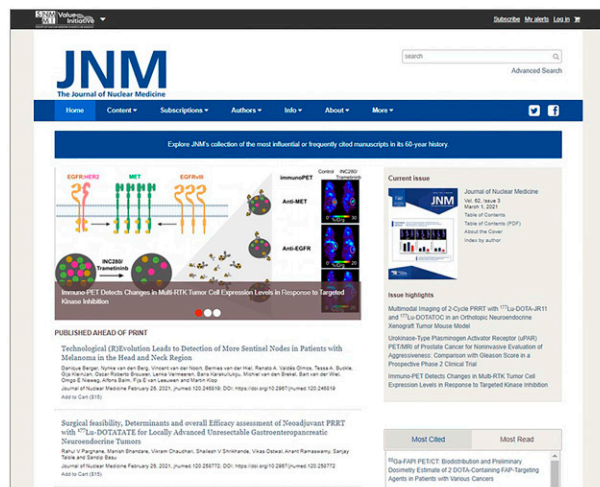# *JNM* Announces New Website and Social Media Sites

As part of an effort to provide the most up-to-date information to readers around the world, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (*JNM*) announced on February 2 the launch of several new features to enhance access to the latest nuclear medicine and molecular imaging research. These include newly redesigned websites for *JNM* and its sibling publication, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* (*JNMT*), as well as 2 new social media sites.

The new websites for *JNM* and *JNMT* offer a more visual, user-friendly design, including graphical abstracts and issue highlights. Ahead of print articles are now more prominent, and important content, such as graphics and metrics, is more easily accessible. In addition, the sites offer better functionality for users, including coordinated log-in information for members of SNMMI and SNMMI-TS.

JNM has also created new Facebook and Twitter (@JournalofNucMed) accounts to share articles as soon as they are available. The new sites will cover clinical investigations, basic science reports, invited perspectives, continuing education articles, and more.

"The quality and quantity of research coming from the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community is amazing, and our goal is to share it as widely as possible," said Johannes Czernin, MD, editor-in-chief of *JNM*. "With the addition of these new features to *JNM* and *JNMT*, we will be able to more effectively reach people and promote advances in our field."

JNM ranks fourth in impact among 133 medical journals in the medical imaging category. Its impact factor of 7.887 is the highest in its 60-year history. Last year, the journal's impact factor increased more than 7%, from 7.354 (2018) to 7.887 (2019), with 26,844 total citations. Its immediacy index is 2.386, third highest in its category. Among nuclear medicine journals, *JNM* has the highest total citations, 5-year impact factor, immediacy index, Eigenfactor score, and article influence score.

SNMMI Launches Online Career Center

SNMMI members have reported that finding jobs in the nuclear medicine field is among their biggest concerns. To address this challenge, SNMMI in February opened its online Career Center, providing society members free access to a range of services, including job postings updated daily. On launching the site, SNMMI noted that "Employers posting on SNMMI's online career center know the positive reputation of our members, resulting in more than 100 jobs consistently posted, waiting for SNMMI members to apply."

With an aim of "Connecting Talent with Opportunity," the site includes open positions from across the spectrum of nuclear medicine practice, as well as tools and advice for interviewing, resume preparation and improvement, tips for navigating professional searches through social media and digital communication, and guidance on career planning. The site also connects to the SNMMI Webinar hub, another SNMMI member benefit, with >90 recorded state-

of-the-art virtual sessions on scientific, practice-, and career-relevant topics featuring cutting-edge content and internationally recognized subject matter experts.

Additional directly interactive benefits available (some on a fee-for-service basis) include resume writing, career coaching, and reference checking. The SNMMI Career Center is available at: https://careercenter.snmmi.org.

SNMMI

SNMMI ¹⁷⁷Lu Dosimetry Challenge 2021

The SNMMI Dosimetry Task Force, which has a primary goal of advancing the use of dosimetry in applications of radiopharmaceutical therapy, announced on February 12 the launch of the SNMMI ¹⁷⁷Lu Dosimetry Challenge 2021. The community-based science challenge responds to the need for harmonized methods for internal dosimetry. Despite multiple efforts to standardize internal dosimetry, resulting recommendations have been at various levels of completeness, and implementation of recommended dosimetry procedures at different institutions has differed widely. The Task Force also cited the variability of dosimetry calculations for different procedural steps, a variability that has not been quantified. Knowledge about the amount of variability in dosimetry resulting from different procedures and methods at each step in the calculation is essential for focusing standardization and harmonization efforts. Minimizing variability is essential to ensure that dosimetry results can be relied on for clinical investigations and treatment planning and to make a case for reimbursement for dosimetry and related imaging.

The SNMMI Dosimetry Task Force proposed a series of efforts to investigate these sources of variability. These tasks will be performed by participants throughout the nuclear medicine community under the umbrella of the SNMMI ¹⁷⁷Lu Dosimetry Challenge 2021, which will be the first in a series and will provide direction and structure for future challenges. It will also allow the Task Force to assess methods for distribution/collection of data and dissemination of results.

The challenge has the following primary objectives: (1) understand the variability of dose estimates on a standardized dataset of ¹⁷⁷Lu images; (2) identify the largest contributors to variability in dose estimates; (3) identify gaps in knowledge about the sources of variability; and (4) use the collected information to make recommendations for future challenges and for standardization and harmonization of dosimetry methods and output. The goal of the recommendations is to increase concordance of dosimetry results at different sites and institutions. The secondary objective of the challenge is to develop and test a platform and procedure for data sharing that will allow the expansion of this challenge to other therapeutic isotopes (e.g., ⁹⁰Y and ¹³¹I).

