



SCANNER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACNP
July/August 2005

President's Message



The recent SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto was an exciting mix of educational activities and administrative issues with emphasis on scientific advances and refresher courses, including, of course, PET/CT. We are continuing to keep track of governmental issues, including regulatory ones, since they directly affect how we practice.

There are a number of threats, as usual, but also opportunities. In particular, certain FDA regulations may be reviewed and improved. We are hopeful that the FDA will finally relax some regulations relating to radiopharmaceuticals, since the current regulations treat radiopharmaceuticals, which are administered to patients in subphysiologic doses and are given once or a few times during a lifetime, the same as regular pharmaceuticals, which are given in physiologic amounts and may be taken by patients three to four times per day. We will be working closely with SNM on many of these issues over the next few months. In fact, it appears to me that ACNP and SNM have the best working relationship we have seen in quite some time, and I expect that to improve even more. SNM support for ACNP activities has been, and continues to be, excellent—and I also expect that to improve even more.

As some of you know, one of our past presidents, Robert Lull, MD, died unexpectedly in May. He was an ardent supporter of nuclear medicine in general and ACNP in particular. He was always eager to talk about nuclear medicine and had many ideas to help the field and to support ACNP. He served on numerous committees of ACNP and SNM. On a personal note, I always found him upbeat and brimming with suggestions and ideas for us. A resolution memorializing him was passed at the recent AMA meeting (he was the alternate representative of ACNP), sponsored by the California Medical Association and co-sponsored by ACNP. Also, a memorial fund is being set up jointly by SNM, ACNP, the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, and the Education and Research Foundation for the SNM. Currently, the details for the fund are being worked out.

Plans for our annual meeting in February 2006 are being finalized. We have an excellent program, thanks to the scientific program chair, Jay Harolds, MD. It promises to be a fantastic meeting with many excellent presentations. Save the date—February 17–19, 2006—and plan to attend.

An update: The House of Representatives has requested the restoration of funding for nuclear medicine research in the Department of Energy budget. However, the Senate has not specified this with the relevant appropriations language. In July and (possibly) August, the Energy & Water Appropriations Conference Committee will meet to work out the differences between House and Senate legislation. Please write your legislators to support the explicit restoration of nuclear medicine research funding in the Energy & Water Appropriations Conference Report.

*Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, FACNP, FACR
President, ACNP*

ACNP Meets With Nuclear Medicine Industry

Over the past two decades there has been continuing cooperation between the imaging/radiopharmaceutical industry and the ACNP. The results of this cooperative effort have been many programs that benefit patients, physicians, and the entire nuclear medicine community, in essence, strengthening the focus and purpose of our nuclear medicine community. Unfortunately, this partnership has not been as effective within the past five years.

Now more than ever, it seems evident that the nuclear medicine community is facing new and broadening challenges. These challenges will need a substantial joint effort between the members of the U.S. nuclear industry and those of ACNP. For this very reason, ACNP leaders and friends of industry met at the 31st Annual ACNP Meeting in San Diego, CA.

The members present from industry included:

Roy Brown; chair of CORAR
Richard Vitti, MD, GE Healthcare
Jack Slosky, PhD, Bristol-Myers Squibb
Robert Carretta, MD, Mallinckrodt

The members present from the ACNP leadership included:

Bennett Greenspan; MD, president
Virginia Pappas; executive director
Gregg Robinson; associate executive director
Sue Abreu, MD; past president
Michael Middleton, MD; president-elect
Simin Dadparvar, MD, past president

There was a roundtable discussion in which both ACNP leadership and those representing industry expressed regrets about the past five year's efforts. Each member identified several key issues that seem important for the successful continuation of the nuclear medicine community. Each organization worked to benefit the others and the nuclear medicine community as a whole.

