

# Highlights from a Year Full of Accomplishments

As we approach the SNMMI Annual Meeting, we are ending a productive and exciting year! SNMMI and SNMMI-TS moved forward on many key issues and activities that affect imaging research and practice, with the ultimate goal of delivering the best possible care to patients. Take a few minutes to read this brief Year in Review with 20 highlights of SNMMI and SNMMI-TS accomplishments—and get the full picture by viewing [SNMMI's 2017 Annual Report](#).

## Highlights from SNMMI

**MOVING THE FIELD FORWARD...**SNMMI envisioned and launched the Value Initiative—a transformational roadmap for dealing with challenges to the field and demonstrating the true value of the field to a broad set of stakeholders, including medical students and professionals, industry partners, regulators, patients, and the public. The initiative addresses six critical areas of action: quality of practice, research and discovery, workforce pipeline and lifetime learning, advocacy, outreach, and organizational strength and stability.

**ENSURING APPROPRIATE USE...**SNMMI has now published six appropriate use criteria (AUC), and five more are in the works. To ensure effective implementation, SNMMI signed contracts for the AUC to be hosted on two clinical decision support platforms—CareSelect (previously ACR Select) and Stanson Health—that physicians will use beginning in 2020 for decision support. In addition, SNMMI is collaborating with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, as well as additional professional societies where appropriate, to develop joint guidelines, ensuring procedure standards are consensual across the field.

**ATTRACTING NEW PHYSICIANS AND SCIENTISTS TO THE PROFESSION...**SNMMI has taken great strides in the past year to expand the diverse pool of qualified professionals working in the nuclear medicine/molecular imaging field. This strong focus has already produced results: resident members have increased fivefold over last year. In addition, SNMMI has created new features for the Annual Meeting, including an early career track, a resident/medical student program, a welcome breakfast, a “Drink and Think” social event, and a roommate sharing option.

**CREATING NEW MEMBER BENEFITS...**SNMMI kicked off its own, customized networking site—SNMMI Connect—helping members connect with peers, share research and information, build professional relationships and keep abreast of interests and events. The society also launched a new mentor program, SNMMI Snapshot, an In-Training Career Center, and a host of new benefits for residents, students, and Annual Meeting attendees.

**EDUCATING PATIENTS...**SNMMI, through its Outreach Working Groups and its Patient Advocacy Advisory Board, has produced a variety of programs and materials in the past year to educate patients about nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. A new “What to Expect” video on DaT SPECT received more than 3,000 views in its first month online; more than twenty fact sheets explain imaging and treatment modalities for a wide range of disease areas, and the Annual Patient Education Day at the 2018 Annual Meeting will offer practical information on topics such as radiation safety, clinical trials, and treatment options.

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**ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF THE FIELD...**SNMMI joined with others to urge Congress to increase National Institutes of Health funding for research—and as a result, that funding was increased by \$3 billion for 2018. The Department of Energy received another \$40 million in funding for development of domestic sources of molybdenum-99. The society successfully encouraged the U.S. Pharmacopeia to write a new chapter on compounding radiopharmaceuticals and to put qualified individuals on the writing committee. SNMMI provided hands-on support through its Coding Corner, which is consulted more than 20,000 times annually.

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### FEATURING THE JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE...

In 2017, Johannes Czernin, MD, became editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and began pushing the journal to new heights. In last year's journal citation reports, JNM had the highest number of citations, the highest 5-year impact factor, the highest number of citable articles, and the highest article influence score. In 2017, JNM was accessed 9,712,266 times—an increase of almost 1 million over 2016. Through effective communication and forward-thinking discussion, JNM is helping lead a renaissance in the field. Visit the journal's new podcast!

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### ENHANCING THE ANNUAL MEETING...

In response to member feedback, SNMMI enriched the 2018 Annual Meeting with “Nuts and Bolts” sessions to provide practical information that can be used immediately upon return to the clinic, a Training Showcase for industry to provide training on their products and services, and new events for networking and socializing. The meeting now begins earlier on Saturday and ends on Tuesday evening to make the best use of participants' time. And to tie it all together, a new app will allow easy, effective planning and communication.

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### RAISING AWARENESS WITH REFERRING PHYSICIANS...

SNMMI held “roadshows” around the country to educate oncologists, family physicians, and other referrers on the state of the art in nuclear medicine scans and therapies for neuroendocrine tumors (NETs), prostate cancer and lymphoma. The NET Roadshow in Utah was a success with “great outcomes, as measured by subsequent use of Ga DOTATATE PET in the region.” According to Dr. Satoshi Minoshima, chair of the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at the University of Utah, Ga-68 doses have seen an average of 240% increase per month! Check out SNMMI's Healthcare Provider Portal.

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### FOSTERING GLOBAL COLLABORATION...

SNMMI global collaboration in 2017 extended across many fronts, including working with the International Atomic Energy Agency to offer webinars in two languages as well as online streaming of the Annual Meeting to developing countries, taking an active role in this year's meeting of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, partnering with peer nuclear medicine organizations worldwide, leading an effort to achieve a multilateral consensus on differentiated thyroid cancer, and even sending a delegation of SNMMI members to Cuba.

