

SNMMI 2019 Annual Meeting Highlights Trailblazers, Focuses on Innovation

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Nuclear medicine and molecular imaging continue to advance the detection, diagnosis, and monitoring of disease and are now blazing new trails in the areas of therapy and theranostics that will have significant effects on patient care in the future. Excitement about these advances was evident in Anaheim, CA, June 22–25, at the SNMMI 2019 Annual Meeting—one of the society’s most successful meetings, with more than 5,500 attendees and a full exhibit hall.

SNMMI’s Scientific Program Committee, led by Umar Mahmood, MD, PhD, once again organized an outstanding conference program. This year’s plenary sessions featured trailblazers in nuclear medicine. On Sunday, June 23, in the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, lecture, “From molecular imaging to deep theranostics,” Markus Schwaiger, MD, of the Technical University of Munich (Germany) emphasized change in the world of molecular imaging, particularly in pushing forward from imaging to therapeutic invention. Monday’s Hal Anger Lecturer, Terry Jones, MSc, MSc, DSc, MD, discussed how the Anger technique has helped pioneer nuclear medicine advances through the past 50 years, ultimately leading to total-body PET, which he believes will be transformative for the field.

These plenaries set the stage for a broad array of continuing education offerings covering new research in anatomic imaging, cardiovascular imaging, general clinical specialties, instrumentation and data analysis, molecular targeting probes, neurosciences, oncology and therapy, and pediatrics. Additional sessions included seminars on regulatory considerations for theranostics, sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Admin-

istration, and on the use of radiopharmaceuticals for molecular imaging of mental disorders, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health.

This year, the program also featured sessions in career development and leadership, ranging from general management and leadership to clinical management, diversity, new opportunities, career paths, and development of organizational health care strategies.

SNMMI welcomed more than 5,500 physicians, technologists, physicists, scientists, and exhibitors to the meeting, which offered 5 plenaries; more than 200 continuing education, scientific, and ancillary sessions; 747 scientific oral presentations; 8 categorical (long-format) sessions; 23 “Nuts and Bolts” sessions; and 1,189 scientific posters. SNMMI received more than 2,300 abstract submissions from around the world—the highest number received since 2014. In addition, the exhibit hall was full, with more than 180 companies showcasing the latest in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technology.

Networking events began early Saturday morning with the Hot Trot 5K, organized by the Professional Development and Education Fund. Saturday evening brought the Welcome Reception in the exhibit hall, followed by the poster hall mixer on Sunday and “Drink and Think” gatherings on Monday. “Molecular Hub” meetups provided networking opportunities for first-time attendees and early career professionals. The meeting ended with an “On to New Orleans” celebration on Tuesday after the Highlights Session.

New at this year’s meeting were poster oral presentations (POPs), with poster award candidates delivering 2-minute summaries of their research, interactive training showcases, and satellite lunch symposia in the exhibit hall. A new and popular Relaxation Station offered free massages.

SNMMI leadership, volunteers, and staff worked together to create 365 hours of continuing education programming, with 22 SAM credits and 50 case credits available. The meeting featured 370 continuing education speakers, and 17 sessions were live-streamed around the world.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this meeting a success—attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and SNMMI volunteers and leadership. Working together, we can achieve great things. We look forward to the SNMMI 2020 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, June 13–16, 2020.



Opening of the exhibit hall at the SNMMI 2019 Annual Meeting.