

SCANNER

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President's Message

SNM AND ACNP COMBINE FORCES

It is again my pleasure to submit the Presidents Report to the *ACNP Scanner*. The year is moving quickly, with several key occurrences in the last several months.



Michael Middleton

The most important and significant development has been the near completion of the combined program for the 2007 Mid-Winter Educational Symposium, which is jointly sponsored by SNM and ACNP. You probably have been receiving notifications and advertisements for this new and innovative joint program, scheduled for February 15–18 in San Antonio, TX.

The joint meeting template for the meeting is almost finalized; it provides an opportunity to earn four days (up to 23.75 hrs.) of CME credit for a bargain price of around \$300. The program features not only traditional educational lectures but also several sessions on practice development, malpractice issues, ethics, and practice accreditation. PET/CT, SPECT/CT, and cardiac CT will be discussed as well as physician training and maintenance of certification–related topics. Read with the Expert sessions are also included, and we have teamed with some of the SNM councils for joint sessions. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to hear presentations by residents in nuclear medicine, as well as attend the SNM council presentations on Saturday and Sunday. The CME sessions will begin Thursday, February 15.

I want to thank everyone in the SNM office who worked on the planning, organizing, and implementation of our first joint meeting. Also, I would like to thank Dr. Hazem Chehabi, who has done a very nice job spearheading the scientific program on behalf of the ACNP Regents.

Part of the ACNP mission is to help other physicians and patients understand the value and utility of nuclear medicine studies. The recent Nuclear Medicine Week is a reminder that we need to promote our specialty. We have an Advocacy Committee, currently headed by Dr. Bennett Greenspan, to help coordinate some advocacy activities. Along these lines, I recently headed an “Update in Imaging Conference” for primary care physicians sponsored by Scott & White Clinic/Texas A&M University at which members of my department explained not only trends in radiology and nuclear medicine but also the appropriate use of our complex imaging modalities. These community physicians expressed great interest in our presentations, and all lecture topics were well received. Such conferences should become more commonplace to promote the value of our specialty to referring physicians.

Our regents also discussed a number of issues via conference call in late September. We support the credentialing statements for cardiac PET and cardiovascular CT that are being written by SNM. Our financial position is stronger than in recent years, and we are making strides.... but there is much work to be done!

As president of the ACNP, I ask for your support. The work of our ACNP committees must go on! If you would like to participate, please contact me at mmiddleton@swmail.sw.org or Mike Nelson at mnelson@snm.org.

Once again, please don't forget to take advantage of the opportunity to attend our jointly sponsored Educational Symposium in San Antonio. I hope to see y'all there!

*Michael Middleton, MD, FACNP
President, ACNP*

ACNP

33RD ANNUAL MEETING

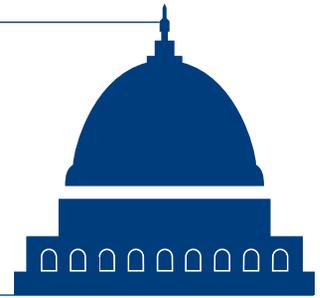
REGISTER NOW AND SAVE

Take advantage of the pre-registration discount for the 33rd Annual Meeting of the ACNP, February 15–18 in San Antonio, TX, by registering now. Register online at: <http://acnp.snm.org/am>.

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ACNP/ SNM Government Relations Update



DOE Basic Science Funding—Energy & Water Development Appropriations

As you know, when the House version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill was passed in late spring 2006, it did not contain funding for basic nuclear medicine research at the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science. However, thanks in large part to the collaborative efforts of the professional, patient, and industry communities, the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee restored \$25 million specifically for nuclear medicine in its version of the bill. ACNP, SNM, our allies in industry, patient advocate groups, and likeminded associations will now focus legislative relations efforts on securing a final allocation of \$25 million for nuclear medicine research when the House and Senate versions are reconciled later this year.