Academics, industry representatives, clinical practitioners, and anyone with ability and interest in performing radiopharmaceutical therapy dosimetry are invited to participate in the challenge as teams. Teams will be given access to common sets of patient image and metadata and submit dosimetry results. The data will be analyzed to determine sources and magnitude of variability. Teams can register on the website, and all aspects of participation are voluntary. Responses will be kept confidential, and data submitted will be used only for analysis related to the challenge. All submissions and results will be reported only in aggregated form without associating individual results with their contributors. All participating teams, however, will be acknowledged.

The challenge has been divided into 5 tasks. All involve calculating organ and tumor doses but use different input data and start at different points along the dosimetry analysis pipeline. The first 3 are the most time consuming and involve performing dosimetry starting with baseline diagnostic images and postadministration ¹⁷⁷Lu images only. In these tasks, the user must define all regions or volumes of interest and perform all aspects of the dosimetry calculation (except SPECT acquisition and reconstruction for the SPECT/CT datasets). Task 1 uses SPECT/CT images at all timepoints; task 2 uses planar images at all timepoints, and task 3 uses hybrid methodology (i.e., SPECT/CT) at 1 timepoint and planar images at the others. Task 4 uses volumes of interest (VOIs) of the different organs/tumors of interest for this challenge that are to be used in addition to the images provided for task 1. Participants will be asked to compute dosimetry results using the provided VOIs instead of those they defined in the first task. Task 5 adds a precalculated time-integrated activity image, and users will be asked to use that image and the provided VOIs to perform dosimetry calculation.

Leading the Dosimetry Challenge teams are Yuni Dewaraja, PhD (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Eric Frey, PhD (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD), John Sunderland, PhD, MBA (University of Iowa, Iowa City), and Carlos Uribe, MD, MCCPM (BC Cancer, Vancouver, Canada). The challenge uses datasets of 2 subjects who received FDA-approved fixed activity regimens of ¹⁷⁷Lu-DOTATATE for treatment of neuroendocrine tumors (4 cycles of 7.4 GBq/cycle, as in the NETTER-1 trial, administered every 8 weeks). Patient imaging and segmentation were provided by Dr. Dewaraja, and the University of Michigan Deep Blue data repository will manage data for the challenge.

As of mid-March, the challenge has had more than 130 registrants from 25 countries. Detailed information and instructions for registration and participation are available on the website at: https://therapy.snmmi.org/SNMMI-THERAPY/Dosimetry_Challenge.aspx. The website also includes a direct e-mail link for questions about the challenge and participation. Registrants will receive detailed instructions as well as access to the planned sequential downloads. This community-sourced effort is likely to provide not only benefits in practical standardization of ¹⁷⁷Lu dosimetry but to be extensible to future harmonization based on validated user experience.

SNMMI Virtual Meetings Go Above and Beyond

Virginia Pappas, CAE, SNMMI CEO

Twice each year, at the SNMMI Mid-Winter and American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) Meeting and the SNMMI Annual Meeting, members of the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community gather to share education and research that advance the profession and the field as a whole. Over the past year, SNMMI has reimagined its meetings, creating in-depth virtual platforms that allow attendees to learn and interact seamlessly with each other.

The society's first meeting of 2021, the SNMMI Mid-Winter and ACNM Annual Meeting, took place in January and was held entirely online. The meeting included educational, scientific, and professional offerings and was a tremendous success, with significant increases in both registration and participation. More than 600 unique participants from around the globe were in attendance.

This meeting marked the first time SNMMI offered live sessions during a virtual meeting, and they were very well received. The program featured 3 educational tracks highlighting the latest innovations and techniques in the field, with a special track focusing on therapy. Additional technologist, council, and Center of Excellence sessions were available, extending beyond the 3.5 days of the formal joint meeting. Session content will be available to participants via the SNMMI Learning Center for 3 years, beginning in March.

In the Mid-Winter Meeting Virtual Exhibit Hall, attendees viewed videos and downloadable presentations and connected with industry personnel by direct text and video chat. Virtual industry symposia featuring information on the latest innovations in imaging and radiopharmaceuticals were well attended by meeting participants.

SNMMI's Annual Meeting, our second major meeting of the year, will be held June 11–15, also virtually. Although the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine has been a positive step, it will be months before the pandemic is fully behind us. Our highest priority is the health and safety of everyone involved in the Annual Meeting, so the decision has been made to hold the event virtually again this year. We plan to make 2021 an even bigger and better meeting than 2020.

The 2021 virtual Annual Meeting will include many more concurrent continuing education and scientific sessions than were offered in 2020. In addition to a robust continuing education program, SNMMI will present 4 pre-meeting categoricals, as well as plenary sessions throughout the meeting. A virtual Science Pavilion will feature cutting-edge scientific research (more than 1,300 scientific abstracts have been submitted to the meeting). A virtual Exhibit Hall will include approximately 100 customized industry booths featuring the latest products and services; attendees will be able to interact with exhibit personnel and download videos and presentations. In addition, the meeting will feature 14 industry satellite symposia, as well as user meetings.

The Highlight Country of this year's Annual Meeting is Korea. The Korean Society of Nuclear Medicine will present an overview of nuclear medicine advances in Korea during the Opening Ceremony and will also organize 3 continuing education sessions.

New types of virtual networking events are under development to foster the unique collaboration among participants that is a hallmark of our Annual Meeting. Favorite networking events will also be back in 2021, including the virtual Hot Trot 5K, "Drink and Think" happy hours, the Early Career Professionals Committee Knowledge Bowl, and more.

