LEADERSHIP

*Have you voted yet??* For the first time ever, SNM and SNMTS elections are being conducted 100 percent electronically. In mid-April, all voting members were sent information on how to access their online ballot via either e-mail or regular mail. If you are a voting member of SNM or SNMTS and you have not yet received your election information, please contact Larry Hoffer at lhoffer@snm.org or 703/708-9000, x1250 as soon as possible. **Voting ends May 12!!**

SNM and SNMTS committee appointments were completed during meetings in Reston, VA, April 9-10. Peter Conti, MD, PhD, and Martin Sandler, MD, made the SNM appointments, while Valerie Cronin, CNMT, and Nanci Burchell, CNMT, FSNMTS, made the SNMTS appointments. Committee chairs are in the process of being contacted by Dr. Conti and Val Cronin, and appointment letters will be mailed to all new and continuing committee members within the next week.

Calls for Nominations were circulated to members of SNM’s House of Delegates and the SNMTS National Council of Representatives within the last week. Members of the House of Delegates will elect one Director-at-Large and six members of the Committee on Nominations during its June 18 meeting, while the National Council will conduct a pre-annual meeting election for three Executive Board Members-at-Large and four Nominating Committee members. To submit a nomination or nominate yourself, please contact Mac Cannon at mcannon@snm.org.

Membership information for the Society’s Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence will be disseminated to all members within the next week. The Center is dedicated to all aspects of molecular imaging in the detection and management of disease, and its primary focus is to promote education in the emerging specialty of molecular imaging. Annual membership dues for the Center are $15 for all SNM and SNMTS members.

The Call for Nominations for the PET Center of Excellence Board of Directors was disseminated and the Committee on Nominations is in the process of assembling a formal slate for election. The Board will meet in Toronto to further plan the Center’s activities.
Councils
All of the councils currently are discussing their business plans, conducting elections and making plans for activities at the SNM Annual Meeting. The councils will be having both board meetings and business meetings in Toronto. Additionally, the Computer and Instrumentation Council will have a face-to-face board meeting in Chicago on May 13.

MIRT$^2$
MIRT$^2$ members are finalizing the framework and infrastructure necessary to establish support for trials of both diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals. The group's members have discussed and identified four promising clinical protocols—two therapeutic and two diagnostic—for future development. It is hoped that at least one of these protocols will be completed and ready for discussion at the Annual Meeting in Toronto. The infrastructure that has been developed to support MIRT$^2$ includes a steering committee with involvement by all councils and centers; standard operating procedures; and processes for protocol evaluation and review. Ethics and conflict of interest guidelines are being established, and a qualifying questionnaire has been developed to assist in identifying investigators and clinical sites to participate in MIRT$^2$ trials.

Promotion of the MIRT$^2$ functions and programs will include a web site, which will be operational by the Annual Meeting in Toronto. The general membership will be informed about MIRT$^2$ activities and the web site via an article in the Newsline section of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine, and information on the activities of MIRT$^2$ will be widely disseminated at the Annual Meeting. The general membership will by then be able to submit electronically, using the web site, completed questionnaires for possible inclusion as a clinical site for ongoing trials and/or submit proposals for new protocols for MIRT$^2$ to consider conducting.

FDA-CDER
The CDER Medical Imaging Division will conduct a seminar presenting and discussing subjects related to Radioactive Drug Research Committee (RDRC) and the Exploratory IND Draft Guidance during the SNM Annual Meeting. The seminar will be held Monday, June 20, from 8:00-9:30 am, and will be led by George Mills, MD, from the Food and Drug Administration. We hope representatives from the SNM and SNMTS leadership will be able to attend this session.

MEETINGS
Pre-registration for SNM’s Annual Meeting is now closed. You still may register at the on-site rate until June 6. Visit the Annual Meeting website at www.snm.org/am for on-site registration forms.

Housing is still open! Sleeping rooms are continually being added to SNM's housing block. If one of the room nights you request is waitlisted, don't despair, as hotels are giving additional rooms to cover waitlisted nights. Although all hotels have some availability, the Royal York (headquarters hotel), Sheraton and Westin Harbour Castle
have lots of availability over the meeting dates. The Sheraton has discounted its high-speed internet package for SNM attendees to $11.25 CDN. If you require additional assistance, call ITS, SNM's housing and registration company, at 800/424-5249 or 847/940-2155.

