Dear Colleagues,

In Denver, I had the honor of succeeding Dr. Robert Gropler as President of the Cardiovascular Council. I am grateful to you for your support of the Cardiovascular Council and look forward to working with all of you.

I would like to thank our Immediate Past President Dr. Robert Gropler, who has further strengthened our Council’s efforts for outreach to other societies in the field of cardiovascular imaging, including the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC), the American College of Cardiology (ACC), the American Heart Association (AHA), the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT), the Canadian Society of Nuclear Medicine (CSNMMI), and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), and his continued support for multimodality imaging in cardiovascular disease. I am also grateful to our prior Past Presidents who have contributed immensely to help form these valuable relationships. Our collaboration strengthens our overall message and helps us to reach our goal to provide quality patient care.

While the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNMMI) Cardiovascular Council (CVC) continues to face challenges related to the transition to value-based care, changing reimbursement models, and appropriate use criteria decision support tools in a changing healthcare environment, we also have new exciting opportunities in the delivery of patient-centered care, facilitating the utilization of PET MPI, expanding our services to include the assessment of cardiac sarcoidosis, amyloidosis, vasculitis, and infective endocarditis, among others. The Council is proud to have collaborated with other organizations to deliver state-of-the-art expert consensus documents and position statements on the use of radionuclide imaging in these diseases. One of these efforts on the use of FDG PET/CT in cardiac sarcoidosis has just been published and can be viewed at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28765228. A key to our continued success will be to continue our collaboration with other organizations to deliver a consistent message to our community.
Another key to our success will be to strategically focus on helping our community facilitate the appropriate utilization of existing and new technologies, and in the future use of decision support tools. This year, I am pleased to report that the SNNMI CVC has an exciting opportunity to develop an appropriate use document for PET MPI. This effort, chaired by Dr. Thomas Schindler, a Past President of the SNMMI CVC, will incorporate the most current evidence and expert opinion.

The changing healthcare environment has fostered new research and educational opportunities related to demonstrating value and cost effectiveness in a changing healthcare environment. Another goal of the CVC this year will be to provide resources to promote better understanding of value-based cardiac imaging and the gaps in knowledge where research may be needed.

In the past decade, clinical translation of cardiac molecular imaging and promotion of new tracers and certain technical advances have been challenging. The SNMMI CVC will continue to help bridge our research and clinical communities, and to advocate for collaboration between clinicians, scientists, and our partners in industry to provide our patients with the highest quality care.

Lastly, the SNMMI CVC will continue to focus its efforts on membership recruitment both domestically and internationally and on developing future leaders in the field. The key to attracting future members is to provide value for its memberships, which consists of all of the above efforts as well as advocacy and educational opportunities. As for leadership recruitment, we will continue to strengthen our internship program, which has recently expanded from one to two interns per cycle.

I am proud to be a member of an organization that has among its top goals the delivery of the best quality care for our patients. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure the success of our Council and the Nuclear Cardiology community at large.

Sincerely,

Panithaya Chareonthaitawee, MD
Cardiovascular Council President

The CVC at the 2017 Annual Meeting

The CVC sponsored the followed categorical and CE sessions at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. All sessions featured the leading experts and the latest data in both established and expanding applications in Cardiovascular Molecular Imaging.

Categorical Session:
- Advances in CV Multimodality and Molecular Imaging

Continuing Education Sessions:
- How to Establish a Cardiac PET Program
- Translation of New Radiotracer Development: The Need for Speed
- Beyond MPI - New Tracers and Applications
- Read with the Experts in Nuclear Cardiology
- Cardiovascular Boot Camp I
- Cardiovascular Boot Camp II
- Dynamic Cardiac SPECT with Kinetic Analysis
- Role of Nuclear Cardiology in Centers of Excellence
The Cardiovascular Council (CVC) of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging would like to congratulate Sharmila Dorbala, MD as the 2017 recipient of the Hermann Blumgart Award.

Dr. Dorbala is the Director of Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiac Amyloidosis at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Associate Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School. She is a cardiovascular imaging specialist with clinical expertise in nuclear cardiology, echocardiography, and cardiac CT. Her medical career began at Kakatiya Medical College in Warangal, India, where she distinguished herself with several medals for academic performance.