NRC Proposed Rule on Accelerator Products

On September 11, SNM, the American College of Radiology, and the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology submitted public comments in response to the proposed U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rulemaking on naturally occurring and accelerator-produced radioactive material (NARM), 10 CFR Part 20, 30, 31, et al., Requirements for Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material; Proposed Rule (RIN 3150-AH84) (http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/downloader/narm_lib/1645-0031.pdf). The proposed rulemaking incorporates NARM into the NRC's regulatory framework as mandated by Section 651(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The comments letter requested several modifications to the proposed rulemaking, including: adding a category exemption from financial assurance for decommissioning of facilities with cyclotrons 18 MeV and below, explicit language limiting fee category 3.S to a per facility basis, specific DAC values for ¹⁵O and ¹⁵N added to 10 CFR Part 20 Appendix B, comprehensive companion guidance documentation, and further efforts to inform and educate the regulated community during the transition period.

The NRC will publish the final version of the NARM rule by February 7, 2007.

Requesting Exemption from the NRC Public Dose Limits for Certain Caregivers of Hospital Patients

The NRC recently released Regulatory Issue Summary 2006-18 Requesting Exemption from the Public Dose Limits for Certain Caregivers of Hospital Patients (RIS-06-018) (<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues/2006/ri200618.pdf>), which provides guidance to licensees on the means they may use to obtain an exemption, on a situational basis, from the dose limits in 10 CFR 20.1301 for "caregivers" (family, close friends, etc.) of patients. It is important to note that caregiver status does apply to hospital staff, who remain subject to the existing occupational dose limits.

Dose limits are normally imposed by the NRC for the protection of people who are exposed involuntarily—as is typically the case with public exposure—or as a result of their respective occupations. The caregiver situation is different in that it involves a voluntary decision by the family member or close friend, with the approval of the attending medical staff, to incur radiation exposure as an incidental consequence of

the need to perform the caregiving function. The justification for incurring the exposure is that family and friends are beneficial to the wellness of patients and should, therefore, be considered a part of treatment.

Technologist Legislative Issues—RadCARE and CARE on the Move

Under the leadership of Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY), the Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee voted unanimously to approve S 2322, the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence (RadCARE) bill. The bill now moves to the full Senate, where, hopefully, it will be considered before Congress adjourns later this year.

The RadCARE and CARE (House version, HR 1426) legislation will amend the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health & Safety Act of 1981 (42 USC 10001, et seq.) to provide certain enforcement measures involving reimbursement and will charge the Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services to promulgate updated regulations specifying education and credentialing requirements for professionals who perform medical imaging procedures and radiation therapy treatments.

During the HELP Committee mark-up on September 20, the Senate RadCARE bill was slightly revised to ensure it would not appear to be encroaching on territory already legislated by the Mammography Quality Standards Act. Some language was added to allow partial exemptions, with alternative pathways for specific "rural" (as identified by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board) or underserved areas, and to allow state governors the opportunity to appeal if the prescribed alternatives are unfeasible. Finally, a clause was included to ensure the law would be reviewed for renewal by the year 2016.

On the House of Representatives' side, the Energy & Commerce Committee may substitute the Senate version in place of the House CARE bill language and move the bill as part of a legislative package in November after the mid-term elections.

The RadCARE and CARE bills have long been supported by the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, a coalition of 17 organizations supporting the need for federal educational and credentialing standards for medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals founded by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the SNM Technologist Section.

Michael Peters
Assistant Director of Public Affairs, SNM/ACNP

Nominations for Annual Mentorship Award Due January 5

ACNP values the outstanding mentors who have assisted residents and fellows in achieving their goals throughout the past year. The second annual "Best Mentor of the Year" award will be given on February 15 at the ACNP Annual Meeting. Nominations for the award are being accepted through January 5. You may nominate an ACNP member by submitting a one-page description of why you believe he or she deserves this award. Send your nomination to Mike Nelson, ACNP, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20190. If you have any questions, contact Simin Dadparvar, MD, at sdadparvar@aol.com.

Profile

in Nuclear Medicine: Henry D. Royal, MD, FACNP

Henry Royal is first of all an expert and excellent nuclear medicine physician. He has been recognized in the publication *Best Doctors in America* since its first edition in 1992. He has also been very active in promoting and improving the practice of nuclear medicine, recently serving as president of SNM and currently serving as executive director of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. He has provided a rational voice about radiation safety in many national and international settings.