I encourage you to join SNMMI and your colleagues—leading molecular imaging and nuclear medicine physicians, radiologists, cardiologists, pharmacists, scientists, lab professionals, and technologists representing the world's top medical and academic institutions and centers. Registration and additional meeting information is available at www.snmmi.org/am. We look forward to seeing you virtually in June at the Annual Meeting.

NEWSBRIEFS

NCI to Raise Grant Paylines

On February 4, Norman E. Sharpless, MD, director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health, discussed the potential afforded by a $120 million NCI budget increase for FY2021 passed as part of a government-wide appropriations bill in December 2020. In a press release, he focused on raising grant paylines, opportunities for established and early-stage investigators, and NCI's recent "15-by-25" goal for cancer research. This is the second consecutive year in which Congress has approved a targeted increase to support NCI extramural grants. The increases provide additional funding for NCI new and continuing (noncompeting) grants. As a result, NCI has raised its payline for R01 research awards for established and new investigators by 35% since 2019 (from the 8th to the 11th percentile) and for R01s for early-stage investigators from the 14th to the 16th percentile. Continuing (noncompeting) awards are being sustained at 100%. As part of its commitment to developing and supporting researchers in the early stages of their careers, during FY 2021 NCI will continue to convert the highest scoring early-stage investigator R01 applications into R37 Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) awards, which can provide an additional 2 y of research funding beyond the initial award period.

The additional funding allows progress toward the goal announced in the NCI Annual Plan and Budget Proposal for FY 2022 to raise the payline for R01 applications by 1 percentile/y to reach the 15th percentile by FY 2025. "As we advance towards the 15th percentile, NCI will also address another important priority, cancer health disparities—the differences in the burden of cancer incidence, prevalence, treatment response, and mortality among different populations," said Sharpless. "Just like you, we are committed to cancer research

that benefits the entire nation, including individuals, groups, and communities suffering a greater burden of disease than the overall population." Other updates on grant policies are available on the NCI Division of Extramural Activities website at https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/grantspolicies/FinalFundLtr.htm.

National Cancer Institute

NIH TOPMed Program Analyzes Diverse Genomes

Researchers supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health, announced on February 10 the publication of a groundbreaking study that analyzed >53,000 whole genomes, primarily from minority populations. The study, which appeared on the same day online ahead of print in *Nature* (2021;590:290–299), included data from participants in NHLBI's Trans-Omics for Precision Medicine (TOPMed) Program. Among other findings, the current study identified 400 million genetic variants, >78% of which had not been previously described; produced the best quality genotype data available for people with African ancestry, who showed the highest genetic variability of the groups studied; and provided new insights into certain gene variants that adversely affect the metabolism of prescription drugs and for which biologic effects may vary by race and ethnic group. More information on the TOPMed Program is available at: https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/science/trans-omics-precision-medicine-topmed-program.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

NRC Patient Video on Radioactive Drug Therapy

In the last week of January, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced the release of the video "Staying Safe While Getting Better, Protecting Yourself and Your Loved Ones While Taking Radioactive Drugs." The 4-min educational video provides radiation safety guidance and precautions that patients can follow before,

during, and after treatment with radioactive drugs to keep exposure to others as low as reasonably achievable. Principles of distance from others, time from treatment, and special hygiene requirements are explained. NRC staff created the video in response to increasing use of online media by patients and family for information about treatments with radioactive drugs. The video is available at https://youtu.be/1cbWFKqpLW0 and is also posted to the NRC website at https://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/patient-release.html. Patients can view this video and more educational videos on the SNMMI website at http://www.snmmi.org/Patients/Videos/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=13387.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
SNMMI

FDA Approves CAR-T Cell Immunotherapeutic Breyanzi

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on February 5 approved Breyanzi (lisocabtagene maraleucel; Juno Therapeutics; Seattle, WA), a cell-based gene therapy to treat adult patients with certain types of large B-cell lymphoma who have not responded to or who have relapsed after at least 2 other types of systemic treatment. Breyanzi, a chimeric antigen receptor-T (CAR-T) cell therapy, is the third gene therapy approved by the FDA for certain types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Breyanzi is not indicated for treatment of patients with primary central nervous system lymphoma.

"Today's approval represents another milestone in the rapidly progressing field of gene therapy by providing an additional treatment option for adults with certain types of cancer affecting the blood, bone marrow, and lymph nodes," said Peter Marks, MD, PhD, director of the FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "Gene and cell therapies have evolved from promising concepts to practical cancer treatment regimens."

Each dose of Breyanzi is a customized treatment created using a patient's own T cells, which are collected and genetically modified to include a new gene that facilitates targeting and killing of the lymphoma cells. Once modified, the cells are infused into the patient. The safety and efficacy of Breyanzi were established in a multicenter clinical trial of >250 adults with refractory or relapsed large B-cell lymphoma (*Lancet.* 2020;396 [10254]:839–852). The complete remission rate after treatment was 54%. Because severe side effects include the risk of cytokine-release syndrome and neurologic toxicities, Breyanzi was approved with a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy, which includes elements to assure safe use. To further evaluate the long-term safety, the FDA is also requiring the manufacturer to conduct a postmarketing observational study.

The FDA granted Breyanzi Orphan Drug, Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy (RMAT), and Breakthrough Therapy designations. Breyanzi is the first regenerative medicine therapy with RMAT designation to be licensed by the FDA. The Breyanzi application was reviewed using a coordinated, cross-agency approach, including both the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

FROM THE LITERATURE

Each month the editor of Newsline selects articles on diagnostic, therapeutic, research, and practice issues from a range of international publications. Most selections come from outside the standard canon of nuclear medicine and radiology journals. These briefs are offered as a monthly window on the broad arena of medical and scientific endeavor in which nuclear medicine now plays an essential role. The lines between diagnosis and therapy are sometimes blurred, as radiolabels are increasingly used as adjuncts to therapy and/or as active agents in therapeutic regimens, and these shifting lines are reflected in the briefs presented here. We have also added a small section on noteworthy reviews of the literature.

DaTscan and PD Management in NSDD

Isaacson et al. from the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center of Boca Raton (FL) reported on February 1 ahead of print in the *Journal of Parkinson's Disease* on the clinical impact of ^{123}I-ioflupane (DaTscan) SPECT brain imaging ordered for evaluation of nigrostriatal dopaminergic degeneration (NSDD) associated with movement disorders. The study included 201 patients with clinically questionable NSDD, their pre- and postscanning diagnoses, and any changes in management. Overall, DaTscan was abnormal in 58.7%, inconclusive in 3.5%, and normal in the remaining patients. DaTscan imaging changed clinical diagnoses in 39.8% of patients and resulted in medication therapy changes in 70.1%. The authors concluded that DaTscan imaging can be useful in determining the presence of NSDD in several relevant clinical scenarios, including in patients with early subtle symptoms, suboptimal response to levodopa, prominent action tremor, drug-induced parkinsonism, and/or with lower extremity or other less common parkinsonism clinical symptoms. Imaging was also useful in identifying underlying NSDD in patients who had been diagnosed with Parkinson disease 3–5 y previously without clinical progression or development of motor fluctuations.

Journal of Parkinson's Disease

^{177}Lu-PSMA-617 vs Cabazitaxel in MCRPC

In an article published on February 11 ahead of print in the *Lancet,* Hofman and multiple collaborators from the TheraP Trial Investigators and the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group reported on a multicenter randomized phase 2 trial comparing ^{177}Lu–prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA)–617 therapy with cabazitaxel treatment in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. The study included individuals from 11 centers in Australia in whom cabazitaxel had been considered the next appropriate standard treatment. All participants underwent ^{68}Ga-PSMA-11 and ^{18}F-FDG PET imaging and were determined eligible for the trial with PSMA-positive disease and no sites of metastatic disease with discordant ^{18}F-FDG–positive and PSMA-negative findings. Participants were randomly assigned to treatment with ^{177}Lu-PSMA-617 ($n = 98$) or cabazitaxel ($n = 85$). The primary endpoint was prostate-specific antigen (PSA) response defined by a reduction of at least 50% from baseline. Responses in PSA levels were more frequent in the ^{177}Lu-PSMA-617 group than the cabazitaxel group (65 and 37 responses, respectively). Grade 3–4 adverse events occurred in 32 (33%) ^{177}Lu-PSMA-617 patients and in 45 (53%) in the cabazitaxel group. These and other data from the study led the authors to conclude that ^{177}Lu-PSMA-617 "is a new and effective class of therapy and a potential alternative to cabazitaxel."

Lancet

PSMA PET Post-RT PCa Biochemical Recurrence

Rowe et al. from the National Cancer Institute (Bethesda, MD), Cross Cancer Institute (Edmonton, Canada), the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (MD), and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (Bethesda, MD) reported in the February 10 issue of *Radiation Oncology* on a study using PET and multiparametric MR imaging to identify patterns of failure in a group of patients who received adjuvant or salvage radiation therapy after prostatectomy and later experienced biochemical recurrence.

The study characterized lesions from 2 prospective trials of first- and second-generation ^{18}F-PSMA PET agents (^{18}F-DCFBC and ^{18}F-DCFPyL), with postimaging fusion with multiparametric MR imaging where available. The primary aim was to identify the location of lesions relative to previous radiation therapy fields and doses. The study included 35 participants, 32 of whom were found to have ^{18}F-PSMA–avid lesions. Seventeen (43.1%) of these patients had metastatic disease, 8 (25.0%) had locoregional recurrence, and 7 (21.9%) had local failure in the prostate fossa. Of this last group, 6 (86%) experienced in-field failures that had been encompassed by 100% isodose lines. The seventh patient experienced marginal failure encompassed by the 49-Gy isodose. In all, ~1 of 5 patients with unremarkable conventional imaging findings had detectable in-field failure despite postoperative radiotherapy, and 1 in 3 had oligometastatic disease. The authors concluded that these findings emphasize "the importance of future research in tailoring radiotherapy target delineation, investigating radiation dose escalation, or use of systemic treatment concomitantly with radiotherapy to optimize local control and improve metastasis-free survival in these patients."

Radiation Oncology

Automated PET Mapping and AD Conversion Prediction

In an article published on February 12 ahead of print in *Current Alzheimer Research* Garibotto et al. from the University of Geneva/University Hospitals of Geneva (Switzerland), the University of Côte d'Azur (Nice, France), the IRCCS Fondazione Stella Maris (Pisa, Italy), the IRCCS Fatebenefratelli (Brescia, Italy), IRCCS AOU San Martino-IST (Italy), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany), Aix-Marseille Université (France), the Technische Universität (Münich, Germany), and VU University Medical Center (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) reported on a study evaluating 2 clinically validated tools for analysis of

cortical hypometabolism on ^{18}F-FDG PET in identification of individuals with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) likely to progress to Alzheimer disease (AD). The 2 automated mapping tools, SPMGrid and BRASS, were assessed using PET imaging data from 131 individuals with MCI and healthy elderly controls from the European Alzheimer's Disease Consortium PET dataset. Three experienced readers blindly assigned diagnoses based on the 2 resulting map sets, and these data were compared against subsequent clinical conversion to AD among the subjects. BRASS showed significantly higher sensitivity than SPMGrid (82% and 59%, respectively), although good correlation was shown between mapping in the z and t maps between the respective systems. The 2 tools, however, showed significant differences, with maps that showed limited overlap in hypermetabolic patterns. The authors concluded that "these results underline the urgency for standardization across FDG-PET analysis methods for their use in clinical practice."