She pursued an Internal Medicine residency at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt hospital in New York from 1994-1997, at which time the turning point occurred that took her in the direction of the Nuclear Cardiology universe. “In 1997, I put Cardiology on hold temporarily to become the Nuclear Cardiology Fellow at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt. My first exposure to Nuclear Cardiology started with Drs. Alan Rozanski and Gordon DePuey; two leaders in the field and excellent mentors. That sparked my interest and involvement in semi-quantitative imaging and risk assessment with nuclear cardiology.”

Dr. Dorbala completed her cardiology fellowship and advanced imaging training at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt in 2001.

Dr. Dorbala has since established a remarkable track record of funded research in cardiac PET and cardiac amyloidosis, having secured research funding over the years from the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology Foundation, the Amyloidosis Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the American Heart Association. Her initial research has provided insights into management of coronary artery disease, with numerous published reports on the prognostic implications of PET myocardial perfusion imaging. Her research in cardiac amyloidosis uses advanced imaging to define the mechanisms of cardiac dysfunction and identify early response to anti-amyloid therapy. She has emerged as a strong leader in the cardiovascular imaging in both of these arenas.

She credits her colleagues and mentors at the Brigham, Dr. Marcelo DiCarli, the Executive Director of Non-Invasive Imaging (and a former Blumgart Award recipient), and Dr. Rodney H. Falk, Director of the Cardiac Amyloidosis Program. At the Brigham, one of the few clinical programs in the country focused exclusively on cardiac amyloidosis, a rare and poorly understood condition, her ongoing research promises to integrate more precise and effective imaging methods to detect early amyloidosis and guide therapy.

Dr. Dorbala has several local, national and international research collaborations. She serves as an Associate Editor of Circulation Cardiovascular Imaging and the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology. Her service to the SNMMI culminated with her ascension to President of the Cardiovascular Council in the 2012-2013 term.

Also noteworthy is the fact that Dr. Dorbala is now the first woman to receive the Blumgart Award, originally established by the New England Chapter of the SNM in 1978 to recognize outstanding achievement in Cardiovascular Nuclear Imaging. Always professional, and characteristically humble, she stated the following:
"I am honored to win this very significant award and truly humbled to join the list of many great leaders in our field that have achieved this recognition. I consider scientific endeavor to be men and women working together to test our ideas, find answers and better approaches to cure suffering from diseases."

Also noteworthy is that Dr. Dorbala is now the fourth Blumgart Award recipient from the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Previous recipients from the Brigham include S. James Adelstein (1982); B. Leonard Holman (1987); and Marcelo Di Carli (2007).

Panithaya Chareonthaitawee, MD, CVC President and Robert Gropler, MD, CVC Immediate Past President, presented Dr. Dorbala with the Blumgart Award at the Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Please join us in congratulating Sharmila Dorbala for her outstanding contributions to our field.

2017 SNMNI Young Investigator Awards
The Cardiovascular Council would like to congratulate the winners of the Young Investigator Award competition at the SNMNI Annual Meeting in San Diego. Their enthusiasm, outstanding effort and contributions to the science of the field present a bright future for Cardiovascular Nuclear imaging.

Basic Science:

1st Place - Rudolf A. Werner - "Vesicular storage and release of the novel sympathetic nerve tracer 18F-LMI1195."

2nd Place - Raiyan Tripti Zaman - "Harnessing Radioluminescence and Sound to Reveal Molecular Pathology of Atherosclerotic Plaques."

3rd Place - Jens P. Bankstahl - "Multi-tracer characterization of ischemic inflammation and perfusion in a murine model of hindlimb ischemia."
1st Place - Takashi Norikane - "Comparative evaluation of F-18 FLT PET/CT and F-18 FDG PET/CT in patients with newly diagnosed thoracic sarcoidosis."

2nd Place - Ishan Garg - "3-D PYP Score for 3-hour uptake 99mTc Pyrophosphate SPECT-CT for Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy"

3rd Place - Simon A. Castro - "Common Carotid Artery Molecular Calcification Assessed by 18F-NaF PET/CT is Associated with Increased Cardiovascular Disease Risk: Results from the CAMONA Study."
2017 CVC BOD Election Results

Congratulations to our newly elected CVC Board Members!