Henry D. Royal

Henry was born in Connecticut and did his undergraduate training at Providence College. He went to medical school at St. Louis University but came back to the Northeast for his training in internal medicine at Brown University. He received his nuclear medicine training at Harvard's Joint Program in Nuclear Medicine, finishing his residency in 1979.

Henry stayed on at the Joint Program, becoming a staff member at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. He was active in nuclear medicine research, with an emphasis on quantitative procedures, publishing papers in several areas, particularly cardiovascular, cerebral, and renal nuclear medicine. He had an interest in instrumentation, especially computers, and published extensively on topics related to the rapid expansion of the use of computers in nuclear medicine. He began to develop valuable international contacts when, in 1982, he took a sabbatical at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, Australia, and, in 1985, was visiting professor at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, Israel.

Henry has always had a strong interest in teaching, being very popular with trainees and being a highly sought-after speaker. On first joining the staff at the Beth Israel Hospital, he took charge of nuclear medicine education for the radiology residents, and one year later became the deputy director of residency training for Harvard's Joint Program in Nuclear Medicine.

In 1987, he returned to St. Louis to become associate direc-

tor of nuclear medicine at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology. He continued his interest in research, particularly in lung scintigraphy and recently in radioimmunotherapy, and he has continued working in resident education. His contributions were recognized with a promotion to professor of radiology in 1993.

Due to his long-standing interest in radiation safety, Henry was called upon in the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident. He was the co-team leader of

- the health effects section of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) International Chernobyl Project. This group
- made an early visit to the Chernobyl region in 1989. After
- heavily publicized concern was raised about early human
- radiation experiments, he served on the Presidential Advisory
- Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

- He has served on several National Academy of Sciences
- committees including the Committee on an Assessment of
- CDC Radiation Studies, the Committee on Guidelines for
- Thyroid Cancer Screening after Exposure to Radioactive Iodine
- Fallout, and the Committee on Public Health Implications of
- Exposure to I-131 from Nevada Atomic Bomb Tests. He has
- provided a scientifically based prospective on radiation safety
- on myriad national and international committees, including
- serving on the board of the National Council on Radiation
- Protection and Measurements (NCRP) and as scientific vice
- president for the NCRP's Radiation Protection in Medicine
- Committee. He is currently the scientific chair of the Veterans'
- Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards and is a mem-
- ber of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Scientific
- Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).

- Henry has always been active in improving and promoting
- nuclear medicine. His early interest in medical decision mak-
- ing drew on his quantitative abilities and his interest in health
- care policy. He was the driving force behind the development
- of the SNM's procedure guidelines, and he served as chair of

Continued on page 4. See Profile.

Leadership Report: ACNP Is Moving Forward

As we head into a busy fall season, I am impressed with the progress that ACNP has made in pursuing its mission. Collaboration with SNM and other members of the medical community remains at an all-time high, and ACNP is leveraging its political expertise to secure the positive political decisions that advance nuclear medicine and patient care.

I would like to encourage you all to attend the joint ACNP/SNM Mid-Winter Educational Symposium, February 15-18, in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Hazem Chehabi of ACNP has worked tirelessly to develop outstanding educational programs that are timely and will provide invaluable continuing education credits. Drs. Chehabi of ACNP and Peter Herscovitch of SNM have blended their medical expertise to develop a program that promises to be innovative and stimulating. Of equal note is the incredible work of Dr. Simin Dadpavar, who has pulled together an exciting agenda for our residents' program. The event is an excellent



Michael S. Nelson

- opportunity to obtain invaluable CME credit for an extremely afford-
- able fee.

- As we look to the future, I ask your assistance to ensure that ACNP
- has strong leadership. The current members of the ACNP Board of
- Regents have demonstrated an incredible commitment to ACNP that
- has resulted in renewed strength in educational and advocacy initia-
- tives. In the upcoming months, we will be seeking new regents to
- continue the momentum that has been created by our current leaders.
- ACNP is reaching out to you to continue this commitment. Your expe-
- rience or interest in public policy, organizational issues, and practice
- standards can complement your expertise in medical care initiatives to
- strengthen ACNP's position as the premier nuclear medicine organiza-
- tion with a mission in socio-economic endeavors. Consider giving back
- to the nuclear medicine community by serving on the ACNP Board of
- Regents. If you have any questions, please call me at 703-326-1195.

