SNMMI: Academic Council Summary Report

Report to SNMMI Committee on Councils/Centers and House of Delegates

June 2014

Activities and Accomplishments

The Academic Council continues to demonstrate its resilience, vitality and activity in the tradition of service, innovation and support to education in Nuclear Medicine and to the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors. This year has been busy with many changes in resident education with the introduction of ACGME New Accreditation System and milestones which became effective July 1, 2013.

Although the Council is stable financially, membership appears to be decreasing despite efforts to recruit members especially those involved in education. The Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association (NMPDA) continues to be a vital part of the Academic Council, and is chaired by Daniel Lee, MD, who is committed to improving communication between nuclear medicine program directors. As of May 1, 2014, the Academic Council has a total of 145 members (this time last year, the AC membership totaled 163).

The Academic Council sponsored an Education Session at the 2014 Mid-Winter Meeting in Palm Springs, CA, entitled, “Sustaining Education and Practice in Today’s Environment.” Dr. Richard Gunderman, a well-known imaging educator from Indiana University, was the keynote speaker and discussed milestones, clinical competency committee’s role and structure, the value of other new ACGME mandated committees, roles and interrelationships of professional organizations and how they impact nuclear medicine education, and the psychology of effective teaching. The session was very well attended.

Also during the 2014 Mid-Winter Meeting, the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors (NMPDs) discussed program options for combined nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology programs at five institutions approved by the ABNM, which has actively promoted combined modality residency training and sought pilot programs. The institutions with approved programs are University of Arkansas (UAMS), Emory University, University of Michigan, Saint Luke’s-Roosevelt (SLR), and Stanford University. UAMS, Michigan and SLR have proposed and/or initiated 4-year imaging programs to provide a minimum of 16 months of NM within the context of DR residency, and Stanford has initiated a 5-year imaging program incorporating research. Emory proposed both 4- and 5-year programs providing more clinically-oriented training and clinical and research-oriented training, respectively.

The Academic Council has many exciting educational opportunities planned for the annual meeting in St. Louis this year. On Saturday evening the academic council, together with the YPC, is presenting a SAM session on Achievement of Item Writing excellence. The session will be interactive and will focus on how to become more skilled in writing questions that test knowledge effectively. On Tuesday the Academic Council will present a session on Bone Densitometry. Since the meeting in St. Louis, we are fortunate to have Dr. Diemar who is a recognized expert in bone densitometry together with Dr. Wallis who will present a session on bone densitometry and osteoporosis. We also will have the Tom Miller Memorial Lecture that is scheduled for Tuesday at 12:30 pm on Quality in Nuclear Medicine: How to define it and how to measure it. The session will be presented by George Segall, MD, and Henry Royal, MD. Dr Tom Miller was very active in nuclear medicine education until his untimely passing. He practiced nuclear medicine at Washington University in St. Louis and made many contributions to the SNMMI and the specialty.
The Academic Council intern program is doing well. The current intern for 2013-2015 is Rafay Ahmed, MD, who graduated from the nuclear medicine residency program at the Yale University School of Medicine in June 2013. He is currently completing a Molecular Imaging/PET-CT Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh under the mentorship of Drs. James Mountz and Carolyn Anderson. His research involves the study of mouse models to assess post-chemotherapy apoptosis using F-18 ML-10 PET. Dr. Ahmed is also a Board Member of the ACNM Resident Organization. Dr. David Brandon, Emory University, is Dr. Ahmed’s AC mentor.

Looking Forward

Jon Baldwin, DO, will become the new President of the Academic Council at the end of the 2014 Annual Meeting and Leonie Gordon, MD will become the Immediate Past President. David Lewis, MD, will remain Treasurer of the Council and Daniel Lee, MD will remain the NMPD Chair of the Council. The Academic Council would like to thank the following officers who will be rotating off of the council in June 2014: Tracy Yarbough, MD, PhD, Secretary; Ben Greenspan, MD, FACNM, FACR, Immediate Past President. We would also like to thank the following board members who are rotating off of the board in June 2014: Irfan Farukhi, MD, ABNM; Jennifer Jurgens, MD; Janis O’Malley, MD.

The Academic Council is happy to welcome two new officers and three board members for the 2014-2015 year. They are: David Brandon, MD (Vice President), Janis O’Malley, MD (Secretary), Marques L. Bradshaw, MD (Board Member), Jay S. Hiller, MD (Board Member), and Andrei Iagaru, MD (Board Member).

The Academic Council will continue to provide information and support for Nuclear Medicine Program Directors, in part by providing sessions at the SNMMI annual and Midwinter meetings, and by participating in the AUR meeting, in addition to providing multiple resources for Nuclear Medicine Program Directors.

Officers of the Council 2013-2014

- **President:** Leonie L. Gordon, M.D., FACNM
- **Vice President:** Jon A. Baldwin, DO
- **Secretary:** Tracy L. Yarbrough, M.D., Ph.D.
- **Treasurer:** David W. Lewis, MD, PhD
- **Chair, NMPDA:** Daniel Lee, MD
- **Immediate Past President:** Bennet S. Greenspan, M.D.

Mission

The Academic Council is dedicated to the scientific interchange of ideas among SNMMI 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 SNMMI 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.