

## New Officers for SNMMI and SNMMI-TS

At the SNMMI Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA, from June 22 to 25, both the SNMMI and SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) welcomed new officers. Elected at earlier meetings by the members of the 2 organizations, the new officers will serve in these positions through June 2020.



Vasken Dilsizian, MD

### SNMMI President

Vasken Dilsizian, MD, professor of radiology and medicine and chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (Baltimore), assumed office as the 2019–2020 SNMMI president. Looking at the year ahead, he said “This is an exciting time for the field of nuclear medicine. Within a short period of

time, we have witnessed the approval of several new diagnostic and therapeutic agents by the FDA, which was a tall order. More innovations are in development, as are clinical trials with potentially huge impact for patients. SNMMI is ready to meet the challenge of guiding them to approval and appropriate reimbursement.” He added that another goal for the society is to increase outreach and media exposure of nuclear medicine diagnosis and therapy to ensure both awareness and appropriate use. “This requires a member-guided grassroots approach,” he said, “with outreach to regional physicians and care facilities, as well as promotion of remarkable patient outcomes in local newspapers and on social media. In addition, SNMMI will increase its work to engage major networks and newspapers with stories about significant advances in therapy and theranostics and their impact on health care delivery and patient outcomes.”

Dilsizian holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemical engineering, both from Tufts University (Boston, MA). He graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine, followed by internal medicine residency at Georgetown University School of Medicine (Washington, DC), a fellowship in cardiology at Boston University Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, MA), and nuclear medicine residency at the National Institutes of Health (NIH; Bethesda, MD). Dilsizian spent 13 years at NIH, where he served as director of nuclear cardiology from 1992 to 2001. His research efforts over a span of more than 30 years have resulted in more than 220 original articles, 12 books, and 47 book chapters. He has served as a guest editor on 5 periodicals and serves as deputy editor of the *Journal of American College of Cardiology—Cardiovascular Imaging* and on the editorial boards of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology*. He is a co-

editor of the *Atlas of Nuclear Cardiology* (now in its 5th edition), *Cardiac CT, PET, and MR* (now in its 3rd edition), and, most recently, the *Atlas of Cardiac Innervation*.

He is a diplomate of the American Boards of Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Nuclear Medicine. He has been involved in many councils, committees, and task forces at SNMMI, as well as the American College of Cardiology (ACC), American Heart Association, and American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC). He served as president of the Cardiovascular Council of the SNMMI (2013–2014) and was awarded the 2014 Hermann Blumgart Award for contributions to the science of nuclear cardiology. He was the SNMMI Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Cardiovascular Nuclear and Molecular Imaging Lecturer in 2014 and 2015. He is on the boards of directors of the SNMMI and ASNC and was program chair of the ASNC 2014 scientific sessions. In 2016, he became a Master of ASNC for his contributions to the field of nuclear cardiology and for holding senior leadership positions within the society. He is a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes. He is serving a 4-year term on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the Clinical Center of the NIH.

Dilsizian pointed out that a key strength of SNMMI is its unique breadth and diversity of members within the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community, from physicists and chemists to physicians and technologists. “SNMMI will work to engage and involve more in the community, in the United States and internationally, from students and residents to professionals in related specialties,” he said. “The society needs to cast a wide net and cultivate opportunities for collaboration with the other professional organizations, underscoring the value of molecular imaging for patient management, promoting additional subspecialty nuclear medicine training, and fostering scientific investigations.”

### SNMMI President-Elect

Alan B. Packard, PhD, associate professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA), director of radiopharmaceutical research and a senior research associate in nuclear medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital, and a research associate in nuclear medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (Boston, MA), became 2019–2020 president-elect of the SNMMI. Packard said, “SNMMI’s strength comes from its breadth of membership, with physicians, scientists, and technologists working together to advance nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in order to provide patients with the best possible health care. As president-elect of SNMMI, I look forward to working with my fellow members to build



Alan B. Packard, PhD

on the exciting recent developments in the field and to demonstrate the value of nuclear medicine to those outside the field.” His overall goal for the coming year is to enhance the value of SNMMI membership.

Packard’s laboratory at the Boston Children’s Hospital is engaged in development of radiolabeled proteins for multiple applications, including cancer imaging and therapy, and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -labeled small molecules for myocardial perfusion imaging. The focus of the cancer program is on development of  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ - and  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -labeled antibodies for noninvasive evaluation of disease status, as well as targeted therapy with the unlabeled antibodies. His group is also developing antibodies labeled with therapeutic radionuclides, such as  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  and  $^{67}\text{Cu}$ , that can be used to treat metastatic lesions.