The items discussed were:

1. Need to have local ACNP members in each state ready to respond to a radiation emergency.
2. Need for political advocates for isotope supply by identifying key legislatures.
3. **Do not let PET/CT slip away. Make every effort to train the nuclear medicine physicians to be competent CT readers** (This was brought up by many members from both sides.)
4. Advocacy: ACNP must stand as a strong advocate for the nuclear medicine field.
5. Socio-economics: Job opportunities for nuclear medicine physicians and the promotion of stronger candidates coming into the field.
6. ACNP must become stronger and more organized in each consecutive year.
7. Work with the Council on Radioisotopes and Radiopharmaceuticals (CORAR) on issues such as: FDA interactions, reimbursement, interactions and continuation of the POP program, and reaching out to internists, family physicians, psychiatrists, and neurologists.
8. Resident issues: Organization of residents, mentoring program, improving recruitment in residency programs and job markets.
9. CPT coding.
10. Government affairs: Speak with legislators regarding FDA, CMS, etc.
11. Starting an "Administrators Organization" within ACNP.

12. Opening new job opportunities for nuclear medicine trainees.
13. Working to improve the “professional fee” reimbursements.
14. Improvement of ACNP’s website.
15. Networking between nuclear medicine professionals, industry members, etc.
16. Speaker’s Bureau “Information pack”: Distribute through the Internet like auntMinnie.com does.
17. Slides for training referring physicians.
18. Creation of jobs such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners.
19. High-level uranium issues.
20. Homeland security.
21. Creating job opportunities in private practice.
22. RVU assignment with money re-imburement for nuclear medicine procedures.

There was a consensus that the joint effort between ACNP and those in the imaging/radiopharmaceutical industry will benefit both parties and nuclear medicine physicians in the long run. The meeting was adjourned with an agreement to meet more than once per year and to work together. A recommendation was made to meet again this June at the SNM meeting.

Simin Dadparvar, MD

ACNP/SNM Joint Public Affairs Department Update

The ACNP/SNM Public Affairs Department will continue to work hard for you this summer.

DOE—Basic Science Research Funding

The Department of Energy (DOE) budget cuts issue (read www.snm.org/doi for more information) looks to be approaching the final bend, as House and Senate energy and water appropriators come together in conference to work out the differences between their respective versions of the appropriations bill. As you know, the House version of energy and water appropriations allotted \$35 million for the DOE Office of Science’s Biological and Environmental Research (BER) “Medical Applications and Measurement Science Program,” whereas the Senate appropriators opted to increase the overall budget for the BER division but not to allocate to specific programs beneath that division. ACNP/SNM Public Affairs staff will continue to dedicate most of our time and effort to this issue and will focus on making sure the Medical Applications and Measurement Science program is specifically mentioned in the final bill, as it was in the House language. We will likely know more about DOE funding by the time this issue of *Scanner* is released.

CARE Act—Radiologic/NM Technologist Licensure

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), ACNP, and the SNM Technologist Section fully expect the Senate version of the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence (CARE) bill—known as the “RadCARE bill”—to be reintroduced in the 109th Congress very soon, hopefully, by the time you read this article. The radiologic/nuclear medicine (NM) technologist community has been anticipating the reintroduction of RadCARE since the House version (the CARE bill) was reintroduced last spring.

Government Relations at the SNM Annual Meeting

ACNP and SNM members and staff arrived home from a successful SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, where Dr. George Mills of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) participated in the event by attending relevant committee meetings and teaching a continuing education session regarding FDA procedures and guidance. Folks from other government-related entities, such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Department of Energy (DOE), also attended the Annual Meeting and made friendly contact with ACNP/SNM leaders and staff.

Staff Departure

The ACNP/SNM Public Affairs staff is saddened to announce the July 8 departure of David Brake, Associate Director of Health Care Policy. David has been the key staff person on all practice management issues pertaining to coding and reimbursement, the Phantom/Quality Assurance program, and nuclear medicine procedure guidelines. David is leaving the medical association world to pursue other professional interests. A search is currently underway for his replacement.

