

Winter 2016

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President's Address – State of the AAC

Richard D. Siska, Sr., NMAA, MIS, BSNM, NCT



Greetings Advanced Associate Council members. With the holidays in full swing the council wanted to put together a brief newsletter to keep you informed of the changes and progress we are making. First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge Vicki Larue as our new Vice-president, Michael Kroeger as the Sec-Treasurer, and our new board members; Bill Hubble, Krystal Glasgow, and Mark Wallenmeyer.

The NMAA white paper has been sent out to the stakeholder organizations with a deadline of December 14, 2015 for comments and response so a final paper can be drafted and published in the 2016 March editions of the JNM/JNMT. At the annual meeting we outlined the next steps to take in order to see real growth in the field and one of those is marketing. One piece of this marketing effort is in membership. In a recent BOD meeting we discussed the need to try to increase the AAC membership base. In addition, the board also discussed the need to increase dues to come more in-line with other councils and centers. It was decided that the AAC dues will increase to \$15.00 for the 2017 renewals. Also, on the membership front we agreed to provide free AAC membership to NMAA students, a free trial to NMT students, residents, and current NMAA preceptors, in addition to a two-year free AAC membership to previous NMAA preceptors. We believe this will give these groups a chance to explore our council and utilize the resources as well as learning more about the designation.

The AAC will have 30 minutes during the Mid-Winter SNMMI-TS track to discuss the NMAA. We have also been accepted in both the physician and technologist tracks for the SNMMI Annual Meeting in San Diego. The program committee is currently tasked with formulating a technologist and physician survey about the NMAA that will add much needed insight to the outside perception of the designation. The recent survey to the NMAAs was approved by the NMTCB and AAC and went out in November. 13 of 16 people replied and the results have been distributed to the NMTCB and the AAC Board. We will look at correlating the results and sending out a formal synopsis of results soon.

Focusing again on the marketing front we are working on improving our web page. We encourage NMAAs as well as others to send items “such as job descriptions, state licensure documentation, etc...” that may be useful to preceptors, administrators, and NMAAs themselves to further the designation. We hope that by creating this “community experiential digital notebook” that we are paving the way for future NMAAs and educators to make the most of the designation and further legitimacy in their own institutions. We are in the process of creating a “FAQs” page that can be accessed and may help answer those common questions that everyone has about the NMAA. A better understanding of what we are and do can lead to great opportunities in the future.

Lastly, from the stakeholders’ position, the NMAA is here to stay. We can all agree on the utility and necessity of this useful resource; however, it is up to us to make it happen. We need to sell our skill and let the community know what we are able to do. We (individually and as a group) need to advertise and market and not become complacent just because we as individuals might have a secure position. We are still pioneering; we are still blazing a trail.

Happy New Year!

Vice President’s Message

Vicki LaRue, MIS, NMAA



2016 will see the Advanced Associate Council continue to reach out to all members of the SNMMI to establish continued awareness of advanced practice in nuclear medicine. Our goal is a year of change, progression, and advancement. We plan to demonstrate the value NMAAs contribute to everyday practice via our website, extend our experiences via lectures and interesting “case of the week” displays, and the AAC will validate a teamwork approach in molecular imaging utilizing physicians, mid-level providers, and technologists that demonstrates increased safety and efficiency.

Keep an eye on our website and look for our newsletters. As the current Vice President of the council, it is my personal goal to make sure every technologist and physician is aware of the NMAA and the benefits of utilizing an NMAA advanced practitioner in nuclear medicine. I want to expel the misconceptions and fears of including a mid-level provider in the molecular imaging department and increase our professional status within the imaging community. Now, this will take an enormous amount of time. It goes without saying that I cannot accomplish this alone. I will be reaching out for help, lots of it, as only with a united nuclear medicine community can we enhance the environment for all of us. By supporting each other, whether it is our physicians, advanced practitioners, or, technologists, are we able to validate and strengthen the position of everyone in this modality.

Personally, I have seen great strides in the mid-level position at my institution. It was a significant step forward when the institution recognized the NMAA position as part of the Radiology faculty on the [hospital’s website](#) and marketing literature. I continue to experience avid support from my Radiologists and administrators. I am not alone. Many facilities recognize the nuclear medicine advanced associate, and there will be many more to come. We want open

communication with all members of the SNMMI. Please contact us with questions or comments. In turn, many of you will be hearing from me as well!

Save-the-Date!

[SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting](#)

January 28-31, 2016

Orlando, Florida

[SNMMI Annual Meeting](#)

June 11-15, 2016

San Diego, California

Please visit the [Advances Associate Council](#) website for more information and to join!