Activities and Accomplishments

At the 2011 SNM Midwinters meeting, the Academic Council co-sponsored four of the sessions presented by ACNM in a time slot of 3-hours. The sessions focused on lessons learned from past leadership, health care reform as it relates to nuclear medicine practice, and state of the job market for nuclear medicine residents.

At the 2011 Association of University Radiologists (AUR) meeting in Boston, April 12-15, the AC sponsored a panel and a two hour review of Radiation Safety, Radiopharmacy and NRC Regulations. This was presented by Steven Karesh, Ph.D. for the fifth consecutive year. A summit on the future of nuclear medicine training was organized by the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors (NMPD) chair Darlene Metter, MD. This was attended by leaders in nuclear medicine and radiology and a pathway established by Alan Maurer, MD was discussed in depth. Dr Metter sent out a summary of the summit to all nuclear medicine program directors and there was a blast e-mail sent out by the radiology program directors which highlighted nuclear medicine training (attached). A panel was organized by Jay Harolds on the future of NM training with respect to the necessary diagnostic skills of the Nuclear Medicine physician (both radiology and non-radiology trained) in the current economy, declining reimbursements and emerging hybrid and molecular imaging procedures. This was well attended. It should be noted that the costs for the Radiation Safety sessions have not been in the budgets of the SNM or AUR, and were covered by outside grants. This year AC has divided the allocated funds between the Radiation Safety session and one speaker (Alan Maurer, MD) who participated in the AUR summit/panel.

At the 2011 SNM annual meeting, we will again be presenting the Tom Miller Memorial Lecture. This year this lecture has been formatted in a different fashion to hold a panel of speakers to discuss nuclear medicine residency program from various aspects. ABNM perspective will be discussed by Dr Henry Royal, the updates in nuclear medicine residency program will be discussed by Dr Christopher Palestro, chair of RRC at ACGME and radiology perspective on future nuclear medicine training will be discussed by Dr. Milton J. Guiberteau. The Hal Anger Lecture, which has traditionally been sponsored by the AC, will now be given every other year, and will be part of a plenary session at the SNM annual meeting. This year the Academic Council Board meeting will follow the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association (NMPDA) meeting, chaired by Dr. Metter. At the Academic Council board meeting, we will be presenting the last year’s Distinguished Service Award Leonie Gordon, MD, for exemplary service, since Dr Gordon was unable to attend last year’s meeting to receive this award. This year AC will not be distributing any other awards.

The NMPDA, chaired by Dr. Metter, continues to be an integral part of the Academic Council. Dr. Metter has continued to provide strong and innovative leadership, and she has continued to provide the NMPDA and the Academic Council overall with vital and valuable information and support.
The Academic Council, on behalf of SNM, provided comments to the ACGME regarding standards for resident duty hours. The AC also provided comments to the ACGME regarding the proposed changes in the NM Program requirements.

Several Academic Council Board members continue to contribute in various ways. Drs Kostakoglu serves on the SNM House of Delegates. Dr. Fig serves as the council treasurer, and has done a thorough job. Dr Brown serves as the secretary and has done a great job of editing the AC newsletter. Dr. Metter serves as the Chair of the NMPDA which has a significant presence within the structure of AC. Dr Gordon who serves as the vice chair of the council, is the co-chair of the 2020 task force looking at the Future of Nuclear Medicine for the House of Delegates.

The internship program has been a resounding success for the Academic Council, and Dr. Myo Han has done an excellent job. His term will be completed after this meeting and Dr Erin Grady will become the new academic council intern. Among his activities to publicize the field of nuclear medicine to medical students, he provided an update of a description of Nuclear Medicine on Wikipedia as this is an important source of information for medical students and residents. He worked with the Association of American Medical Colleges to write an article spotlighting Nuclear Medicine for the “Careers in Medicine” section of their website and is putting the finishing touches on a slide presentation aimed at educating medical students about our specialty.

Looking Forward

The Academic Council will continue to provide information and support for Nuclear Medicine Program Directors, in part by providing sessions at the SNM annual and Midwinter meetings, and also by participating in the AUR meeting, in addition to providing an informational newsletter.

The teaching file program is being reorganized by Dr Leonie Gordon and program directors and other interested academic council members have offered to participate. In order for this to be successful, we need a commitment from program directors that residents will submit cases. The process is being streamlined with the help of Lynn Barnes from SNM education department and will be discussed at the academic council meeting further.
Officers of the Council

President: Lale Kostakoglu, MD, MPH
Vice President: Leonie Gordon, MD
Treasurer: Lorraine Fig, MD
Secretary: Tracy Lynnette Yarbrough Brown, MD, PhD
Chair, NMPDA: Darlene Metter, MD
Immediate Past President: Bennett Greenspan, MD

Mission:

The Academic Council is dedicated to the scientific interchange of ideas among SNM members who have an interest in training and education of undergraduates and graduates in Nuclear Medicine (which includes general Nuclear Medicine, Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine, PET/CT imaging and Molecular Imaging). The overall mission of the Academic Council is to:
(a) promote medical education, research and patient care related to Nuclear Medicine,
(b) provide to membership expertise in the training and education of undergraduates and graduates in Nuclear Medicine, including in mentoring and leadership,
(c) provide a forum for members for discussion of issues and problems of mutual interest and concern within the Nuclear Medicine community, as well as an informal exchange of ideas and programs,
(d) provide outreach to other professionals and organizations,
(e) nurture new membership into the society,
(f) serve as a resource to Young Professionals in career development, and
(g) serve as a resource to SNM leadership.

Within the Council there is a subgroup of Program Directors/Associate Program Directors of Nuclear Medicine residency programs (the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association, NMPDA). The Academic Council is an advocate for Nuclear Medicine education and training to organized Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, as well as providing an avenue of communication for Program Directors and Coordinators to the ACGME, ABNM, other societies, and government agencies.