Venkatesh Murthy, MD, PhD
Vice President-elect

James R. Corbett, MD
Board Member

Salvador Borges-Neto, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASNC; FACNP
Board Member

Piotr Slomka, PhD
Board Member

Esma Akin, MD
Board Member

Robert Bober, MD
Board Member
Other Election News: Former CV Council President Vasken Dilsizian is Vice-President Elect of SNMMI

To my colleagues in the Cardiovascular Council,

For this year’s election cycle, I was elected as the incoming SNMMI Vice President Elect beginning June 15, 2017, and I will be serving as the President of the Society in 2 years. I am indebted to the Cardiovascular Council members and the Board of Directors for their steadfast support. While this is indeed an honor, it is important to note that we are at an important crossroads in our field. Recent interest in molecular imaging has placed our subspecialty at the forefront of remarkable scientific and clinical advances, which should ensure the SNMMI’s continued growth and survival in the new millennium.

The indispensable factor of sustaining any field of science or intellectual endeavor is the influx of new ideas and solutions to previously unsolved—but in principle solvable—problems. The most fruitful areas of growth in nuclear medicine are those that have been neglected between the various established imaging disciplines. It is within these neglected boundaries where targeted radionuclide-based imaging offers the greatest opportunities for growth. Cultivating the development and clinical translation of new diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals and their integration into patient management and appropriate use guidelines is the very vital lifeline of our organization.

As the President of the SNMMI Cardiovascular Council, I was able to enhance the communication and collaboration between ASNC and SNMMI, including the recently co-sponsored cardiac PET guidelines. I will continue to use my diverse background to work with various subspecialties in order to integrate Nuclear Medicine procedures in patient management and AUC guidelines. We have been successful implementing this with cardiology, and I will strive to achieve the same with other subspecialties. By partnering with other professional organizations, we can strengthen our membership and advocacy efforts, and continue to be creative and forward-thinking in our clinical and research endeavors.

I thank you all for your support as I continue to elevate the importance of Nuclear Cardiology within the Governance of the SNMMI.

-Vasken

2017-2019 CVC Interns

The SNMMI Internship Program was established in 2008 with the aim “To identify and train future leaders of SNMMI in the structure, governance, and operations of the organization; to prepare individuals for progressive levels of responsibility; to ensure effective leadership that advances the mission and goals of the organization”.

The 2017-2019 CVC Interns are Stephanie Thorn, PhD and Richard D. Weinberg, MD, PhD.

Dr. Thorn is an instructor at Yale University, Department of Internal Medicine (Cardiology) and the Yale Translational Research Imaging Center. She is currently investigating quantitative SPECT right ventricle imaging in a novel large animal model of right ventricle heart failure with and without therapeutic interventions for direct application to patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. An additional ongoing focus in her research goals is the evaluation of cardiac remodeling post-infarction. This work involves the evaluation of SPECT radiotracers that target the matrix metalloproteinase activation and angiogenesis. Within this framework, she is focusing on using this technology to evaluate therapies targeted at halting the destabilization of the infarct zone that can ultimately lead to heart failure.

2017-2019 CVC Interns

The SNMMI Internship Program was established in 2008 with the aim “To identify and train future leaders of SNMMI in the structure, governance, and operations of the organization; to prepare individuals for progressive levels of responsibility; to ensure effective leadership that advances the mission and goals of the organization”.

The 2017-2019 CVC Interns are Stephanie Thorn, PhD and Richard D. Weinberg, MD, PhD.

