SNMMI: Academic Council Summary Report

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

January 2014

Activities and Accomplishments

The Academic Council continues to demonstrate vitality and activity in the tradition of service, innovation and support to education in Nuclear Medicine and to the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors.

The Academic Council membership is down from 183 members in 2012 to 163 members in 2013. The SNMMI membership has decreased as well.

The Academic Council sponsored its first Education Summit at the June 2013 Annual Meeting in Vancouver. The four-hour session was attended by those who were interested in education and involved in resident training. Laura Edgar, who has spearheaded the ACGME implementation of milestones, discussed how the nuclear medicine milestones were developed and felt that the benefits to implementing and using them far outweighed the burden to program directors. We plan to have more educational session as we adopt the ACGME New Accreditation System (NAS) and milestones. The Tom Miller Lecture on Hybrid Imaging—USA and European Viewpoints was very informative and showed the difference in resident training in cross-sectional imaging between the United States and different countries in Europe. Item-Writing and Developing SAMs helped members realize that SAM sessions require some preparation and that there is a skill to writing good questions. Many of these presentations are available on SNMMI Academic Council website for members.

The Teaching Files taskforce has been working very diligently to improve the process for submitting, publishing and receiving recognition for teaching file cases. Pradeep G. Bhambhvani, MD, is heading this initiative and has been working with JNMT in this endeavor. See his article describing current efforts in this newsletter.

Communications within the Academic Council remain excellent, including a superb newsletter, due to the efforts of our Secretary, Tracy L. Yarbrough, MD. The Council is stable financially.

The Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association (NMPDA) continues to be a vital part of the Academic Council, and contributes to dissemination of information to Program Directors. Daniel Lee, MD, Chair of the NMPDA, Dr. Lee continues to be a vital and integral part of the Academic Council. He has continued to provide strong and innovative leadership, and has continued to provide the NMPDA and the Academic Council overall with valuable information and support.

The intern program is doing well in the Academic Council. 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, will be Dr. Ahmed’s AC mentor.
The Nuclear Medicine Program Directors, through the Academic Council and the SNMMI, provided comments to the ACGME regarding the proposed changes of the Radiology RRC for the Nuclear Radiology Fellowship.

Several Academic Council members have continued to contribute in various ways. Dr. Greenspan serves on the SNMMI Board of Directors and House of Delegates, and moderated a session at the 2012 SNMMI annual meeting. Dr. Leonie Gordon co-chaired one of the subcommittees of the 2020 Task Force, serves on the House of Delegates, has been working on developing the Online Teaching File cases, and moderated a session at the 2012 SNMMI annual meeting. She has also been serving on the ABNM Board of Directors and will be finishing her term on NM RRC. Dr. Jon A. Baldwin continues his excellent service as the Academic Council Vice President and is also a member of the SNMMI Committee on Councils and Centers, the SNMMI House of Delegates and will join the NM RRC. Dr. David Lewis has done an admirable job as Treasurer, and also will start service on the NM RRC. Dr. Tracy Yarbrough continues to do a superb job of editing the AC newsletter and will be rotating off the NM RRC. Dr. Daniel Lee continues to do outstanding job as Chair of the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association (NMPDA), and has also been involved in the Milestones project of the ACGME.

Looking Forward

There were minor changes in the officers of the Academic Council at the conclusion of the SNMMI 2013 Annual Meeting. Dr. Gordon continues as the President of the Academic Council and John Baldwin, DO will continue as Vice President until 2014. Dr. Tracy L. Y. Brown will also be continuing her term as Secretary. Dr. Lee will continue his term as Chair of the NMPDA. The Academic Council will be welcoming three new board members and treasurer.

The Academic Council is sponsoring an Education Session at the 2014 Mid-Winter Meeting in Palm Springs, CA. entitled, “Sustaining Education and Practice in Today’s Environment.” This session will take place on Friday, February 7 from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Dr. Richard Gunderman, a well-known imaging educator from Indiana University, will discuss the philosophy of educating residents and reinforce the whole point of why we engage in academic medicine. We also plan to talk about residency program changes including the ACGME NAS, milestones, and the roles of new required committees such as the Clinical Competency Committee. Finally, we plan to discuss methods of assessment, as well as the evaluation and implementation of these methods.

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

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: Bennett 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.