

SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE'S 48TH ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 1,200 nuclear medicine technologists attended SNM's 48th Annual Meeting, which was held June 23 through 27 in Toronto, Canada. This year's meeting attracted more than 4,100 attendees (the highest number since the meeting's inception), who took advantage of the educational programs and the exhibitions. The latest in nuclear medicine equipment, products, and services from 127 companies was displayed in 64,900 square feet of exhibits.

This year, the theme for the technologist educational sessions was "Nuclear Medicine Odyssey." The meeting showcased more than 775 abstracts. Technologist abstracts were grouped into categories separate from those of the physicians to better represent the scientific research endeavors in nuclear medicine technology.

Clarke Becomes SNM-TS President

Mickey Clarke, CNMT, FSNMTS assumed the presidency of the Technologist Section at the SNM-TS business meeting in Toronto. Clarke has been active in the SNM-TS for more than 20 years and was inducted as a fellow in 1999. Most recently, she has served as the Chair-Elect for the SNM-TS Strategic Planning Committee, as a member of the SNM-TS Government Relations Subcommittee, as Vice-Chair of the SNM Government Relations Subcommittee, and as a National Council Delegate for the Missouri Valley Chapter.

JNMT and JNM Authors Honored for Outstanding Papers

Three outstanding papers were chosen from papers published in the *Journal of*



Mickey Clarke (left) accepted the SNM-TS presidency from outgoing president Kristen Waterstram-Rich (right) at the SNM-TS business meeting in Toronto in June.



Incoming SNM-TS President Mickey Clarke (right) conferred fellowship status on Lyn M. Mehlberg (left) and Sheila Rosenfeld (not present).

Nuclear Medicine Technology during 2000. Sean L. Riggin, Kevin J. Kilroy, and Robin J. Smith were awarded first place for "Clinical PET Imaging with the C-PET Camera" (2000;28:23-28). The second place paper was "The Influence of Flood Source Placement on Radiation Exposure During Quality Control Testing" by Mark J. Rudin and William H. Johnson (2000;28:88-93). Anthony James White, Malgorzata Rachalewska, and Raghavveer Reddy Venkannagari won third place for "A Simple Method for Measuring

Severely Reduced Glomerular Filtration Rate" (2000;28:173-175). The authors of the first place paper received \$500 in addition to the plaque given to each of the 3 award winners.

The authors of 4 *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* articles were also honored for their contributions during 2000. In the "Clinical Investigations" category, first place went to Kavita Murthy, Marianne Aznar, Christopher J. Thompson, Antoine Loutfi, Robert Lisbona, and Jean H. Gagnon for "Results of Preliminary Clinical Trials of the Positron Emission Mammography System PEM-I: A Dedicated Breast Imaging System Producing Glucose Metabolic Images Using FDG" (2000;41:1851-8). Edoardo Verna, Luca Ceriani, Luca Giovannella, Giovanni Binaghi, and Silvan Garancini won second place for "False-Positive Myocardial Perfusion Scintigraphy Findings in Patients with Angiographically Normal Coronary Arteries: Insights from Intravascular Sonography Studies" (2000;41:1935-40). In the "Basic Science Investigations" category, Thomas Beyer, David W. Townsend, Tony Brun, Paul E. Kinahan, Martin Charron, Raymond Roddy, Jeff Jerin, John

Young, Larry Byars, and Ronald Nutt won first place for "A Combined PET/CT Scanner for Clinical Oncology" (2000;41:1369-79). Second place was awarded to Koen Van Laere, Michel Koole, Tomi Kauppinen, Myriam Monsieurs, Luc Bouwens, and Rudi Dierck for "Nonuniform Transmission in Brain SPECT Using ^{201}Tl , ^{153}Gd , and $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ Static Line Sources: Anthropomorphic Dosimetry Studies and Influence on Brain Quantification" (2000;41:2051-62).

New SNM-TS Fellows Inducted

Lyn M. Mehlberg and Sheila Rosenfeld were awarded Technologist Section fellowships during a ceremony at the annual business meeting in June. The SNM-TS gives fellow status in recognition of a member's participation in professional and civic activities, education, and professional experience and contributions.

TECHNOLOGIST SECTION AWARDS

Scientific Paper

First Place

The Use of Miraluma as a Reliable Adjunct to Mammography in Women with Dense Breasts

A. Perez, G. Morano, E.O. Smith, P. Schwartz, and J.P. Seibyl
Yale University, New Haven, CT

Second Place

Whole-body Lymphoscintigraphy Using Transmission Scans

M.V. Mar, S.G. Johnson, E.E. Kim, and D.A. Podoloff
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Third Place

Utility of ^{18}F FDG PET and $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ HM-PAO SPECT in Epilepsy Focus Localization

H. Liu, S.K. Das, B.C. Ojha, R. Kuzniecky, and J. M. Mountz
The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Scientific Poster

First Place

DICOM Imagine Analysis Using MayoimageX embedded in Microsoft Excel Software

D.V. Porter and G.A. Wiseman
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Second Place

The Technical Aspects of Infusing ^{90}Y Theraspheres into Unresectable Hepatocellular Cancer

L. Collins, M.L. Brown, B. McCook, A. Zajko, M.M. Sheetz, J. Rosen, M. France, and B. Carr
UPMC-Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, PA

Third Place

PET Imaging of Dopamine Transporter (DAT) Density in Human Striatum Using ^{11}C Altoprane

S.A. Barrow, A.A. Bonab, E. Livni, B.K. Madras, P. Meltzer, and A.J. Fischman

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

Student Paper

First Place

Evaluation of the 2-Dimensional FIT Method of Motion Correction on Tomographic Myocardial Perfusion Imaging

M.J. Doggart, M.M. Dalipaj, A. Merani, P. Irvine, and T.D. Ruddy
University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Second Place

Parathyroid Adenoma Radiation Exposure Simulator

M.R. Anliker, J. Gough, and M.E. Spieth
Department of Radiology, Nuclear Medicine Section and Radiation Safety Department, Marshfield Clinic and St. Joseph's Hospital, Marshfield, WI

Third Place

Complete List of Foods and Drugs Containing Caffeine

J.D. Seliger
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA

Brain Imaging Council Awards

First Place (Poster)

Evaluation of a Metabolite Assay—Quantification of ^{18}F -Altanserin in Human Plasma

K. Stahr, K.H. Adams, L. Martiny, and G.M. Knudsen
University Hospital of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Second Place (Poster)

The Value of Median Filtering After Reconstruction with Maximum Likelihood Expectation Maximization (ML-EM)

K. Matsumoto, T. Fujita, E. Tadamura, K. Ishizu, H. Toyada, and J. Konishi
Kyoto University Hospital, Kyoto, Japan

Third Place (Oral Presentation) SPECT- ^{123}I - β -CIT as a Diagnostic Tool with Parkinson's Disease/Parkinson Plus Syndrome

G. Thomsen, G.M. Knudsen, C. Videbaek
Copenhagen University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark

Cardiovascular Imaging Council Awards—Scientific Paper

First Place

Comparison of Rest Versus Stress LVEF Measurements from Gated $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$

Tetrofosmin SPECT Images

M.M. Dalipaj, J. Armstrong, P. Irvine, and T.D. Ruddy
University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Second Place

Diagnostic Accuracy of Dipyridamole and Adenosine using $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ Sestamibi SPECT Imaging: A Prospective Randomized Trial

A. Mann, A. Ahlberg, S. Harrison, G. Auon, C. Primiano, C.C. McGill, R. Fleming, and G.V. Heller
Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT

Third Place (tie)

Optimization of Simultaneous Dual Isotope SPECT with $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ Sestamibi and ^{201}Tl Using the Photon Energy Recovery Technique

A.A. Conway and F. Anstett
University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, MD; GE/SMV America, Twinsburg, OH

Third Place (tie)

Count Density and Image Quality in SPECT ^{18}F -Fluorodeoxyglucose Myocardial Viability Studies: Effect of Intravenous Dextrose/Insulin Infusion Versus Oral Glucose Loading

J.E. Duggan, V. Bush, M.T. Lincoln, B. Coutinho, L.E. Thomson, and K.C. Allman
Concord Hospital, Concord, Australia

Cardiovascular Imaging Council Awards—Scientific Poster

First Place

Impact of Coronary Flow Restoration on Acute Rest Myocardial Perfusion Imaging: An Animal Model

S. Harrison, A. Mann, D. Fram, E. Morgan, A. Ahleberg, W. Dyckman, G.V. Heller
Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT

Second Place

Escalating dose of Adenosine in Patients with Hyperreactive Airway Disease

L.A. Ireland, G.T. Kelly, and M.M. Graham
University of Iowa Health Care, Iowa City, IA

Third Place

^{18}F FDG PET Oncology and Cardiology Studies in the Same Patient

D.A. Clermont, M.M. Graham, R.D. Hichwa, L.L. Ponto, G.L. Watkins, Y. Menda, J.C. Richmond, C.A. Ward, and J.A. Clark
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**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND
HEALTH CARE POLICY UPDATE**

PET Coverage

HCFCA/CMS has announced that effective July 1, 2001, reimbursement for the new indications for PET announced last December will be limited to full- and partial-ring PET systems. For indications reimbursed prior to December 15, 2000, gamma camera systems meeting certain requirements (including 5/8" and thicker crystals) will be covered. Gamma camera coverage will be reconsidered after December 31, 2002. If no new data on its effectiveness is presented, CMS will withdraw all coverage for gamma camera systems. The full decision memorandum is available at www.snm.org.

NRC Part 35

Thus far, there has been no decision from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) submission. Several of the senators who questioned the commissioners at oversight hearings on the apparent overregulation of diagnostic nuclear medicine are writing OMB to ask for a thorough review of the rule. We continue to work with Senate and House committee members and staff to keep pressure on during operations and appropriations oversight. SNM and ACNP members are still being asked to contact key representatives and senators to express their views on how diagnostic nuclear medicine should be regulated. The leadership shuffle in the Senate caused by Senator Jeffords's departure from the Republican party has not hurt our program. We had bipartisan support in the oversight hearings and the change in chairs in Senate Appropriations may work to our advantage.

MURR Shutdown Averted

In an apparent response to pressure from the nuclear medicine community, including letters from SNM and ACNP Presidents Jonathan Links, PhD, and Sue Abreu, MD, Missouri Governor Bob Holden and officials from the U.S. Department of Energy

(DOE) have agreed to provide a firm date for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel from the University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor (MURR). The agreement resolves an impasse in which the DOE had prevented the University Reactor from shipping spent nuclear fuel out of its facility for the past year. University officials had previously indicated that, without a shipment authorization from DOE, legal and practical limitations on storage at the facility would have forced MURR to cease operations in late June of 2001. Such a shutdown would have forced the University Reactor to cease research and production of radiopharmaceuticals that are used to treat certain cancer patients.

As part of the agreement, the DOE committed to incorporate additional safety measures requested by the State of Missouri for any shipments of high-level nuclear waste in Missouri. Some of the safety measures include: a Missouri State Highway Patrol escort of shipments, a commitment to avoid peak traffic times along transportation routes, and complete safety and radiologic inspections of the transporting vehicle. In addition, the DOE will continue to work with the governor's office to address concerns the state expressed regarding how the DOE chooses routes for separate cross-country shipments of foreign high-level spent nuclear fuel.

CARE Act

The CARE Act (HR 1011) now has 28 cosponsors in the House. We have identified a potential Senate sponsor in Senator Edward Kennedy. We should know something about possible bill introduction in the Senate very soon, and will keep you informed. On the topic of technologist licensure, the SNM-TS was joined by the SNM and ACNP in commenting on a proposed licensure rule in Montana. The comments applauded the rulemaking but questioned some of the details. The State Board of Radiologic Technologists met in late May and pulled the rule. The Board plans to form a task force of interested parties in the fall to draft a new, more

comprehensive and, they hope, less controversial rule.

—William Uffelman, SNM Director of Public Affairs and General Counsel

VOICE BOX

More Distance Learning Opportunities—the SNM Virtual Library

Did you attend the SNM's 48th Annual Meeting and discover that you could not be in 3 places at once? Perhaps due to shrinking budgets and limited time, you were not able to attend the meeting at all but wished you could. Or maybe you know that you will never attend an SNM Annual Meeting, but would like to stay informed or are in need of continuing education hours. If you fit into any of those categories, we have an opportunity you will not want to pass up.

Introducing the SNM Virtual Library! In partnership with DigiScript, The Knowledge Management Com-

pany, SNM is providing a new way for you to participate in our educational programs and conferences. Available on a subscription basis, the SNM Virtual Library offers 12 months of unlimited access to selected categorical seminars and continuing education and poster presentations presented in Toronto. Content has been available for distribution since mid-August.

Through this dynamic relationship between SNM and DigiScript, Virtual Library subscribers will be exposed to the world's first and largest database of cross-disciplinary information from scientific, medical, biomedical, and engineering communities and will be given the opportunity to connect to a huge reservoir of otherwise inaccessible scientific information.

The SNM Virtual Library will allow you to:

- View select conference presentations—anytime and anywhere;
- Enjoy synchronized audio, video, slides, and transcripts;

- Search the entire transcript by keyword;
- Earn continuing education credit online.

To learn more about and sign up for the SNM Virtual Library, visit our Web site at www.snm.org and click on "Hot Topics" or "Continuing Education".

Don't miss out on our introductory online prices: \$25.00 for SNM members, \$40.00 for non-members. The SNM 48th Annual Meeting CD—Technologist Section is also available: \$60.00 for SNM members, \$90.00 for non-members.

—Brenda Johnson, SNM Director of Education

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