

February 3, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The White House Executive Order on visas and immigration will have a devastating impact on biomedical research, patient care, and health education. For the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI), as for many other U.S. medical organizations, the new restrictions on entry to the United States will limit collaboration with the international medical community, putting American patients, physicians, and researchers at a disadvantage.

SNMMI is an international scientific and medical organization dedicated to improving diagnosis, changing the way common and devastating diseases are understood and treated and helping provide patients with the best health care possible. Approximately 35 percent of SNMMI members are international.

Nuclear medicine and molecular imaging enable physicians to visualize the molecular processes through which the body functions. They provide physicians with molecular-level data that can help personalize treatment. Nuclear medicine and molecular imaging are at the forefront of precision medicine and theranostics, which integrates diagnosis and therapy in the individualized management of disease, helping determine which treatment will most benefit each individual patient.

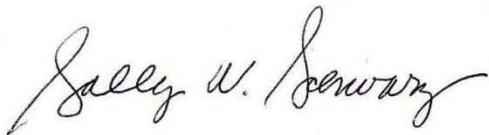
Medical conferences, such as the SNMMI Annual Meeting, which this year will be held in Denver in June, serve as catalysts for innovative research. At this meeting attendees learn about cutting-edge studies, talk with fellow researchers, and are inspired with new ideas for their work in helping patients. The international collaborations that happen at this meeting inspire synergistic interaction that accelerates medical progress. But as a result of the Executive Order on Immigration, medical societies are already finding that international participation in such meetings will be significantly lower, to the detriment of American patients and patients worldwide.

We recognize that national security is vital, but the medical and scientific community collaborates across borders in order to advance patient care as quickly and effectively as possible—saving lives and lowering the cost of care. America is now a leader in the field of medical/scientific research, but we can only remain so by staying engaged in the broader, international research community.

We respectfully ask that you rescind this Executive Order and develop policies that enhance security while preserving our ability to care for patients.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally W. Schwarz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sally Schwarz, MS, RPh, BCNP, FAPhA
President, SNMMI

Cc: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer
House Speaker Paul Ryan
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi