SNMMI: THE INTEGRAL THREAD

Annual Report

2016
New molecular imaging agents and technologies are continually in development around the globe to address critical healthcare needs. This process—from concept through the collaboration and research stages, publication and presentation, clinical trials, advocacy, obtaining approval and reimbursement, and finally to implementation and education on use—is lengthy and complex.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) is integrally woven into every step of the development process, bringing innovators and stakeholders together and serving as resource, facilitator, advocate, publisher/communicator, and educator. The goal is to improve the lives of patients through the highest quality tools for diagnosis and personalized, targeted therapy. Let’s trace the thread of SNMMI’s role throughout the development process.

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SNMMI’s Annual Meeting pulls THOUSANDS OF PHYSICIANS, SCIENTISTS, AND TECHNOLOGISTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE to network and share research findings with a broad audience. Networking at the Annual Meeting leads to new ideas and collaborations. After the meeting, research is shared further through the Virtual Meeting, Virtual Poster Hall and online abstracts.

The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM) moves papers QUICKLY FROM SUBMISSION THROUGH PUBLICATION so the scientific and medical community can BUILD ON AND ADVANCE medical research, widening its impact. JOURNAL content is disseminated through members, institutions and databases to the community and beyond. Key SNMMI groups and partners work to provide fundamental support for researchers. For example, the Radiopharmaceutical Sciences and Correlative Imaging Councils and the Committee on Radiopharmaceuticals are sources of guidance and expertise; the Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging funds grant and award programs to help make innovative research possible; and the society’s policy and regulatory groups spearhead advocacy for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding.

Research results from SNMMI journals, the Annual Meeting and other sources within the community are disseminated through the society’s website, SNMMI SmartBrief, and news media and newsletters. SNMMI’s SOCIAL NETWORKS on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube are playing an increasingly important role in sharing and disseminating research.
When new radiopharmaceuticals are developed, SNMMI’s Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation (CMIIT) and Clinical Trials Network offer resources that can help facilitate the transition of an agent or technique into clinical trials and, ultimately, practice. The CTN works with both academic and industry sponsors. For multicenter academic trials, CTN provides study coordination services—assisting with regulatory requirements, image acquisition, trial design, data collection and storage, and access to RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS—all with an emphasis on ensuring quality of research. For industry, CTN provides additional study start-up services—trial design consultation, SCANNER VALIDATION and document preparation. In addition, the CTN has created a wide range of EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS specific to imaging clinical research.

SNMMI assists in other roles as well, facilitating research and funding initiatives such as the Michael J. Fox prize announced in 2016 and the 5-year project on Brain SAFTIE (Scanning to Assess For Traumatic Injury and Encephalopathy), kicked off in May.

Innovative research is a global endeavor. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION is essential to the ongoing development of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging advances for the benefit of patients everywhere. SNMMI advances research and science by drawing the global nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community together to stimulate discussion, share information about successes and failures and steer a path forward for research and science.

- 7 radiopharmaceuticals in use by the CTN
- 262 validated scanners
- 3 reader training courses online – NETSpot, Axumin, and 68Ga-DOTATOC
- 74% of JNM submissions are from outside the U.S.
To reach clinical practice and make a difference in patients’ lives, new diagnostic and therapeutic agents must first be approved for clinical use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and for reimbursement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). SNMMI members, committees, and staff provide significant support for these processes.

From quality assurance to advocacy, SNMMI ACTIVELY MAKES THE CASE that nuclear medicine and molecular imaging improve patient care. The Government Relations Committee carefully monitors all legislative and regulatory activity and identifies areas where intervention is necessary. The FDA Task Force works to create a more efficient and timely process for approval of NEW TRACERS. The Committee on Coding and Reimbursement works actively with CMS to develop reimbursement that supports appropriate utilization of nuclear medicine procedures in medical practice. SNMMI committee members, leadership and staff also coordinate with other stakeholders, including physician and patient groups, to create coalitions that consolidate influence.

On a parallel track, SNMMI works with LEGISLATORS on issues essential to the profession. For example, in 2016 SNMMI worked closely with the National Nuclear Security Administration in efforts to develop a domestic source of molybdenum-99, with the NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ON TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, with the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) ON SCOPE OF PRACTICE, and with the FDA and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention on compounding radiopharmaceuticals.

When final regulation and legislation are released, SNMMI helps define how these newly approved products are best utilized and integrated into practice.

11 young professionals have completed Henkin Fellowships, with direct personal exposure to SNMMI’s regulatory and legislative activities.

SNMMI efforts helped support FDA approval of two new tracers, Axumin and NETSpot.

SNMMI-TS has been engaged in legislative activities around licensure in 23 states.

SNMMI advocated against an NRC proposal to reduce training hours for NM therapy from 700 to 80.

5,000 letters sent through an SNMMI letter-writing campaign worked against a VA proposal to allow nurses to perform and interpret medical imaging studies.

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SNMMI holds a central role in establishing best practices, quality standards, and practice resources for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging practitioners and the wider medical community to help provide high-quality, state-of-the-art patient management.

Beginning in January 2018, all referring physicians will be required to reference appropriate use criteria (AUC) developed by a “qualified, provider-led entity” when ordering a procedure. SNMMI is one of only a few groups that have qualified as a provider-led entity. This status allows SNMMI’s Guidance Oversight Committee to oversee development of a comprehensive library of evidence-based AUC that can be used to order nuclear medicine procedures.

The Quality and Evidence Committee oversees SNMMI quality-related initiatives, and the Committee on Procedure Standards continually collaborates with other nuclear medicine societies to develop, review and update procedure standards for nuclear medicine and therapy.

SNMMI provides an array of practice resources for members and the community. With CMS constantly updating reimbursement, the Coding Corner, overseen by the Committee on Coding and Reimbursement, is an invaluable resource to many SNMMI members. CTN provides valuable quality and practice tools such as standardized imaging protocols and scanner validation.

Two calculators available on the SNMMI website show the recommended administered activity for pediatric and adult patients and estimates of the effective and critical organ dose for nuclear medicine procedures. The Dose Optimization Task Force, which developed those tools, also oversees SNMMI’s collaboration in the Image Gently and Image Wisely campaigns, which provide further guidance on dose optimization.

Quality and practice resources are the underpinnings of some of the society’s many educational and training initiatives.
Education & Training

Just as SNMMI draws together essential research and care standards for the field, the society also unites the energy and commitment of hundreds of member volunteers in developing and running SNMMI’s education and training programs. Through the Annual and Mid-Winter meetings, continuing education courses, webinars, case studies, review courses, journal-based offerings, resource books and study guides, SNMMI provides a wide mix of online and meeting-based programming to meet the needs of nuclear medicine physicians, research scientists, pharmacists, and technologists.

SNMMI members and groups are key to these activities. The Scientific Program Committee, in collaboration with SNMMI councils and centers, develops the educational and scientific program for the live meetings; the committees on Continuing Education review and assign CE credit for both live and enduring educational content; and the Committee on Education provides coordination and develops strategy for SNMMI’s overall educational mission.

SNMMI supports members’ professional development throughout their careers, from training and residency through certification and beyond. This work is accomplished through the councils and centers of excellence, internship programs, leadership development programs, and the Young Professionals Committee. Referring physicians and patients need to be educated about new options and their benefits. The Committee on Outreach and its working groups collaborate with referring physician and patient associations to increase understanding among those groups of how to best integrate nuclear medicine and molecular imaging into their work.

All SNMMI activities, from early research to education, ultimately focus on providing the highest possible quality of care to the patient.

- 220 offerings available online in the SNMMI Learning Center
- 513 presentations at the 2016 Annual Meeting
- Close to 150 members have benefited from the SNMMI-TS Leadership Academy in the past 10 years
- 7 outreach working groups are working with referring physician and patient groups to educate their members about nuclear medicine and molecular imaging
SNMMI has a long-standing commitment to supporting referring physicians and patients, partnering with their organizations on issues of mutual interest and providing educational programs to help them understand molecular imaging and the constructive role it can play in both diagnostic and therapeutic settings.

SNMMI’s outreach efforts focus on working with referring physician and patient organizations to identify barriers to the appropriate use of nuclear medicine, molecular imaging and therapy. Surveys provide the society with very valuable guidance on where to focus outreach efforts.

