those who were unable to attend certain sessions or make the trip to Philadelphia. A Virtual Poster hall will also be offered.

Each year SNMMI welcomes thousands of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals to its Annual Meeting and provides unique opportunities for education and networking. We look forward to seeing you next year at our SNMMI 2019 Annual Meeting—June 22–25 in Anaheim, CA.

In the meantime, stay tuned for information about the SNMMI 2019 Mid-Winter Meeting, January 17–19 in Palm Springs, CA!