Michael Peters
Assistant Director of Public Affairs

ACNP and the Nuclear Medicine Political Action Committee

Many of us in nuclear medicine are not aware that there is a Nuclear Medicine Political Action Committee (NMPAC). The NMPAC was created to promote the nuclear medicine community in the national political arena. In the past election cycle NMPAC supported six key Congressional candidates.

At this time, Congress is considering the fiscal year 2006 federal budget, which includes dramatic cuts to nuclear medicine programs at the Department of Energy. NMPAC needs your support to help restore these cuts during this tight fiscal year, so that nuclear medicine can expand and grow, rather than be hindered.

Why is NMPAC Important to the Nuclear Medicine Community?

- Elected officials decide how the nuclear medicine community is to be regulated.
- NMPAC supports members of Congress who support and forward issues important to our community.
- By pooling our individual contributions into one fund, NMPAC can make the most of our political contributions.
- NMPAC is part of building and retaining relationships with Congressional members who understand our issues.
- NMPAC supplements the efforts of the nuclear medicine community by making contributions to key individuals.

Our goals for the coming year:

- Continue to grow NMPAC by recruiting new contributors.
- Ensure that members of the nuclear medicine community become regular, sustained contributors to NMPAC.
- Prioritize and increase the amount of campaign contributions to Congressional candidates.

A PAC is a vital component of any government relations program, along with effective advocacy and our individual efforts to support candidates from our own states and localities. Back the PAC!

Terry Beven, MD
Chair
Nuclear Medicine Political Action Committee

ACNP Residents Organization



Following the ACNP Board of Regents meeting at the SNM 52nd Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, over two dozen residents, fellows, and other nuclear medicine trainees attended the 3rd annual ACNP reception held on Sunday, June 19. This proved to be an excellent opportunity for trainees to network with junior and senior attendings, program directors, and long-time nuclear medicine practitioners as well as to find mentors from the mentorship program participants among the senior and junior faculty ACNP members. Also in attendance were Simin Dadparvar, MD/ACNP past president; Ghassan El-Haddad, MD, ACNP Vice-President; and Daniel Sigg, MD, PhD, ACNP Secretary/Treasurer.

We are now planning for the 3rd meeting of the ACNP Residents Organization to be held at the upcoming 32nd Annual ACNP Meeting, February 18–19, 2006, at the Sheraton Yankee Trader Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, FL. One major change is to encourage the residents, fellows, and other trainees to determine the entire meeting agenda, including the selection of guest speakers and lecture topics. We will also follow up on the mentorship program, as well as continue to award travel grants and best essay awards for the best abstract submissions. At the last annual meeting at San Diego, CA, in January, 2005, the Scientific Program experienced a greater than 60% increase over the previous year in the number of abstract submissions. We hope to continue this expansion, as well as to permit the abstract readers and judges to include residents, fellows, and other nuclear medicine trainees.



Simin Dadparvar, right, talks with one of the residents who attended the ACNP reception at the recent SNM annual meeting in Toronto.

Because the ACNP Residents Organization is what you make of it, anybody wishing to assist in the planning of the 3rd meeting of the ACNP Residents Organization is encouraged to email me at henrykimmd@yahoo.com. This will also be a good opportunity for any nuclear medicine trainees thinking of running for election at that annual meeting. We welcome your ideas, feedback, and contributions!

Last, a hearty welcome to all the new residents and fellows who just started their nuclear medicine training on July 1! If you were not already notified by your program director, please note that ACNP membership is free for all residents, fellows, and trainees during each and every year in training, for both new membership applications and renewals. This is made possible by generous industry support, which is subsidizing the \$50 annual membership fee. You may download the new simplified membership application form from the "JOIN/RENEW" section of the ACNP website at www.acnponline.org. We also have a listserv at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/acnp_ro that will be used primarily for the ACNP Residents Organization officers to send occasional email notices to our membership. Everybody is invited to join in order to receive emails and to view prior messages.

