

## A Year to Remember

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For most of 2020, COVID-19 has dominated almost every part of our daily lives. Although the pandemic has impacted SNMMI in many ways this past year, I am pleased to share that we are weathering the COVID-19 storm quite well. Staff continue to work remotely and are safe and 100% operational.

SNMMI quickly responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in March. SNMMI's leaders took swift action to preserve our investment portfolio, improve our operating liquidity, and adjust business operations to minimize any negative effects of the crisis. SNMMI and the SNMMI Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) convened COVID task forces, which met regularly to keep tabs on how the field of nuclear medicine was affected and created resources to help members, including articles, webinars, and a forum on SNMMI CONNECT. SNMMI's COVID Resource Center was developed to consolidate important information and updates for members. The Annual Meeting was successfully transitioned to a virtual meeting, which ultimately attracted more than 9,000 participants. By rolling over funds paid to the 2021 Annual Meeting, SNMMI experienced far fewer refund requests than anticipated and was able to maintain a positive cash position.

Despite the pandemic, SNMMI's membership increased in 2020—up 3% from 2019—and we were able to expand our member benefits in several areas. Free registration was offered to members for the virtual Annual Meeting in consideration of hardships imposed by the pandemic. We significantly expanded our virtual education offerings, presenting more than 75 webinars free of charge to members, and debuted a new online Learning Center with improved navigation and enhanced organization. In addition, we launched an automated, cloud-based Phantom Analysis Toolkit—also free to SNMMI members—that provides rapid, reliable, and reproducible data for the 4 most common PET phantoms used in clinical trials and clinical practice.

Through the hard work of the Value Initiative domain chairs and vice chairs, the goals of each domain have been accomplished. Some of these achievements are mentioned in the summary below. I would like to personally thank all of the members of SNMMI's Value Initiative Industry Alliance. They have continued to provide invaluable support through the year for critical programs and strategic initiatives.

Research and discovery continued to flourish in 2020. Given the remarkable progress in the field, leaders from the domain and SNMMI's councils identified 5 broad areas of opportunity with potential for substantive growth and clinical impact—constituting a “Mars Shot” for molecular imaging and radiopharmaceutical therapy—which will be published in an article in the January issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (*JNM*). In addition, the society announced 5 new

“Discovering MI” student research grants to attract advanced science and medical students to conduct research in nuclear medicine or molecular imaging.

Three new appropriate use criteria—on PET myocardial perfusion imaging, prostate cancer imaging, and evaluation and treatment of differentiated thyroid cancer—were approved in 2020 and published in *JNM*. The society furthered many advocacy efforts for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and held successful town hall meetings with the Food and Drug Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

To continue its outreach to the medical community, SNMMI held webinars for referring physicians on cardiac nuclear medicine and prostate cancer diagnosis. A virtual patient education day offered sessions on prostate cancer, neuroendocrine tumors, and thyroid cancer. SNMMI also spearheaded the #ReturnToCare coalition, a group of patient advocacy organizations and medical societies working to encourage patients to talk to their doctors about scheduling missed or delayed exams, including imaging, as appropriate.

SNMMI's journals have seen significant changes in 2020. *JNM* moves to early digital release this month, with each issue releasing in digital format a month before print, reducing time to publication. SNMMI's journal websites were upgraded with a new design and a more powerful interface and search, and login information will for the first time be synchronized with the SNMMI website. In addition, *JNM* has added graphical abstracts.

The society had several reasons for special celebration this year. The SNMMI-TS marked its 50th anniversary in 2020, with special activities and a supplement of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* commemorating its accomplishments. *JNM*, which celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, achieved its highest impact factor ever (7.887), ranking fourth among all medical imaging journals worldwide. A *JNM* anniversary supplement this month features a collection of the most influential articles from 6 decades.

Looking forward to 2021, SNMMI is actively working on new programs, initiatives, and publications. Our Mid-Winter Meeting and Annual Meetings will be packed with great scientific information, continuing education opportunities, and networking events. We will continue to work with our coalition partners as we advocate for nuclear medicine and will launch a new podcast series, as well as several new publications.

Thank you to the SNMMI leaders and membership who stepped up this year to make it a successful one for the organization. I am proud of the work we have accomplished and look forward to continuing to advance the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.