A prolific researcher, author, and editor, Packard has coauthored more than 70 articles and acts as a reviewer for a variety of journals in nuclear medicine and allied fields. He is currently on the advisory board for *Molecular and Cellular Therapies*. He has contributed to book chapters on topics ranging from pediatric nuclear medicine and new procedures in nuclear medicine to application of nanoparticles in medical imaging.

A longtime SNMMI member, Packard has served on the society’s board of directors; is currently a member of its Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council and Center for Molecular Imaging, Innovation, and Translation; and has chaired and/or served on many committees and task forces. He is also an active member of the American Chemical Society and the Society of Radiopharmaceutical Sciences. Packard has a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of New Hampshire (Durham) and earned his PhD in inorganic chemistry at Colorado State University (Fort Collins).

His overall goal for the coming year is to enhance the value of SNMMI membership. He will accomplish this by working to enhance the society’s core member benefits—the SNMMI Annual Meeting, continuing education, and *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*—and by strengthening the society and the field of nuclear medicine through the SNMMI Value Initiative.

#### **SNMMI Vice President-Elect**

Richard L. Wahl, MD, assumed the office of SNMMI vice president-elect. He is the Elizabeth E. Mallinckrodt Professor and head of radiology at Washington University School of



**Richard L. Wahl, MD**

of Medicine (St. Louis, MO); director of the university’s Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology; and a professor of radiation oncology. “Nuclear medicine is undergoing a renaissance as a precision medicine specialty with new radiopharmaceuticals, theranostics, and instrumentation to elucidate biology and benefit patients,” he said. In his years in office, he plans to focus on advocacy for nuclear medicine, enhancing the number of professionals

working in the field, and discovery and innovation. “Advocating for appropriate nuclear medicine regulatory and economic models will ensure our procedures are available to benefit patients now and in the future,” he said. “In addition, we need to train and retain the workforce required to deliver those nuclear medicine services, including technologists, scientists, and practicing and referring physicians. They will empower the expansion of precision nuclear medicine-based patient care.”

After graduating from the Washington University School of Medicine and completing his residency there, Wahl interned at the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine. He returned to Washington University in 1979 for training in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. He accepted his first faculty appointment at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1983. From there, Wahl moved to Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD), where he became the Henry N. Wagner Jr., MD, professor and director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine; vice chair for technology and new business development in the Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences; and a professor of oncology. He accepted his current appointment at Washington University in 2014.

A longtime SNMMI member, Wahl is also a member of several councils and centers of excellence at the society. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and has received honors from multiple organizations. He holds 18 patents and has published more than 450 peer-reviewed scientific articles. He is the primary author of several textbooks, including *Principles and Practice of PET and PET/CT*. He has a strong interest in quantitative imaging, is on the coordinating committee of the Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers Alliance efforts of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), and has been a lead investigator in the Quantitative Imaging Network of the National Institutes of Health.

His awards include a U.S. Department of Energy Achievement Award; the de Hevesy, Tetalman, Berson–Yalow, and 2 Alavi–Mandel awards from SNMMI; and the Academy of Molecular Imaging’s Distinguished Scientist Award.

In his leadership positions, Wahl also hopes to focus on investment in fundamental and applied research. “Based on my knowledge and experience from FDG PET/CT and theranostics innovations, I will focus on increasing investments for research and innovation through governmental and nongovernmental funding agencies, industry, and the public at large,” he said. “Investments in nuclear medicine must be widespread, and they require the global members of the SNMMI to work together to succeed. With the success of these initiatives, nuclear medicine will expand its roles as a valued medical specialty and grow further as an integral part of precision patient care.”

#### **SNMMI-TS President**

Mark H. Crosthwaite, MEd, CNMT, PET, NMTCB(S), associate professor and program director of the baccalaureate



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support. In the rapidly evolving field of nuclear medicine, I also firmly believe in sharing knowledge and working together with related societies and the international community to bring patients state-of-the-art imaging and precision therapies.”