*Henry Kim, MD
President
ACNP Residents Organization*

SAVE THE DATE!
2006 ACNP Annual Meeting
February 18-19, 2006
Sheraton Yankee Trader Hotel
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Meet the Author: Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD

Imaging Marches Forward: Clinical PET and PET/CT by H. Jadvar, J.A. Parker. Springer, 2005.

The field of molecular imaging/nuclear medicine continues to build excitement for the medical community as a whole. To be able to visualize fundamental molecular and biochemical processes in patients in a meaningful way has truly become reality. Of all the available molecular probes and tools, it is clear that FDG with PET-CT is one of the true clinical success stories. Very few would have been able to predict the eventual impact of a simple glucose analog as a marker for imaging cancer, hibernating myocardium, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, and many other important disease processes. Although relatively well entrenched in the imaging research community, there is a growing need to better explain the use of FDG in everyday clinical applications. As more radiologists become involved in the daily interpretation of FDG PET-CT scans, it is important that they understand this technology. With the continued expansion of reimbursement for FDG PET it is important to point out both the advantages and limitations of this technology in the routine management of patients.

This book is a concise summary of the use of FDG PET/PET-CT for the practicing radiologist/nuclear medicine physician. It is relevant to the clinical imaging community on the practical utility of FDG across many areas including oncology. The consistency between chapters and the highly relevant clinical examples make this book a true pleasure to read. The use of figures with both anatomical and functional information makes case presentations very clear. The specific attention to pediatric FDG PET-CT is also particularly welcome.

Drs. Jadvar and Parker have done a wonderful job in putting together a textbook that is clear, concise, and timely. I hope the readers will find it a useful resource for becoming state-of-the-art practitioners in the rapidly growing and exciting field of FDG PET-CT.

*Sanjiv Sam Gambhir MD, PhD
Stanford University
Stanford, CA*



Dr. Hossein Jadvar is an associate professor of radiology and Biomedical Engineering in the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California and a visiting associate in Bioengineering at the California Institute of Technology. He received a BS degree in chemical engineering from Iowa State University in 1982, an MS degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1984, an MS degree in computer engineering in 1984 and a PhD degree in bioengineering in 1988—both from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and an MD degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 1993. His post-graduate medical education in internal medicine, diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine, and positron emission tomography were completed at UCSF (1993-94), Stanford (1994-98), and Harvard (1998-99). He expects to receive the MPH degree from Harvard University in 2005 and the MBA degree from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business in 2007. He holds six patents for instrumentation and computer algorithm designs for applications in cardiology and has received awards for his research efforts from the American College of Nuclear Physicians, National Institutes of Health, Radiological Society of North America, Society of Nuclear Medicine (Marc Tetalman Young Investigator Award), and the University of Chicago. He was elected a Fellow of the American College of Nuclear Medicine and the American College of Nuclear Physicians. His current research interests include clinical applications of PET in patient management and translational molecular imaging research on the pathophysiology of cancer, with particular recent interest in prostate cancer.

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I had the pleasure of reviewing Dr. Jadvar's new book on PET and clinical PET/CT from cover to cover a few weeks ago. I thoroughly enjoyed this well written book that was co-authored by our distinguished colleagues Drs. Jadvar and Parker. The basic science and clinical aspects of PET/CT is very eloquently described. I recommend this book very highly to all of our friends involved in PET/CT interpretation.

Simin Dadpavar, MD, FACNP

NIH Grant Funded for Dr. Jadvar

Congratulations to Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD. The National Institutes of Health—National Cancer Institute announced in May that his grant for “FDG PET-CT evaluation of metastatic prostate cancer,” would be fully funded at \$3.4 million over the next 5 years. The study will start in early August after institutional review board approval. Dr. Jadvar just completed a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Harvard University and will begin work in an Executive MBA program at USC Marshall School of Business in early September.

Dr. Jadvar is an active member of ACNP Board of Regents who recently was honored as a Fellow at the 31st Annual Meeting.