Dr. Thorn is an instructor at Yale University, Department of Internal Medicine (Cardiology) and the Yale Translational Research Imaging Center. She is currently investigating quantitative SPECT right ventricle imaging in a novel large animal model of right ventricle heart failure with and without therapeutic interventions for direct application to patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. An additional ongoing focus in her research goals is the evaluation of cardiac remodeling post-infarction. This work involves the evaluation of SPECT radiotracers that target the matrix metalloproteinase activation and angiogenesis. Within this framework, she is focusing on using this technology to evaluate therapies targeted at halting the destabilization of the infarct zone that can ultimately lead to heart failure.
Dr. Weinberg is a Clinical Lecturer in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in August 2015, after completing his MD, internal medicine residency, cardiology fellowship, and nuclear cardiology training at Columbia University. He also holds a PhD in chemistry from the University of Cambridge. Dr. Weinberg is a consultative cardiologist with clinical and research interests in nuclear cardiology. His research focuses on the application of cardiac PET imaging to better characterize myocardial inflammation and infection.

New in the Literature: Joint Position Statement on Cardiac Sarcoidosis

Members of the CV Council have successfully completed the execution and publication of a new joint position statement on the imaging approaches to cardiac sarcoidosis. While sarcoidosis is a systemic disease, cardiac involvement is elusive due to non-specific clinical presentation, and focal granulomatous infiltration throughout the myocardium; leading to scarring, heart failure and death in approximately 25% of those with the disease.

Council President Panithaya Chareonthaitawee spearheaded the effort with a working group comprised of the cardiovascular scientific leadership of both the SNMMI and ASNC. This resulted in concurrent publications in the JNM and Journal of Nuclear Cardiology.

This document updates the 2006 guidance from the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the 2014 publication by the Heart Rhythm Society.

The new publication frames the strengths and weaknesses of traditional imaging approaches, the limitations of confirmatory procedures such as Endomyocardial Biopsy (EMB), and the complexities of identifying inflammation in a diffuse presentation. Comprehensive diagnostic criteria, imaging indications and important patient preparation approaches are covered to optimize diagnostic accuracy when both FDG and perfusion imaging are utilized. Cardiac imagers will also find useful the useful quantitative metrics and comparative visual versus quantitative observations.

The guidance document was published online in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine and can be found HERE.

SNMMI 2018 Future Leaders Academy

The SNMMI Future Leaders Academy is the most recent addition to the SNMMI leadership development strategy. The SNMMI Future Leaders Academy training focuses on setting a clear plan for increasing leadership abilities by developing the necessary skills and organizational expertise to enhance performance and ultimately evolve into a leader both within the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community and the society.

The academy will also help you to gain knowledge in fundamental leadership techniques from professionally recognized leadership groups and current SNMMI leaders.

Learn about the Future Leaders Academy HERE.

The Future Leaders Academy will be held January 25-28, 2018 in conjunction with the SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting in Orlando, FL. By submitting an application you are affirming your availability on these dates and your willing
ness to attend the academy. If accepted, it is preferred that you make arrangements to stay for the entire Mid-Winter Meeting.

All applications must be received by September 1, 2017, 5:00 pm (ET)

Upcoming Cardiovascular Meetings

European Society of Cardiology
August 26-30
Barcelona, Spain
www.escardio.org/Congresses-&-Events/ESC-Congress

American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, 22nd Annual Scientific Session
September 14-17; Kansas City, MO
www.asnc.org

European Association of Nuclear Medicine, 31st Annual Congress
October 21-25
Vienna, Austria
www.eanm17.eanm.org

Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine 56th Annual Meeting
November 3-5
Nagoya Congress Center

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions
November 11-15
Anaheim, CA
http://professional.heart.org/professional/EducationMeetings/MeetingsLiveCME/ScientificSessions/UCM_316900_Scientific-Sessions.jsp

CVC Board Directors

Panithaya Chareonthaitawee, MD Council President
Terrence D. Ruddy, MD Council Vice President
Venkatesh L. Murthy, MD, PhD Council Vice President-Elect
Howard Lewin, MD, FACC, FASNC Council Secretary
Saurabh Malhotra, MD, MPH Council Treasurer
Robert J. Gropler, MD Council Immediate Past President
Wanda Acampa, MD, PhD Council Board of Directors
Esma A. Akin, MD Council Board of Directors
Save the Date!
The 2018 Mid-Winter Meeting
Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista in Orlando, FL
January 25-28

The 2018 Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
June 23-27

Please visit the Cardiovascular Council website for more information and to join or renew your membership!
Your membership is critical to the ability of the CVC to continue providing the highest caliber educational programs!