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## Highlights from SNMMI-TS

**WITH AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE...** SNMMI-TS initiated a new strategic plan focusing on strengthening the organization and aligning with the SNMMI Value Initiative. Goals include organizational strength and stability; demonstrating quality, value and safety of NM/MI procedures; improving the regulatory and legislative environment for NM/MI professionals; and guiding, shaping and facilitating the education and professional development of NM and MI technologists.

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**ADVOCATING AT THE STATE LEVEL...** In a very productive year, state technologist advocacy group members (TAGs) successfully amended regulations and statutes in Maryland, Vermont and North Carolina to lift restrictions on nuclear medicine technologists and opposed bills in West Virginia and New Hampshire that would have ended licensure. SNMMI-TS successfully blocked encroachment by other healthcare providers who wanted the authority to perform nuclear medicine procedures without adequate training or experience. In addition, the Technologist Section has developed a Model Practice Act for nuclear medicine technologists that can be adopted by state legislatures. Stay tuned!

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**LAUNCHING NEW COURSES AND EDUCATION ...** In 2017, SNMMI-TS took concrete steps to enhance value for its members. The new CT+ Review and Essentials and Radiation Safety+ Review and Essentials courses provide VOICE credit, valuable training and exam preparation. In addition, SNMMI-TS offered quarterly free webinars in the past year—now available on demand!

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**INTRODUCING WOMEN IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE FOR TECHNOLOGISTS...** The new WINM-TS is creating mentoring groups for new technologists, presenting a continuing education session at the SNMMI Annual Meeting with women in mind, and reaching out to women technologists through social media. At the SNMMI Annual Meeting, WINM-TS is partnering with the SNMMI WINM for a joint networking breakfast to be held Sunday, June 24. Get involved!

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**RESHAPING THE JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY...** JNMT started 2018 with a new editor, a redesigned cover and reshaped content. The January and March issues each included invited editorials, an educators' forum, practical protocol tips, a brief communications section, three CE articles, and sections on quality and practice management, professional development, and radiopharmacy and adjunctive medications. In April, JNMT premiered its new Twitter Journal Club. Sign up for e-mail alerts today!

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**MORE NEW AND IMPROVED PUBLICATIONS ...** SNMMI-TS released an updated edition of the Review of Nuclear Medicine Technology. The Abdominal Imaging 2017: Quality Safety and Dose Optimization book, free online to members, is now available for CE credit. And Uptake newsletter converted to an attractive digital format that is more accessible to younger students and members on-the-go.

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**CREATING NEW MEMBER BENEFITS...** SNMMI-TS added some great new benefits in the past year. Members will now be automatically enrolled in free CE activities, allowing easy access to complete CE credits. The Career Center added a new section dedicated to "in-training" members. A new Mentor Platform will launch in June where new and emerging leaders can connect with mentors in the field. And SNMMI kicked off its own, customized networking site—SNMMI Connect—where members can connect with peers, share research and information, build professional relationships and keep abreast of interests and events.

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**CONNECTING INTERNATIONALLY...** In 2018 SNMMI-TS kicked off an international student exchange program for nuclear medicine technologists. The first exchange took place this spring between King's College Hospital (London) and St. Bart's Hospital (London) in England and Regis College (Boston, MA), Indiana University (Indianapolis, IN) and Chattanooga State Community College in (Chattanooga, TN). For more about the exchange program, attend the Educator's Forum at the Annual Meeting and watch for an upcoming JNMT article!

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**DEVELOPING NEW, PRACTICAL TOOLS...** SNMMI-TS created a new "Tech TIME" (Technical Imaging Multidisciplinary Education) series to provide members with accurate and up-to-date online tools to quickly solve questions and problems. The series begins with brain imaging procedures in nuclear medicine and PET. Tech TIME resources will include easy-to-read fact sheets, short video vignettes to answer specific "how-to" questions, case studies with relevant patient examples, and a valuable directory for follow-up learning or continuing education credit.

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**TRAINING NEW LEADERS...** The 11th Annual Leadership Academy—the centerpiece of SNMMI-TS leadership development strategy—was held in conjunction with the SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting in January. The Academy welcomed 11 new leaders who demonstrated leadership abilities and engagement at the national/chapter level, then helped them develop the necessary skills and organizational expertise to enhance chapter performance and, ultimately, evolve to national leadership.

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Thank you, SNMMI and SNMMI-TS volunteers... This year, SNMMI welcomed more than 600 unique new volunteers, and the society is fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers work with leadership and staff to advance SNMMI's mission and improve the profession for all our members. Volunteers are essential to the success of the society. SNMMI is proud to recognize the time, energy, and dedication member volunteers give SNMMI and to celebrate the results of your hard work.

View the SNMMI's 2017 Annual Report at [annualreport.snmmi.org](http://annualreport.snmmi.org)