Law of Nature: Future of Nuclear Medicine Training and Practice

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There is a law of nature..... The most significant attributes to any successful field is its adaptability to the evolving environment. All successful species (and practices), in nature, demonstrate this phenomenon through centuries. Those who adapt, collaborate and innovate eventually go on to become extremely successful, and those who refuse to check the reality, collaborate and adapt will eventually undergo attrition and demise, slowly but surely

There will be significant changes the way our future trainees are taught and trained in nuclear medicine / molecular imaging and thus our clinical practice in the next decades to come. These changes are stimulated by external and internal factors to our field – the fusion of imaging techniques, the evolving health care paradigm of mergers and bundled payment models, the development of new molecular imaging techniques beyond ‘tracer principle’ and the evolving field of biologic markers and genomics.

The proposed ABR/ABNM changes to the future of Nuclear Medicine Training and associated changes, have to be viewed in this context of natural evolution. The strategic choices can be synthesized into three (1) Support the proposals, without any reservation or (2) Support the proposals with contingencies that protect the current ABNM only diplomats professional practice – the group that would be most affected by the proposed changes or (3) Reject the proposals, out right. These are stark choices but we must coalesce around one of these choices, quickly, and be progressive in our thoughts and efforts to advance the field and discipline.

Regardless of the model that eventually evolves from our current discussion, the College with more than 98% of its membership represented by current and future clinical practitioners of the field, will and must, play a significant role shaping the future of training and practice of our field and discipline.

This is our utmost responsibility and duty and we will discharge this duty with care, inclusive, progressive and measured thoughts, words and deeds.