Shuttle service is provided free of charge to Annual Meeting attendees who have obtained housing through SNM’s housing company. Shuttle service will be provided from the Hilton Toronto, Sheraton Centre, Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre and Westin Harbour Castle. In addition, shuttle service will be provided to and from all hotels for the Saturday Evening Event: Broadway North and the Technologist Party on Tuesday night.

The Saturday Evening Event: Broadway North is the hottest ticket in town. In addition to dinner and dancing, entertainment from leading musicals will be featured. This is an evening not to be missed! If you don't have your tickets, they can be purchased on-site in the registration area for $50. If you already have registered for the meeting, go to the online registration section of the annual meeting web site and enter your ID number, and you can add the tickets to your registration.

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet the plenary speakers at the plenary receptions. SNM will be hosting a reception in Room 706 of the convention centre immediately following the plenary sessions on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

For meetings information or to register for any meeting, visit the SNM web site at www.snm.org.

DEVELOPMENT

Grants and Awards Program
SNM has established a new pilot research grant with a contribution from Digirad Corporation to the Education and Research Foundation—the William L. Ashburn Pilot Research Grant for 2006. Dr. Ashburn, who died last year, co-founded Digirad Corporation in 1994. The pilot research grant general application will be used, but preference will be given to nuclear cardiology and physics instrumentation.

Applications for 2006 grants and awards are now posted on SNM’s web site. Please note there is a new deadline for the SNM research grants, September 15.

Press releases about the 2005 SNM grants and awards and the Mallinckrodt gift were disseminated and posted on the web site. Some web sites, including Aunt Minnie and rxpg news, have publicized the grant and award recipients, and a press release will be issued shortly regarding the Digirad gift.

A new grants and awards brochure will be available at the SNM grants and awards booth at the Annual Meeting and will be disseminated to the following groups of people: new
SNM and SNMTS student trial members and SNM resident trial members; SNM leaders; ERF and PDEF boards; and nuclear medicine and nuclear technology program directors.

**NIH Outreach**
Two speakers from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will give presentations at the Annual Meeting on their Institute’s role regarding nuclear medicine research and related activities. The speakers are Dr. Daniel Sullivan, Associate Director of the Cancer Imaging Program at the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute, and Dr. Eileen Bradley, representing the Center for Scientific Review. She is Chief of the Surgical Sciences, Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Integrated Review Group (SBIB IRG). The presentation will take place on Monday, June 19, from 4:30-5:45 pm, with a brief reception to follow. We hope representatives from the SNM and SNMTS leadership will attend.

**ERF**
As noted above, the Education and Research Foundation has received contributions for two new SNM research grants in 2006: the Mallinckrodt and Digirad grants.

The ERF Board met in Dallas, April 29-May 1, to finalize strategic plans and fundraising activities for the rest of the 2005 fiscal year and for 2006.

The ERF will have a booth in the Exhibit Area (#217) this year with an expansive Donor Honor Wall and recognition of the award and grant recipients it has supported. In addition, the ERF will raffle several airline tickets for round trip flights in the continental United States.

Thanks to a $2,000 donation to the Paul Cole Scholarship Fund from the SNM Central Chapter, students from the region encompassed by the Chapter will have the opportunity for two additional Paul Cole scholarships in 2006. SNMTS president Nanci Burchell and SNMTS Grants, Scholarships and Awards chair Marcia West sent a letter to all SNMTS chapters requesting this support.

**MEMBERSHIP**
Membership is tracking ahead of last year’s counts, currently at 14,644 members for FY 2005. Membership for the free trial campaign for residents and technologist students totals 1,579 (945 Technologists and 634 Physicians). New this year, with the Comnet Marketing Campaign, we have received $31,752 thus far in pledges for renewals in the Full Member Category. (The Comnet campaign is still in process.)