Crosthwaite has more than 4 decades of experience as a nuclear medicine technologist (NMT). He has an undergraduate degree in biological sciences from Drake University (Des Moines, IA), completed NMT training at Albert Einstein College Hospital (Bronx, NY), and earned his master’s degree in education with an emphasis in occupational administration at the University of Louisville (KY). He has worked in his current position at Virginia Commonwealth University since 2005. He previously taught at Jefferson Community College and the University of Louisville in Kentucky. Earlier, he was program director of nuclear medicine technology at Wheeling College (WV), chief technologist at St. Vincent Hospital (Erie, PA), and an NMT at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Butler, PA).

Crosthwaite has a long history of service within SNMMI-TS, where he has been on the National Council of Representatives and in the House of Delegates. He was named an SNMMI-TS fellow in 2013. At the chapter level, he has served twice as president of the Mid-Eastern chapter and was president of the Southeastern and Pittsburgh chapters. He has also held several positions on the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board, including as chair, treasurer, and secretary. In addition, he assisted the Radiation Safety Branch in Kentucky with development of NMT state licensure. He has also presented lectures locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

In looking forward to the coming year, Crosthwaite pointed to the need to continue to engage and involve more eligible technologists in SNMMI-TS. “*U.S. News and World Report* just ranked nuclear medicine technologist #21 in health care support jobs and #87 in the 100 Best Jobs,” he said. “SNMMI-TS is key to professional development within the career. We will continue to offer and enhance our benefits—from networking and education to considerable discounts on meeting attendance and books.”

#### **SNMMI-TS President-Elect**

Tina M. Buehner, MS, CNMT, NMTCB(CT)(RS), RT(N)(CT), was named 2019–2020 president-elect of the

nuclear medicine technology program, Department of Radiation Sciences, at Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond) was named 2019–2020 president of the SNMMI-TS. “As SNMMI-TS president, my goal is to strengthen support of nuclear medicine technologists, ensuring they have the resources to advance their careers and to provide the highest quality of care to patients,” he said. “There is always room to enhance communications, educational offerings, advocacy, and research sup-

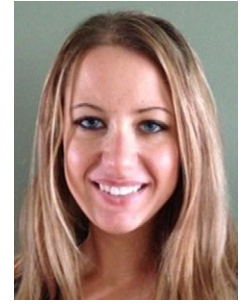
port. She is a health physicist specialist at Rush University Medical Center (Chicago, IL). “As SNMMI-TS president-elect, my goal is to promote clinical excellence by working closely with leadership to continue to develop, translate, and communicate standards for quality in clinical practice, as well as ensuring that technologists have pathways to obtain the skill-set necessary to perform the tasks required of them,” she said.

Buehner has 2 decades of experience as an NMT. She completed her AAS in nuclear medicine technology at Triton College (River Grove, IL), followed by a bachelor’s degree in health arts and a master’s degree in health services administration at the University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL). She is currently in the health sciences PhD program at Rush University and is working through Loyola University Medical Center (Chicago) on a research project evaluating <sup>18</sup>F-fluciclovine in gynecologic cancers. She previously worked as manager of the nuclear medicine/nuclear cardiology at Loyola University Health System’s Gottlieb Memorial Hospital (Melrose Park, IL) for 5 years and as a staff technologist and clinical educator at Northwestern Memorial Hospital (Chicago) for 14 years before taking her current position.

Currently a director-at-large on the SNMMI Board of Directors, Buehner has also served as a delegate in the SNMMI House of Delegates since 2011, on the SNMMI-TS National Council of Representatives since 2011, and on the SNMMI-TS Awards, Grants, and Scholarships Committee since 2010. In the Central Chapter of SNMMI, she has served as chair of the Membership and Programs committees, on the technologist Educator’s Task Force, and as technologist chapter president from 2014 to 2016. She has served on the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) since 2015 and was the 2016–2017 SNMMI-TS representative to the Associated Sciences Committee for the RSNA.

Buehner was awarded the SNM’s Paul Cole Scholarship in 2001 and was accepted to and completed the SNM/IBA Leadership Academy in 2010. She was named a fellow of SNMMI-TS in 2015. She holds professional board certifications from the NMTCB in NMT, CT, and radiation safety and from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in nuclear medicine and CT.

Buehler noted that a key goal of her term in office will be to improve communications. “There is always room to enhance communications, educational offerings, advocacy, and research support,” she said. “In the rapidly evolving field of nuclear medicine, I also firmly believe in sharing knowledge and working together with related societies and the international community to bring patients state-of-the-art imaging and precision therapies.”



**Tina M. Buehner, MS, CBNT, NMTCB(CT) (RS), RT(N)**