Winter 2014/2015

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President’s Message
Helena R. Balon, MD - GCNMC President

Welcome to the GCNMC Winter 2014/2015 Newsletter! For those members, who may have joined us recently, let me reassure you that our Council continues to grow in membership, albeit by baby steps. As of May 2014, we have 176 members and we can report a healthy financial status for now. For a relatively young council (we started in 2007 with 16 members), that’s not bad, although we would like to see continued growth…

As you know, our main mission is to provide a forum for members with similar interests. Our main emphasis is on education, via sponsoring and organizing educational programs at the Midwinter and Annual SNMMI meetings. If you attended any of our CME courses or Categorical seminars recently, you may have noticed “standing room only” in some sessions. Nothing pleases the speakers and the organizers more, than to see that! That’s also why, following a short break after the June Annual Meeting, even during the summer months, SNMMI and Council leadership have been back at work, planning all the educational sessions for the upcoming 2015 Midwinter and Annual Meetings.

It takes quite a bit of coordination and collaboration among committee members to plan these high quality educational activities, and I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the BOD members and others, who continue to volunteer a considerable chunk of their personal time to these efforts. I would also like to solicit input from all GCNMC members as to their ideas and needs for future educational session topics. We would like to continue being your main resource for updates to best practices in general nuclear medicine. We are organizing the sessions for you, our members, so you have to communicate with us! You can contact us, the BOD members or our SNMMI staff liaison, Catherine (Cat) Castrence, via email (ccastrence@snmmi.org), phone, or even snail mail.

Another activity our Council may be called upon is to collaborate with the Procedure Standards Committee on updating, reviewing or developing standardized clinical procedures pertinent to areas of our expertise.

Collaboration with Other Councils

Year 2015 will mark a new and exciting feature of our educational sessions: we are collaborating with the CMHT (Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation) and the PIC (Pediatric Imaging Council) in organizing joint Categorical and CME sessions at both the MWM and AM (see below). All our CME sessions qualify for SAM credit.

Past and Upcoming Educational Activities Organized by GCNMC

2014 Mid-Winter Meeting:
• MIBG in Diagnosis and Therapy (organizer: L. Freeman, MD)

2014 Annual Meeting:
• Hepatobiliary Update (organizer: H. Ziessman, MD) – CME
• SPECT/CT in Thyroid and Parathyroid disease (organizer: C. Palestro, MD) - CME
• Imaging of PE – current status (organizer: L. Freeman, MD) - CME
• Altered Biodistribution and Incidental Findings (organizer: L. Freeman, MD) - CME
• Evaluation of the Alimentary tract (organizer: C. Palestro, MD)
• Radionuclide Imaging of Inflammation and Infection: State of the Art and Future Directions (organizers: C. Palestro, MD and O. Israel, MD) – Categorical

2015 Mid-Winter Meeting:
• Altered Biodistribution of Radiopharmaceuticals: Unexpected and Incidental Findings in Children and Adults (organizers: L. Freeman, MD and S. Sharp, MD)
• Ventilation-Perfusion Scintigraphy: Challenges, Best Practices, and the Future (organizer: M. Tulchinsky, MD)
2015 Annual Meeting:
- Under-appreciated Physiologic and Pathologic Aspects of General NM Studies (organizer: C. Kim, MD) – CME
- SPECT/CT in Thyroid and Parathyroid disease (organizer: C. Palestro, MD) – CME
- Back to Basics: Optimal Patient Preparation, Pharmacologic Interventions and Interactions (organizer: P. Bhambhvani, MD) – CME
- Gastrointestinal Bleeding Scintigraphy (organizer: M. Tulchinsky, MD) – CME
- Imaging of PE – current status (organizer: L. Freeman, MD) – CME
- Children Not Small Adults: Similarities and Differences between adult and pediatric NM (organizers: H. Balon, MD, N. Nadel, MD and S. Sharp, MD) - Joint CME with PIC
- Imaging of Inflammation and Infection: Current and Future Directions (organizers: C. Palestro, MD and D. Hammoud, MD) – Joint Categorical with CMITT

I look forward to seeing many of you at the MW or Annual meeting, and hearing your ideas, suggestions or concerns in the interin.