The Outreach Committee oversees seven working groups focused on priority topics for the coming year, including disseminating information about SNMMI’s new appropriate use criteria to referring physicians. These groups develop targeted “roadshows,” which educate referring physicians on specific types of nuclear medicine, and educational sessions to be offered at referring physician conferences. They also play a key role in communicating information about SNMMI’s new appropriate use criteria directly to their key audiences.

The Patient Advocacy Advisory Board (PAAB) was established to incorporate the patient voice into the society’s programming and materials. Through partnerships with patient advocacy organizations, the PAAB helps explain to patients the constructive role molecular imaging can play in diagnosis and treatment.

In nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, the ultimate focus is always the patient—how to create new equipment or probes to diagnose earlier and more accurately; how to deliver the most effective therapy for a specific patient’s disease; and how to monitor and adjust treatment to ensure optimum results.


- More than 40 million nuclear medicine procedures are performed each year
- Demand for radioisotopes is increasing by up to 5% annually
- More than 10,000 hospitals worldwide use radioisotopes in medicine
- The use of radiopharmaceuticals in diagnosis is growing at over 10% per year*
WHAT DOES THE SNMMI-TS PDEF FUNDRAISING SUPPORT?

- Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarship
- SNMMI-TS Professional Development Scholarship
- Leadership Academy

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*As of April 15, 2017

The Professional Development and Education Fund (PDEF) was created in 2001 by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technology Section (SNMMI-TS) to provide a forum in which corporate entities could contribute financial support to technologist related programs and activities. Over the past eleven years, the PDEF has evolved and grown into a strong fundraising arm for the SNMMI-TS.

The leadership of SNMMI sincerely thanks our physician, scientist and technologist members for providing philanthropic support, via the Annual Fund, to our mission and for these strategic goals:

- Advance the development and approval of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies
- Facilitate and support the availability and clinical utilization of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies
- Increase appropriate utilization of radionuclide therapy
- Advance and promote quality, value and safety of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging
- Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment

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*As of April 15, 2017

Financials

Revenue:
- Meetings: $4,511,773 (42.1%)
- Membership: $2,578,203 (24.1%)
- Communications: $1,961,249 (18.3%)
- Leadership: $1,098,879 (10.3%)
- Education: $344,213 (3.2%)
- CMIIT, Councils, and PET and Therapy Centers: $121,563 (1.1%)
- Other: $93,878 (0.9%)

Total revenue and support: $10,709,758 (100.0%)

Expense:
- Meetings: $2,077,229 (19.5%)
- Communications: $1,996,392 (18.9%)
- Leadership: $1,479,448 (14.0%)
- Education: $1,228,952 (11.6%)
- SNMMI Clinical Trials Network: $450,821 (4.3%)
- Grants, awards and related expenses: $315,875 (3.0%)
- Outreach: $256,478 (2.4%)
- CMIIT, Councils, and PET and Therapy Centers: $142,205 (1.3%)
- Evidence and Quality: $59,543 (0.6%)

Subtotal for program services: $8,006,943 (75.6%)

Support services:
- Finance: $772,393 (7.3%)
- Information Services: $738,815 (7.0%)
- Administrative: $535,859 (5.1%)
- Development: $294,496 (2.8%)
- Membership development: $235,156 (2.2%)

Subtotal for support services: $2,576,719 (24.4%)

Total expense: $10,583,662 (100.0%)

Change in net assets before total return from investment activity: $126,096

Total return from investment activity: $565,632

Change in net assets: $866,688

Net assets:
- Beginning of year: $9,003,951
- End of year: $9,695,679

Note: The financial information presented above was derived from the audited financial statements of SNMMI for the year ended September 30, 2016. The independent auditor’s report accompanying the audited financial statements expressed an unmodified opinion.
SNMMI Mission
To improve human health by advancing nuclear medicine, molecular imaging, and radionuclide therapy.

SNMMI Core Values
• Excellence in patient care
• Ethical behavior and integrity
• Respect for all people and ideas
• Fostering inquiry and reflection
• Visionary leadership
• Excellence, professionalism and collaboration
• Lifelong education