Current Alzheimer Research

SPECT/CT and Lymphatic Drainage in Penile Cancer

Jakobsen et al. from Aarhus University/Aarhus University Hospital (Denmark) reported on February 11 ahead of print in the *Scandinavian Journal of Urology* on a study using SPECT/CT to assess lymphatic drainage in invasive penile cancer and the utility of resulting information for inguinal lymph node dissection. The study included data from 62 men in the Danish National Penile Cancer Quality database with uni- or bilateral clinical lymph node–negative (cN0) status. Participants underwent SPECT/CT to evaluate 122 cN0 inguinal basins, with regions divided into 10 Daseler zones. Surgeons completed a corresponding categorization at sentinel node biopsy, with histopathologic follow-up by zones. SPECT/CT visualized lymphatic drainage in 116 inguinal basins (95.1%). The large majority of sentinel nodes and all metastatic nodes were found in central and superior inguinal zones, including 6 metastatic

nodes in lateral superior zones. Minimal lymphatic drainage was seen in the inferior Daseler zones, with no metastatic deposits in these. No direct pelvic drainage was seen. The authors encouraged those using modified inguinal lymph node dissection as a standard in cN0 patients to include all the superior and central Daseler zones, whereas the inferior zones can be omitted. In summary, the study "confirms the absence of lymphatic drainage directly to the pelvic region and supports the practice of omitting pelvic nodes from sentinel node biopsy."

Scandinavian Journal of Urology

PSMA PET and Status After Radical Prostatectomy

In an article published online on February 4 ahead of print in the *Journal of Urology*, Amiel et al. from the Technical University of Munich (Germany), University of Montréal Health Center (Canada), University Hospital Frankfurt (Frankfurt am Main, Germany), and University Hospital Hamburg–Eppendorf (Hamburg, Germany) reported on the correlation of ^{68}Ga-PSMA-11 PET findings before radical prostatectomy and pelvic lymph node dissection at biochemical recurrence and time to adjuvant or salvage treatment. The retrospective study included 64 intermediate- and 166 high-risk prostate cancer patients who underwent PET followed by surgery and lymph node dissection. The overall sensitivity, specificity, and positive- and negative-predictive values of ^{68}Ga-PSMA-11 PET for pN1 disease were 48.5%, 95.7%, 82.1%, and 82.2%, respectively. Over a median follow-up of 30.2 mo, biochemical recurrence was seen in 116 patients (50.4%), and 107 (46.5%) patients underwent adjuvant or salvage therapy. The lowest rates of biochemical recurrence–free and therapy-free survival were in patients with pN1 disease with PET-positive lymph nodes, followed by patients with pN1 disease without PET-positive lymph nodes and patients with no evidence of lymph node metastasis on histology and PET (median biochemical recurrence–free

survival: 1.7, 7.5, and >36 mo, respectively; median therapy-free survival: 2.6, 8.9, and >36 mo, respectively). The authors concluded that patients with positive lymph nodes on ^{68}Ga-PSMA-11 PET before radical prostatectomy should expect early biochemical recurrence and adjuvant/salvage therapy, despite thorough pelvic lymph node dissection. They recommended that PET results be used for patient consultation, more stringent follow-up, and planning of neo- and adjuvant therapy.

Journal of Urology

Machine Learning Methods for PET in AD

In an article published on February 11 ahead of print in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, Ma et al. from Simon Fraser University (Vancouver, Canada), Northwestern University (Chicago, IL), and Jewish General Hospital (Montréal, Canada) reported on investigations comparing 2 advanced machine-learning methods for using ^{18}F-FDG PET neuroimaging-derived features to discriminate between dementia of Alzheimer type (DAT) and non-DAT control subjects. Using clinical data, PET-based dementia scores were generated and analyzed with a feature-engineered approach (multikernel probability classifier) and a non-feature-engineered approach (3D convolutional neural network). Each of the approaches had been pretrained on individuals with DAT and on cognitively normal individuals. Analysis provided probabilistic dementia scores for the new clinical data, and the resulting classifiers were compared against a blinded evaluation by experienced nuclear physicians. Although both classifiers were able to differentiate DAT from non-DAT imaging results, the non-feature-engineered dementia score showed higher sensitivity in individuals in whom the 2 models showed agreement and the feature-engineered approach showed higher specificity in individuals in whom the 2 models were not in agreement. The authors concluded that these results "showed good generalizability for 2 machine-learning approaches, marking an important step for the translation of pretrained machine-learning models into clinical practice."