Lifetime Achievement Award
Helena R. Balon, MD

The GCNMC has recently established a Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize physicians and scientists who have distinguished themselves through a career dedicated to the advancement of Nuclear Medicine. These individuals should have provided outstanding contributions to the general nuclear medicine subspecialties (urogenital, pulmonary, musculoskeletal, endocrine or gastrointestinal imaging) that have advanced the field to allow improved clinical diagnosis and patient care.

We are planning to give out the award for the first time at the 2015 SNMMI Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. The call for nominations will be sent to all GCNMC members in late January 2015. The award selection committee, chaired by GCNMC immediate Past President, will solicit your input and nominations! We hope to finalize the selection of the awardee and notify the recipient by mid-March. The award will be presented at the GCNMC BOD meeting in Baltimore, June 2015.

Intern’s Report
Blaine Mischen, MD,

I have had the honor of being the General Clinical Nuclear Medicine Council (GCNMC) intern. This experience has been even more beneficial than I had anticipated. It has been an incredible opportunity to meet and work with the preeminent innovators in nuclear medicine. As one who wishes to become a future leader in nuclear medicine and SNMMI, it was an invaluable chance to learn from the past, present, and future leaders of the field. Finally, I gained an up-close perspective of the unrecognized tireless effort and contributions that the GCNMC, and SNMMI as a whole, make to ensure the highest standards of patient care that nuclear medicine physicians can be proud of.

During my internship I have focused on educating medical students about the field of nuclear medicine and the diverse available studies. First I evaluated the students’ baseline knowledge of nuclear medicine. After an extensive lecture overviewing nuclear medicine, a follow-up survey was administered to evaluate the students’ new knowledge, as well as their likelihood to incorporate nuclear medicine studies into their future practice habits. I have successfully taught several classes of medical students, and preliminarily, it appears it may have long-lasting effects.

Thankfully, this amazing experience is not over yet, but even when my internship concludes, I hope to continue working with the GCNMC to support and promote general nuclear medicine. I encourage anyone interested in getting involved in nuclear medicine at the national level and learning from the experts and leaders in the field of nuclear medicine, to apply for the GCNMC SNMMI internship position.

Guidelines Update
Kevin Donohoe, MD, Chair, Procedure Standards Committee and Chair, Guidance Oversight Committee

The GCNMC has been working closely with the Procedure Standards Committee (aka “Guidelines” – see below) providing expertise for the development and revision of several Procedure Standards. Documents in the process of development/revision include:
- Procedure Standards for Adult Renal Scintigraphy
- Brain Amyloid PET/CT imaging
- Diuretic Renal Scintigraphy
- Meckel’s Scintigraphy (recently finalized and published in JNMT)
- GI Bleeding Scintigraphy

Thanks to everyone on the GCNMC and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging that helped with these important documents. Practitioners throughout the world use them on a regular basis.

As these documents are finalized and approved by the SNMMI Board of Directors, they will become available on the SNMMI.org web site at: http://www.snmmi.org/ClinicalPractice/content.aspx?ItemNumber=10817&navItemNumber=10786.

At the request of the SNMMI Committee on Guidelines, The SNMMI Board of Directors has agreed to change the name of the SNMMI Procedure Guidelines to “Procedure Standards”. This change was prompted by the changing meaning of the word “Guidelines” in the US healthcare community. Over the coming months, these changes will be instituted on the SNMMI web pages. The “Guidelines” and their focus will not change. They will continue to be written and revised to describe the acceptable protocols for the practice of nuclear imaging and reporting, as they always have. Only the names of the documents will be changed to “Procedure Standards”, and the name of the Committee will be changed to The Procedure Standards Committee.

In addition, the SNMMI has recently formed a “Guidance Oversight Committee” for the purpose of better coordinating all the guidance documents produced by SNMMI alone and in conjunction with other medical specialty societies. These documents include Procedure Standards, Appropriate Use Criteria, Clinical Practice Guidelines and other documents that will be used for shaping the practice of healthcare in the months and years to come. The GCNMC has been and will continue to be an important source of expertise for the development of these documents.

Please visit the GCNMC website for more information and future announcements on the 2015 Call for Nominations for GCBMC elections and Awards!