In Memoriam: Robert J. Lull, MD, FACNP, 1940-2005



Robert J. Lull died untimely on May 19 in San Francisco. He was a close friend and colleague and will be sorely missed by his peers and the nuclear medicine community.

He was born August 23, 1940, in Buffalo, NY, and received his undergraduate degree from Canisius College in 1962 and his MD degree from the Albany Medical College in 1966. He did his internship and internal medicine residency at Brooke General Hospital, San Antonio, TX, from 1967-1970 and a nuclear medicine residency at William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, TX, for two years. Bob was assigned to the nuclear medicine department at Brooke Army Medical Center where he became chief of nuclear medicine. He left Texas in 1976 to become chief of nuclear medicine at Letterman Army Medical Center at the Presidio in San Francisco, CA, where he retired as a colonel from the army and became chief of nuclear medicine at San Francisco General Hospital in

1990.

Bob was very active in numerous medical organizations including the San Francisco Medical Society where he served as editor of their monthly magazine and was the president of the society in 2002. He was well known as a long-standing supporter of the ACNP. Bob was a past president of the ACNP, a strong supporter of the POP program and the resident outreach program. He was instrumental in many of the ACNP teaching programs and meetings and was always willing to assist the College in any way he could. He was also active in the SNM, being chair of the Academic Council at the time of his death and very involved with the Young Professionals Committee. Bob was a mentor to many of the residents and junior faculty that rotated through his department and through UCSF, and he kept in touch with the graduates of the nuclear medicine programs that he had trained. Bob was also active in the process of securing a site for the safe disposal of low-level radioactive waste. He served on the board of the CalRad Forum and later as a commissioner on the State of California low-level waste board. He was also a past president of the California chapter of the ACNP. Bob was recently elected to the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and was actively involved with the board at the time of his death.

Bob enjoyed life outside of medicine through music, boating, horseback riding, the opera, fine food and wine. We would have dinner and wine in a variety of cafes together each time I visited San Francisco, and although we would always discuss some aspect of nuclear medicine, Bob would be sure that most of the evening was a social, not a medical, event. His smile, sense of humor, and gentle demeanor will be sorely missed by all of his friends.

Bob is survived by his ex-wife and good friend, Lee Lull; his companion, Jan McNaughton; his sons; Jonathan and Benjamin; and three grandchildren; Rowan, Catherine, and Julian Lull, as well as his brother Donald and wife Carol.

In honor of Bob's lifetime commitment to nuclear medicine, the ACNP, SNM, and ABNM are establishing a charitable fund in his name that will be administered through the Education and Research Foundation for the SNM.

Robert Carretta, MD, FACNP

Volunteer News Scouts Needed for ACNP Web Site

We strongly encourage you to share any news material you may run across regarding the practice of nuclear medicine at the local, state, or federal level to be posted on ACNP's Web site. Please give us the source of your information with a link to the source. Please send your e-mails to sdadparvar@aol.com.

Share Your News and Information

We would appreciate it if you would share any information regarding your institution or practice management in *Scanner*. If you have received a grant from NIH, DOE, U.S. Army, etc.... or if you have successfully passed a milestone such as NRC inspection, the Nuclear Medicine Residency Review, or practice accreditation ... please let us know. We will publish your experience and help you share your wealth of knowledge with ACNP members. Please e-mail your information to the editor at sdadparvar@aol.com.

ACNP Welcomes New Members

Tristen E. Eckersberg-Rhodes, MD, Bronx, NY
Dominick Lamonica, MD, Buffalo, NY
Renee M. Moadel, MD, Great Neck, NY
Yvette I. Sheline, MD, Saint Louis, MO
Jason Willis, MD, Iowa City, IA

Scanner is published by The American College of Nuclear Physicians, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20191 and online at <http://www.acnponline.org>.

Editor-in-Chief: Simin Dadparvar, MD

Managing Editor: Ann Coleman