Journal of Alzheimer's Disease

Quantitative SPECT and Uninfected Nonunion

Oe et al. from the Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine (Japan) reported on February 10 in the *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery and Research* (2021;16[1]:125) on a study evaluating quantitative ^{99m}Tc-labeled SPECT bone imaging of uninfected nonunion to compare hypertrophic nonunion and nonhypertrophic nonunion using volume-based parameters. The study included 23 patients with uninfected nonunion who underwent either ^{99m}Tc-hydroxymethylene diphosphonate or ^{99m}Tc-methylene diphosphonate SPECT imaging. The researchers performed voxel-based quantitative analysis using the GI-BONE software, with the contralateral limb as a control. For hypertrophic nonunion, quantitative parameters (high uptake area/low uptake area) for SUV_{max} control ratio were $12.13 \pm 4.95/6.44 \pm 4.71$, for SUV_{peak} control ratio were $11.65 \pm 4.58/6.45 \pm 4.64$, and for SUV_{mean} control ratio were $11.94 \pm 5.03/6.28 \pm 4.95$. These parameters were higher than the corresponding values for non-hypertrophic nonunion: $7.82 \pm 4.76/3.41 \pm 2.09$, $7.56 \pm 4.51/3.61 \pm 2.23$, and $7.59 \pm 5.18/3.05 \pm 1.91$. The authors concluded that these control ratios obtained from bone SPECT imaging "can quantitatively evaluate the biological activity of nonunions and may be an effective evaluation method for treatment decisions, especially the necessity of autologous bone grafting."

Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery and Research

PET/CT in Advanced Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

In a study published on February 5 in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine* (2021;10[4]:602), Tardieu et al. from CHU Limoges, Tours University Hospital, Poissy-Saint-Germain-en-Laye Hospital Center, and Clermont Ferrand University Hospital (all in France) reported on a retrospective FRANCOGYN Group study intended to evaluate the diagnostic performance of PET/CT in assessing lymph node involvement in advanced epithelial ovarian cancer. The reported results included ^{18}F-FDG PET/CT data from 63 patients with primary advanced epithelial ovarian cancer who had undergone PET/CT at the time of diagnosis or before cytoreduction surgery with pelvic or paraaortic lymphadenectomy. The sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values of PET/CT for preoperative lymph node evaluation were 26.7%, 90.9%, 72.7%, and 57.7%, respectively. The accuracy rate was 60.3%, with a false-negative rate of 34.9%. For the 16 patients who underwent primary cytoreduction, sensitivity was 50%, specificity was 87.5%, positive predictive value was 80%, and negative predictive value was 63.6%. The accuracy rate was 68.8%, and the false-negative rate was 25%. After neoadjuvant chemotherapy ($n = 47$), PET/CT sensitivity, specificity, and positive- and negative-predictive values were 18.2%, 92%, 66.7%, and 56.1%, with an accuracy rate of 57.5% and false-negative rate of 38.3%. The authors concluded that because of its high sensitivity, a preoperative PET/CT scan "could contribute to the deescalation and reduction of lymphadenectomy in the surgical management of advanced epithelial ovarian cancer in a significant number of patients free of lymph node metastases."

Journal of Clinical Medicine

Predicting Chemo Response in NSCLC

Zhao, Wang, et al. from Yantai Yuhuangding Hospital and Shandong Cancer Hospital and Institute/Shandong University (Jinan; all in China) reported on January 14 in *BMC Cancer* (2021;21[1]:66) on the predictive value of ^{18}F-FDG PET and blood inflammatory markers for chemosensitivity and survival in patients with stage IIIB non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) receiving first-line chemotherapy. The retrospective study included 149 such patients. The authors found that participants with SUV_{max} >11.6 or lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio ≤3.73

at baseline had significantly lower objective response rates to chemotherapy. These were identified as independent predictive factors for chemotherapeutic response and for progression-free survival. On the basis of these factors, a novel scoring system was applied to categorize participants into 3 subgroups with differing prognoses. The authors noted that the score derived from the 2 factors based on primary tumor metabolic activity and systemic inflammatory response "might provide a promising tool to predict chemosensitivity, recurrence, and survival" in advanced NSCLC.

BMC Cancer

99mTc- and Cy7-Labeled Fab(Tocilizumab) in Multiple Myeloma

Camacho et al. from the Universidad de la República (Montevideo, Uruguay), the Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Sao Paulo (Brazil), and the Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable (Montevideo, Uruguay) reported on January 4 ahead of print in *Anticancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry* on an evaluation of the potential of Fab(tocilizumab) labeled with 99mTc and/or cyanine-7 for targeting overexpression of interleukin-6 (IL-6) in multiple myeloma. In vitro studies with laser confocal microscopy confirmed distribution of IL-6 in multiple myeloma cell lines, and biodistribution of 99mTc-Fab(tocilizumab) was confirmed by SPECT/CT. Cyanine-7–labeled Fab(tocilizumab) provided targeted in vivo fluorescence imaging up to 72 h. Initial preclinical studies showed rapid blood clearance and significant renal and multiple myeloma–engrafted tumor uptake. The authors concluded that these studies show a potential dual use for Fab(tocilizumab): with SPECT/CT "in the clinical setting for staging and follow up of multiple myeloma through radioactive whole-body IL-6R expression visualization in vivo" and with fluorescent labeling "for tissue sample evaluation and to guide surgical excision if necessary."

Anticancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry

18F-FDG Avidity Factors in DTC

In an article published on January 7 in *Cancer Imaging* (2021;21[1]:8), Ha et al. from 108 Central Military Hospital (Hanoi, Vietnam), the Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO) and MRCCC Siloam Hospital (Jakarta, Indonesia) reported on an investigation of the relationships among clinicopathologic factors, BRAF V600E mutation status, and 18F-FDG avidity in patients with radioiodine-negative recurrence of metastatic differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC). The retrospective study included data from 63 patients (55 female, 8 male; median age, 48 y; range, 17–81 y), most with the BRAF V600E mutation ($n = 55$, 87.3%) and classical subtype ($n = 45$, 71.4%). Patients had received a median of 3 previous radioiodine treatments before suspected recurrence. All patients underwent 18F-FDG PET/CT, biopsy of lesions identified on imaging, and BRAF V600E mutation testing by immunohistochemistry and real-time polymerase chain reaction. Multiple resulting variables were correlated with the SUV_{max} of the highest hypermetabolic lesion on PET/CT. Of the 63 patients, 54 (85.7%) had local recurrence, and PET/CT showed FDG-avid disease in 58 (92.1%). Tumor size, aggressive histopathology, and distant metastases were found to be significant factors in predicting tracer uptake on PET/CT.