PET Center of Excellence membership also has exceeded last year’s counts, with a total of 1,826 members (1003 Physicians and 823 Technologists).
COMMUNICATIONS

Journals
- The May, June, July and August issues of JNM and the June issue of JNMT are in progress and on schedule.
- The PET/CT Joint SNM/ACR White Paper has been approved by ACR and is scheduled for the July issue of JNM and JACR. We are working with ACR and Elsevier on the joint copyright agreement and production.
- A professional development article on the results of the program directors survey is in production for the June JNMT, with another planned for the September JNMT.
- We are preparing to send out reader surveys for both JNM and JNMT.
- We are beginning to receive applications for the JNMT editor position.
- There was a JNM associate editors’ retreat in late April to discuss current and future journal-related issues.

Books
The SNM Publications Committee approved another proposal for a new PET/CT book; we are negotiating the contract with the author.

PR
We are working with Dr. Royal on final changes and approval of some new patient pamphlets. We also are beginning review of patient information on SNM’s web site.

The new PR Committee had its first conference call, approved the new PR plan, and is working on action items. The committee has decided to work via conference call.

The keyword-indexing project for the web site—to gain SNM higher prominence in related searches—is moving forward and probably will finish the initial stage of implementation in a few more weeks.

The May executive director column for JNM is on MIRT^2; the president’s column focuses on the DOE funding cuts in the federal budget.

Recent distributed press releases include: “SNM Urges Congress to Save Research Efforts, Restore Crucial Funding in DOE Budget” (and related hometown releases for Drs. Thakur, Conti, Greenspan and Welch); “SNM Provides $65,000 in 2005 Grants, Awards for Molecular Imaging/Nuclear Medicine Researchers, Students”; and “SNM to Offer First $25,000 Mallinckrodt Seed Grant in Molecular Imaging/Nuclear Medicine.”

Other
The June PET Center of Excellence newsletter is in production and on schedule. A new feature has been added to the PET Center of Excellence: a weekly “View You Can Use” is posted online so PET physicians can use this resource to educate referring physicians on the value of PET.
A new e-mail blast template designed by the Marketing Department is nearing completion.

**MARKETING**

The new SNM catalog is being finalized. It will be sent with the June issue of JNM and will be available during the Annual Meeting in the SNMCentre.

A membership mailing recently was sent to all newly certified physicians through the ABNM.

**Data**

The member needs survey is in the analysis stage. Look for preliminary results at the Annual Meeting. Thank you to all who participated!

The technologist advisory group to the workforce study is finalizing the survey tool with the Center for Healthcare Studies. This survey will begin in late August-early September.

**EDUCATION**

**Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program (LLSAP)**

Beta testing of the interactive case contribution software will begin shortly. SNM IT staff currently is working with IT staff in the selected beta-testing centers to coordinate the capture of figures that will be included in the test cases. Actual self-assessment case content will be used for the testing. The Education Department will be contacting some SNM members who have volunteered to assist with the beta testing to take the role of content reviewers, so that piece of the software can be tested as well. The review testing probably will take place around mid-May.

A demonstration of the program will be presented at the SNMCentre during the Annual Meeting. Times of the demos will be posted and advertised throughout the convention center.

**SNM Learning Center**

The CT for the Nuclear Medicine Professional Workshop took place April 29-May 1 in Las Vegas. As of April 26, 80 physicians and technologists had registered for the workshop.

Faculty and locations have been confirmed for the Confidence in Imaging Series workshops. Announcements will be posted on the SNM web site soon and brochures will be printed and distributed. The brochures also will be available in Toronto.

**52nd Annual Meeting Highlights CD-ROM and Webcast**
This year, the highlights CD will include 15 sessions: 8 CE sessions, 3 plenary sessions, Dr. Wagner’s Meeting Highlights, and 3 scientific summary sessions. The scientific summary sessions are a new addition to the meeting and the CD. The CD will be available for all meeting attendees and SNM members for free until October 31, 2005. After that, the CD will be offered for a fee. The CD is being supported by an unrestricted educational grant from GE Healthcare.

The Webcast will be captured at the meeting; however, some of the sessions may be used as content for portions of the Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program that will be launched this fall. The presenters of those sessions will be contacted about their participation in the LLSAP.

