

Influx of New Ideas and Opportunities

Collaboration Propels Growth

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It is an exciting time for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. As I begin my term as SNMMI president, I see many opportunities for the society to take the field to the next level. Common among these opportunities is the need for collaboration. Whether it be with referring physicians, government agencies, the media, international professionals, or our own SNMMI members, working together is key to advancing patient care.

The field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is, by nature, interdisciplinary. Referring physicians—cardiologists, oncologists, endocrinologists, neurologists, and others—are vital partners in ensuring positive outcomes for patients. These clinical colleagues are not only the gatekeepers to nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, but they also play an important role in research and clinical trials, often spurring new ideas. As such, it is imperative that we work with professional medical groups to highlight the value of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNMMI will take steps to achieve this by promoting additional subspecialty nuclear medicine training for physicians, fostering new scientific investigations, and conducting targeted outreach to patient advocacy groups.

Keeping up with the changing health care landscape can be a challenge, and SNMMI recognizes that we must be proactive when working with government agencies to obtain the best outcomes for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. This includes staying in close contact with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on approvals for new diagnostic and therapeutic agents, as well as with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure appropriate reimbursement for our high-value care. SNMMI has developed evidence-based appropriate use criteria (AUC) for several indications and will continue to create additional AUC in the coming year to meet CMS requirements.

Another important partner for the society in the coming year will be the media. By sharing the latest advances in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging with traditional press outlets—such as newspapers, magazines and television—and on social media, we will be able to further educate the public about options available for diagnosis and treatment. A grassroots effort will be key, as SNMMI will work with its members to be ambassadors for the field.

International collaboration is of great importance to SNMMI. Currently, ~15% of SNMMI members are from outside of the United States. This is a significant number,



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especially considering that many countries have their own nuclear medicine and molecular imaging societies. These international professionals are considerable contributors to the society, with 66% of Annual Meeting abstract submissions and 75% of *JNM* manuscript submissions coming from abroad. A top priority for SNMMI this year will be to extend a warm welcome to these international professionals, encouraging nonmembers to join the society and members to take on leadership roles in SNMMI committees, councils, and centers. Multinational diversity and inclusivity will only enhance SNMMI's membership, making the society a clear global leader.

The field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging is fortunate to see an increase in the number of students pursuing degrees in our specialty. It is only logical that SNMMI should be the “home base” for new graduates from residency programs and diplomates of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, providing them with opportunities for mentorship, growth, and leadership development. These young professionals will be the future of the field, and it is important to foster an environment to encourage participation with this group.

We must cast a wide net among all of our potential partners to ensure inclusivity and multinational diversity within SNMMI. By forging strategic collaborations, SNMMI will be well positioned to advance the crucial role of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging to the medical community, regulators, patients, and the public. I look forward to working with SNMMI's members and partners in this endeavor.