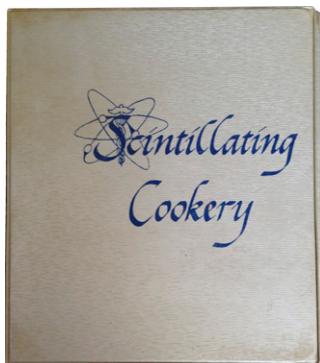


The Nuclear Medicine Community: From 1970s Cookbook to 2020 Global Influence

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Nuclear medicine is a global community with a mission and expertise unique in medicine, and SNMMI works in myriad ways to maintain and enhance the connections that sustain that community. In the United States, the numbers of nuclear medicine physicians, physicists, technologists, and scientists have grown rapidly over the last half century.

I was reminded recently of the extent of these changes when a colleague gave me a small silver binder with the title *Scintillating Cookery*. Published in 1979 to mark the silver anniversary of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), the loose-leaf book was the product of coordinated efforts among all SNM chapters to produce a nuclear medicine version of the community-contributed recipe collections popular at that time. The effort was begun in 1976 by Mitzi Blahd, whose husband, William Blahd, MD, later served as 1977–1978 president of SNM. One focus of his presidency was reinvigorating the Education and Research Foundation (ERF). Ms. Blahd, described by a contemporary as a “nuclear medicine activist,” financed and directed the collection of recipes from chapters across the United States, selling more than 2,000 copies and contributing the proceeds to the ERF. The result is a book that contains familiar recipes for home cooking but with attributions to many of the famous names in our field: Wagner, Ter-Pogossian, Anger, Kuhl, and many others. When Ms. Blahd gave my colleague the book, she commented, “It was a real effort to pull this together, but the fact that all the families in the field knew all the other families made it easier.” I was touched by this glimpse of a time when nuclear medicine was a much smaller enterprise—but reminded that even today, we continue many of the traditions that bring us together.



Scintillating Cookery was published in 1979 as part of a nuclear medicine community fundraising effort.

SNMMI global community-building efforts are essential to many of our most visible activities. Our worldwide membership includes physicians, physicists, technologists, chemists, radiopharmacists, students, and industry representatives from more than 84 countries around the world. At its Annual Meeting, SNMMI brings together more than 6,000 members and visitors, with representatives from industry and government agencies, to discuss groundbreaking new research and look ahead to near- and long-term innovations. At each Annual Meeting, the society collaborates closely with a featured country in educational and other activities designed to enhance shared understanding of that country’s nuclear medicine research and practice. The international response continues to be overwhelmingly positive at the Annual Meeting, with attendees representing more than 65 countries and more than 60% of submitted abstracts coming from outside the United States.

One of my foci as SNMMI president is to expand and enhance the society’s international outreach and project participation in ways that cross geographic and political boundaries. We are building on a strong base of past accomplishments in this area. Each year, the SNMMI collaborates with international organizations to continue the exchange of ideas, education, and knowledge. As an example, leaders from the SNMMI and international nuclear medicine societies and agencies cooperate in the Nuclear Medicine Global Initiative, dedicated to identifying and working together to resolve global challenges in nuclear medicine. SNMMI also works actively with the International Atomic Energy Agency to expand its mission in making the benefits of nuclear and molecular medicine available to more individuals, particularly those in resource-challenged countries. Conferences such as the Targeted Radionuclide Therapy Conference bring together stakeholders, including regulators, legislators, industry, members and others to address real-world solutions to shared challenges.

The *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* remains the premier journal in the field precisely because it publishes the most innovative and significant work of accomplished contributors representing diverse countries and practice outlooks. The result is a powerful platform respected and trusted



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by the broadest spectrum of nuclear medicine practitioners throughout the world.

SNMMI also supports the nuclear medicine community by involving professionals in councils, centers, and committees to work together to advance scientific and professional activities and connects them through social networks and continuous updates on news and information.

These activities—and others still in the planning stages—have different missions and different target groups. But they share the extraordinary benefit of continuing to build our modern nuclear medicine community. In the United States,

our field was once so small that many members knew one another simply through connections in training, practice, and professional meetings—small enough to produce a community cookbook. Today, this community is exponentially larger, spanning the globe. This brings the potential for enhanced visibility, a more powerful voice in the broader field of medicine, and successful collaborative efforts to advance the benefits of nuclear medicine to more patients. Our success depends on our dedication to maintaining both the spirit of and commitment to a global community in our field.

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and molecular imaging. The purpose of the UEMS/EBNM CME Committee is to guarantee high-quality CME programs of scientific and educational excellence that are free of influence from the health care industry. The roles of this committee include: evaluation and accreditation of nuclear medicine CME activities in Europe, monitoring CME activities relating to nuclear medicine in Europe, and, in agreement with the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME; <https://eaccme.uems.eu/home.aspx>), ensuring full reciprocity of credits within most European countries and beyond. The EACCME has signed agreements with the American Medical Association and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada that ensure full recognition of CME credits for participants who attend CME events in European countries. The committee is also dedicated to assuring and guaranteeing the high quality of the scientific and educational content of CME in nuclear medicine and ensuring, in compliance with EBNM/EACCME guidelines, the transparency and independence of CME activities. In addition, the committee facilitates and accredits all types of CME modalities in nuclear medicine and promotes the application of new CME technologies (e.g., webinars).

The UEMS/EBNM CME Committee accredits through EACCME major events of international status and importance in the field of nuclear medicine in Europe and beyond. Smaller but high-quality educational events in Europe are accredited in the same way. Meanwhile, CME activities have been expanded, especially in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency, to promote nuclear medicine in non-European countries.

The Committees of Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Departments and Training Centers were joined in recent years.

Accredited centers (35 centers as of January 2020) must fulfill certain objective criteria concerning staff, equipment, number, and spectra of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, teaching, and quality control. To obtain accreditation as training centers (14 centers as of January 2020), sites must be accredited as nuclear medicine departments and follow the training requirements for the nuclear medicine specialty edited by the Education and Syllabus Committee of UEMS/EBNM (5). Accreditation is currently provided by questionnaire and clinical protocol examination, not by visitation. Visits could be performed in the future, if travel costs were covered by applicant centers.

In order to harmonize nuclear medicine with high-quality standards, it would be beneficial for the specialty to enhance synergistic efforts in a global manner. UEMS/EBNM committees are open and would appreciate global cooperation with other non-EU nuclear medicine organizations in the different efforts described here.

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