**Impact of the Revised ACCME Guidelines for Commercial Support**
SNM will be applying for re-accreditation in 2006. Therefore, every effort is being made to comply with the new ACCME guidelines for this year’s annual meeting. Education staff will be aggressively collecting disclosures, which is now a requirement. All presenters, organizers, related planning committees, reviewers, and even education staff are required to disclose any conflicts of interest. Anyone who does not provide a disclosure form will be asked to step aside from his/her role(s) at the annual meeting. Non-receipt of disclosure forms must be considered as refusal to disclose. The ACCME guidelines leave no room for interpretation. SNM is asking the cooperation of all members who are involved in annual meeting activities in complying with the guidelines.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**National Radionuclide Production Enhancement**
SNM President Mathew Thakur, PhD, presented at the Senate Science & Technology Caucus luncheon on April 25, regarding the need for a National Radionuclide Production Enhancement (NRPE) program to address the problem of limited availability of radionuclides. Other speakers at the luncheon included David Hill of the American Nuclear Society (ANS), and Roy Brown, President of TCI Medical, chairman of the Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals (CORAR), and voting member on the ACNP-SNM Joint Government Relations Committee.

The luncheon was organized by the Senate Science & Technology Caucus with the expressed intent of educating other members of the Senate who underestimate (or even misunderstand) the serious problem of limited medical isotope availability.


**Department of Energy Budget Cuts**
On April 25, SNM President Mathew Thakur, PhD, President-Elect Peter Conti, MD, PhD, and ACNP-SNM Joint Government Relations Committee Chair Terence Beven, MD, together with SNM Public Affairs staff and consultants, visited the Washington, DC offices of various legislators, including Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK); Sen. Richard Burr (R-
NC); Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA); Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM); Sen. Christopher “Kit” Bond (R-MO); Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA); Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34th-CA); and Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-41st-CA). The ultimate goal was to bring attention to the Department of Energy budget cuts to nuclear medicine basic research projects under the Medical Applications and Measurement Science Program, and gather the support of Congressional leaders in getting these funds reinstated to their FY 2005 levels.

The April 25 visits were a continuation of the SNM Public Affairs Department’s ongoing meetings on the Hill with relevant legislators, particularly those involved with appropriations, energy and science.

Read more online and find out how you can help at [http://www.snm.org/doe](http://www.snm.org/doe).

**DOE Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee**
SNM member Alan B. Packard, PhD, and Public Affairs Department staff attended the DOE Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee (BERAC) meeting on April 20-21. BERAC is an independent scientific council that advises the DOE Director of the Office of Science on biological and environmental research issues. Dr. Packard presented in protest of the Department of Energy Office of Science budget cuts.

Read more online and download SNM’s written testimony to BERAC at [http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=3919](http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=3919).

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission**
SNM Public Affairs staff attended the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) meeting on April 20-21. Although not a central focus of the meeting, a great deal of concern was expressed by ACMUI members—particularly SNM member Douglas F. Eggli, MD—regarding the changed Training and Education (T&E) requirements in Part 35. Dr. Eggli informed the commission that the changes place an excessive burden on students who need to obtain nuclear medicine T&E experience, and the commission would have to do a better job in defining the requirements of those 200 hours to avoid costly confusion for students and NM program directors.

**State Health Policy Liaison (SHPL) Update**
SNMTS officer Cindi Luckett-Gilbert has been named SHPL Coordinator. She will be charged with overseeing the publication of the official newsletter of the State Health Policy Liaisons, *SHPL eNews*. Additionally, Cindi will represent the SNMTS in working with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) to increase grassroots advocacy for CARE bill initiatives in the southern region of the USA.

Read more about SHPLs, download *SHPL eNews*, and see the roster of SHPLs by state at [http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=1744](http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=1744).
WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Mac Cannon joined the SNM staff March 31 as a Program Manager in the Leadership Services Department. Mac already has coordinated the SNM and SNMTS committee appointment processes, and will be working on a number of other governance-related issues.

Larry Hoffer, the new Director of Leadership Services, joined the staff April 18. In this role, Larry will oversee the work of the SNM and SNMTS boards, House of Delegates and National Council of Representatives, as well as the councils and Centers of Excellence.

Caresta (CJ) Jones joined SNM’s Membership Services Department as Fulfillment Coordinator on April 25. CJ previously had been assisting the department on a temporary basis.

Cecilia Cortes will join the Marketing Department staff May 9 as Associate Director of Design and Production. Cecilia brings great design and management skills to the society.