- See you in San Antonio!

- *Michael S. Nelson*
- *Chief Operating Officer, SNM/ACNP*



David Ng

ACNP Residents Organization *President's Message*

Hello, Residents and Fellows,

Time really flies. Almost one year has passed since I became president of the ACNP Residents Organization (RO), and it is time for election of new officers. We will be holding elections at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio. We need candidates to run for president and vice-president of the RO and for president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer of the West Coast and Mid-West Chapters. We are in the midst of forming the Southern States and East Coast Chapters. To be eligible for election, you need to be a member of ACNP and must be present at the Annual Meeting. You also need to prepare a short speech. Please submit your CV to acnp_ro@yahoo.com if you are interested in running for office.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts for the annual meeting is coming up soon, and I encourage all residents and fellows in nuclear medicine, cardiology, radiation oncology, and radiology to submit abstracts for the meeting.

We are in the midst of compiling multiple-choice questions that are similar in style/difficulty to ABNM-type questions.

We plan to compile the questions and distribute them to members at the Annual Meeting. We hope residents will

create and submit questions. (As you all know, the ABNM does not distribute the in-service examination to residents to review their mistakes. It is also difficult to get practice multiple-choice questions in nuclear medicine.) We hope this resource will help nuclear medicine residents become accustomed to answering multiple-choice questions in nuclear medicine. When you write your question, please include an explanation of each response is either correct or wrong. Please encourage faculty in your program to contribute questions as well. Question writers and their institutions will be acknowledged. We hope this will prove to be a valuable resource when one is preparing for the boards. The chapter whose members contribute the most questions will get a best chapter award.

Feel free to contact me at acnp_ro@yahoo.com if you are interested in running for office. Send your multiple-choice questions in nuclear medicine to the same e-mail address.

*David Ng, MD
President, ACNP RO*

In the Spotlight: ACNP's 33rd Annual Meeting

Dear colleagues,

By the time you receive this issue of *Scanner*, the final plans for our annual meeting will have been completed. As you all know, this year's meeting is a combined program—the 2007 Mid-Winter Education Symposium—jointly sponsored by ACNP and SNM on February 15–18 in San Antonio, TX.

A lot of effort has gone in to combining the two programs so that they cover not only the academic aspects of our specialty but also a variety of socioeconomic issues essential to our field.

The residents sessions are rich in contents, allowing for clinical and research papers and addressing issues of interest to physicians on the verge of branching out into the worlds of academia and private practice.

I hope you will make every effort to join us in San Antonio for what will prove to be a strong program and a rewarding experience.

*Hazem H. Chehabi, MD, FACNM
Program Chair*

Profile. *Continued from page 3.*

the SNM Committee on Health Care Policy and Practice. He has served in many leadership capacities in SNM, including president in 2003–4.

Continuing his interest in residency training, Henry is currently the executive director of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. However, the board is no longer important simply for initial certification; it is becoming more and more important in certifying the continuing education of nuclear medicine physicians. Henry is overseeing the rather dramatic change in the relationship between the board and its diplomates brought on by maintenance of certification requirements. Retaining and, in some cases, regaining profession control over the certification process will hopefully allow improving health care delivery while minimizing bureaucratic burdens. By joining the board of directors of the American Board of Medical Specialties, the parent organization of the ABNM, Henry will also be able to advocate for us in the larger medical community.

Nominations for ACNP Fellowships Due January 5

ACNP is seeking outstanding candidates for fellow status in the year 2007. Eligible applicants must be board-certified nuclear medicine physicians and/or scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear medicine and/or the ACNP. Candidates may be nominated by ACNP fellows or may be self-nominated.

Please review the eligibility requirements, then fill out the application and send it, along with two recommendation letters from current ACNP fellows, to Mike Nelson, ACNP, 1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20190, by January 5. For more information and the application, go to www.acnponline.org and click on ABOUT ACNP/ MEMBERSHIP/FELLOWSHIP or call Mike Nelson at 703-326-1195.