18F-FDG uptake in lesions with the BRAF V600E mutation was greater than in those without, although this difference was not statistically significant. The authors concluded that "the majority of recurrent or metastatic radioactive iodine–negative DTC have BRAF V600E mutation and detectable disease on FDG PET/CT" and that the "FDG avidity of the recurrent or metastatic radioactive iodine–negative DTC is independently associated with the aggressive histopathologic features."

Cancer Imaging

11C-Raclopride PET and fMRI in Autism

Zürcher et al. from the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School (Boston), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/University of North Carolina School of Medicine, North Carolina State University (Raleigh), and the McLean Hospital (Belmont, MA) reported on January 11 in *Translational Psychiatry* (2021;11[1]:33) on a study including molecular imaging in evaluation of striatal dopamine functioning in response to rewards in autism spectrum disorder. The investigation was part of an effort to expand on clinical understanding of the "social motivation hypothesis," which suggests impaired dopamine function in specific behaviors. The authors used simultaneous 11C-raclopride PET and functional MR imaging to assess striatal function in a monetary incentive challenge in 10 individuals with autism spectrum disorder and 12 controls. Differences between groups in voxel-wise binding potential on PET were used as seeds in whole-brain fMRI connectivity analyses. The autism spectrum group showed decreased phasic dopamine release in response to challenge incentives in the bilateral putamen and left caudate, in addition to increased functional connectivity between a PET-derived right putamen seed and the precuneus and insula. Decreased phasic dopamine release in the putamen was related to poorer theory-of-mind skills in the autism spectrum group. The authors concluded that "our findings that autism spectrum disorder is characterized by impaired striatal phasic dopamine release to incentives provide support for the social motivation hypothesis of autism" and that "PET-fMRI may be a suitable tool to evaluate novel autism spectrum disorder therapeutics targeting the striatal dopamine system."

Translational Psychiatry

Tocilizumab, 18F-FDG PET, and Takayasu Arteritis

In an article published on January 13 ahead of print in the *Journal of Cardiology*, Isobe et al. from the Sakakibara Heart Institute and Tokyo Medical and Dental University (both in Tokyo, Japan) reported on the potential of 18F-FDG PET/CT for detection of recurrence of

inflammation during tocilizumab treatment for steroid-resistant Takayasu arteritis. The study was motivated by difficulties in diagnosing disease recurrence, because tocilizumab suppresses inflammatory biomarkers. The study included 17 patients under treatment with tocilizumab. Treatment resulted in abatement of arteritis symptoms and corresponding reduction of glucocorticoid dosage in 12 patients (remission induction rate, 70.6%; dosage reduced from 16.1 ± 10.2 to 3.8 ± 1.7 mg at 1 y). In the remaining 5 patients, glucocorticoid tapering was not successful, and dosages were raised. Results from ^{18}F-FDG PET imaging closely matched the clinical course in these 5 patients, even during tocilizumab treatment, and was negative in the 12 patients experiencing remission. The authors concluded that "tocilizumab injection provides robust steroid-sparing effect and improvement of inflammation without significant adverse effects" in Takayasu arteritis and that "recurrence of inflammation can be detected by FDG PET even during tocilizumab treatment."

Journal of Cardiology

^{18}F-FDG PET/CT in Retroperitoneal Sarcomas

Subramaniam et al. from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Melbourne, Australia), St. Vincents Hospital (Melbourne, Australia), Amsterdam University Medical Center/University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands), The Netherlands Cancer Institute/Antoni van Leeuwenhoek (Amsterdam), and the University of Southern California (Los Angeles) reported on January 14 ahead of print in the *Journal of Surgical Oncology* on a study evaluating correlations between ^{18}F-FDG SUV$_{max}$ on PET/CT and pathologic tumor grade in surgical specimens of primary retroperitoneal dedifferentiated liposarcoma (DDLPS) and leiomyosarcoma (LMS). The study included 58 patients (final pathologic subtypes: DDLPS, $n = 44$ [75.9%]; LMS, $n = 14$ [24.1%]) who had undergone preoperative PET/CT. Mean SUV$_{max}$ was 8.7 (median, 7.1;

range, 2.2–33.9). Grades I, II, and III tumors were identified in 6 (10.3%), 35 (60.3%), and 17 (29.3%) patients, respectively. Higher histologic grade was correlated with higher SUV$_{max}$, and increasing SUV$_{max}$ was associated with worse recurrence-free and overall survival. The authors concluded that ^{18}F-FDG SUV$_{max}$ on PET/CT provides "a preoperative noninvasive surrogate marker of tumor grade and biological behavior."

Journal of Surgical Oncology

Longitudinal Assessment in Autosomal-Dominant AD

Sanchez et al. from the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School (Boston), Universidad de Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia), Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, MA), Hospital Pablo Tobón Uribe (Medellín, Colombia), Maastricht University (The Netherlands), and Banner Alzheimer's Institute (Phoenix, AZ) reported on January 15 in *Alzheimer's Research & Therapy* (2021;13[1]:27) on a study looking at the use of PET with ^{11}C-Pittsburgh compound B and ^{18}F-flortaucipir in longitudinal assessment of amyloid-β and tau accumulation, respectively, in individuals with autosomal-dominant Alzheimer disease (AD). The study included 14 autosomal-dominant AD mutation carriers (presenilin-1 E280A) and 15 age-matched noncarriers from the Colombia–Boston (COLBOS) kindred biomarker study. Each participant underwent 2–3 sessions of ^{11}C-Pittsburgh compound B and ^{18}F-flortaucipir PET and structural MR imaging, as well as neuropsychological evaluation over a 2–4-year follow-up. Longitudinal measurements were found to be consistent with the known sequence of autosomal-dominant AD–related changes, beginning with amyloid-β accumulation (16 y before expected symptom onset), then tau accumulation in the entorhinal cortex (9 y before expected symptom onset), neocortical tau (6 y before expected symptom onset), hippocampal atrophy (6 y before expected symptom onset), and cognitive decline (4 y before expected symptom onset). Rates of tau accumulation among carriers were most rapid in the parietal

neocortex, at ~9%/y. PET identification of tau in the entorhinal cortex at baseline was a significant predictor of subsequent neocortical tau accumulation and cognitive decline in carriers. The authors concluded that these results "are consistent with the sequence of biological changes in autosomal-dominant AD implied by cross-sectional studies and highlight the importance of entorhinal cortex tau as an early biomarker and a potential link between amyloid-β burden and neocortical tau accumulation" in this disease setting.

Alzheimer's Research & Therapy

Arterial Wall Inflammation in RA and OA

In an article published on January 14 ahead of print in *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, Agca et al. from VU University (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) reported on the use of ^{18}F-FDG PET/CT in a comparison of arterial wall inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and osteoarthritis (OA) and the respective associations with markers of inflammation and cardiovascular risk factors. The study included 61 patients with RA and 28 with OA who underwent PET/CT, with secondary comparative analyses performed in the RA patient group (30 patients with early untreated RA and 31 with established RA under disease-modifying antirheumatic drug treatment). RA patients were found to have significantly higher ^{18}F-FDG uptake in the wall of the carotid arteries and aorta than OA patients, a difference that persisted after adjustment for traditional cardiovascular risk factors. The highest ^{18}F-FDG uptake on PET was seen in patients with early RA, followed by patients with established RA, and then by those with OA. Higher erythrocyte sedimentation rate and disease activity scores in 28 joints were associated with higher ^{18}F-tracer uptake in all arterial segments. The authors concluded that increased ^{18}F-FDG uptake in the arterial wall, as seen in patients with RA, is a possible marker of early atherosclerosis. The higher level of clinical disease activity and circulating inflammatory

markers associated with higher arterial ^{18}F-FDG uptake "may support a role of arterial wall inflammation in the pathogenesis of vascular complications in patients with RA."

Rheumatology (Oxford)

Sestamibi SPECT/CT in Hyperparathyroidism

In an article published online on January 3 ahead of print in the *Journal of Endocrinological Investigation,* Yang et al. from the First Affiliated Hospital/Zhejiang University School of Medicine (Hangzhou, China) reported on clinicopathologic factors affecting the accuracy and potential limitations of ^{99m}Tc-sestamibi SPECT/CT in assessing abnormal parathyroid glands in patients with primary hyperparathyroidism. The study included 96 patients with primary hyperparathyroidism (mean age, 54 y; 63 women, 33 men), and discordance between SPECT/CT and intraoperative findings was noted in 17. Of these, 10 had major discordance, most in patients with multigland disease. Patients with intraoperative findings concordant with SPECT/CT when compared with discordant patients showed decreased frequencies of autoimmune thyroid disease (10.1% and 29.4%, respectively),

multigland disease (3.8% and 41.2%, respectively), higher parathyroid hormone levels (296 and 146 pg/mL, respectively), and lower phosphorus levels (0.90 and 0.77 mmol/L, respectively). Multigland disease, parathyroid lesion size ≤12 mm, and parathyroid hormone level >192.5 pg/mL were independently associated with discordant CT results. The authors concluded that "surgeons should recognize these potential limitations, which may improve the preoperative procedure by encouraging further localization imaging and promptly facilitate intraoperative troubleshooting."

Journal of Endocrinological Investigation

Reviews

Review articles provide an important way to stay up to date on the latest topics and approaches through valuable summaries of pertinent literature. The Newsline editor recommends several general reviews accessioned into the PubMed database in February and March. Morrison and Han, from Oregon Health and Science University (Portland) provided an overview of the status and state of the art of "Re-evaluation of sentinel lymph node biopsy for melanoma" in the February 9 issue

of *Current Treatment Options in Oncology* (2021;22[3]:22). In an article online on February 9 ahead of print in *NeuroOncology,* Barajas, also from the Oregon Health and Science University, and a large group of international researchers published "Consensus recommendations for MRI and PET imaging of primary central nervous system lymphoma: Guidelines statement from the International Primary CNS Lymphoma Collaborative Group (IPCG)." Cope et al. from the University of Cambridge/Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UK), University College London (UK), Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg (Germany), and Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School (Boston) described "Advances in neuroimaging to support translational medicine in dementia" in the March issue of the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry* (2021;92[3]:263–270). In an article online on February 11 ahead of print in the *International Brazilian Journal of Urology,* Matushita et al. from a consortium of Brazilian hospitals and clinical research sites published "[68]Ga–prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) PET in prostate cancer: A systematic review and metaanalysis."