

**SNMMI House of Delegates Bi-Annual Report
Advanced Associate Council Goals – 2017 Mid-Winter Meeting**

Overview: SNMMI Councils and Centers provide professional networking and educational programs for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals in respective areas, while simultaneously serving as a resource for development and implementation of the SNMMI Strategic Plan and other Society policies.

***Reporting Instructions:** Twice a year, councils and centers are asked to submit a written report to the House of Delegates (councils) and Board of Directors (centers of excellence). These reports help the HOD and BOD to keep up-to-date on the activities of the special interest groups, while also providing an opportunity for these groups to note any challenges they are having with respect to meeting their goals.*

Goal 1: Obtain commitment of support from SNMMI Leadership. Have Leadership recognize the NMAA as a physician extender in Nuclear Medicine. Create a plan where the Leadership of SNMMI is accountable to assist the NMAA program, help create NMAA positions, and have NMAA representation within the SNMMI where applicable.

Hold a stakeholder meeting to discuss support for NMAA programs involving technologists current NMAA program directors, private practice nuclear medicine physicians, interested technologists, cardiologists, oncologists, a representative from the JRCNMT, a representative from the NMTCB, a representative from the licensure side and representative from the NMTCB Program a Directors. The purpose of this meeting is to further explore how develop new NMAA training programs. The path to programmatic accreditation on the graduate needs to be addressed as well as how to assist exiting NM technologist Program Directors to consider developing NMAA training programs. This meeting will require support from SNMMI.

Receive funding to promote/advertise the NMAA in the JNM, Websites, Regional and National Meetings. Advertise on smartbrief.

Meet/discuss with Leadership on a regular basis the issues that are weighing down the ability of the NMAA to progress.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal D: Advance and promote quality, value and safety of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.

- Goal E:

Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: Continuing to work on program recognition with the NMTCB and the document is about 90% complete.

Next Steps: Met with Senior SNMMI leadership and have introduced a resolution on NMAA recognition to the SNMMI Executive Board to be taken up at the 2017 Annual Meeting

Goal 2:

Send a survey to practicing radiologists and administrators to evaluate the NMAA job market and how NMAAs could be utilized to best support practice. This survey will require support from SNMMI.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal E-Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: N/A

As of 4th Q 2015 NMAA survey was sent to NMAAs. Program committee is developing SNMMI Tech and physician surveys currently. Results being tabulated from NMAA survey

Next Steps: have the SNMMI Leadership help by identifying radiologists and administrators in the field. Promote the utility of the NMAA.

Identify those things radiologist does not want to do or have no time for in Nuclear Medicine.

Send out finalized Survey to SNMMI and SNMMI-TS members prior to Annual meeting waiting on program committee to finalize physician and tech surveys.

Goal 3: Update the NMAA Scope of Practice by adding duties that practicing NMAA's are performing daily.

Continue to work on and update the NMAA scope of practice as the field develops. The original Scope of Practice was instituted before practicing NMAAs were reality. Now, with more NMAAs entering the job market, the scope may be altered to more accurately reflect how NMAAs are deployed.

Facilitate the awareness of the NMAA to imaging physicians, technologists, and potential students. Send info to all technologist programs in conjunction with visits/lectures from current NMAA as well as physicians who work with NMAAs. Have our physician supporters assist in creating awareness and support in the ACNM, ASNC, ACR, and other physician based organizations that do not currently recognize the position of the NMAA

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal B: Facilitate and support the availability and clinical utilization of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies by defining how the NMAA fits into the physician group in real world application.
- Goal D: Advance and promote quality, value and safety of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.
- Goal E: Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: Deferred until after the 2017 MWM.

Determine that reimbursement is a non-issue.

12/2015 we have received info from NMAA survey to incorporate into this task After several discussions, consensus is to wait until more NMAAs have entered the field.

Next Steps: Data from survey will be used to support a portion of this report. The results of the stakeholder meeting will play heavily into this activity. 12/2015 working with UAMS and NMTCB with NMAA survey results Consensus with UAMS that SOP update should wait until more NMAAs have entered the field.

Goal 4: Continue awareness campaigns for the NMAA to achieve support and membership from physicians, NMAAs, and nuclear medicine technologists. These campaigns should include education for physicians in all physician councils of the SNMMI, by our physician supporters and NMAA representatives, educational activities in undergraduate NMT programs, participation in the roadshows, and the job survey.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal B: Facilitate and support the availability and clinical utilization of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies.
- Goal D: Advance and promote quality, value and safety of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.

Current Progress: Deferred. Newsletter completed. Awaiting publication. as of 1/2016 we have published 2 more AAC newsletters, Q/A published in SNMMI uptake, NMTCB newsletter featuring NMAA graduate essay "Who, What, Why of the the NMAA. Flyers sent out to 3 chapter meetings and 1 regional meeting as well as previous 2 annual meetings of the SNMMI. Open policy for any AAC member to request flyers for nuclear medicine related meetings. Publish White Paper from Stakeholders in 3/2016. 2015 roadshow inclusion. Free trial memberships voted on and recently passed for students and preceptors

Next Steps: Deferred until MWM 2017.

Goal 5: Investigate funding opportunities for program creation and council operation. Create additional programs that educate nuclear medicine physician extenders.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal D: Advance and promote quality, value and safety of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.
- Goal E: Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: 2016 Business plan Additional support was requested for the professional survey (\$10,000) from the SNMMI. In addition to the usual support provided by SNMMI headquarters, the AAC requests support for the proposed survey.

Next Steps: waiting on approval of funds. SNMMI-TS said was that they were going to investigate other collaborative opportunities and were not going to participate in advocacy efforts related to the NMAA at this time.

AAC and NMTCB are currently outlining recognition criteria to help boost programs that are interested in the NMAA.

Goal 6: Work with the SNMMI/SNMMITS Government Relations committees to ensure proper legislative language in states where students are accepted to any program.

Based on recent meeting between the ASRT, ARRT, and SNMMI-TS the Reimbursement is a non-issue. The RA first asked for reimbursement legislation over 15yrs ago.

Be of benefit to have a liaison from Government Relations. This was passed recently at the 2016 annual meeting AAC board, however; that liaison is no longer available.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal D: Advance and promote quality, value and safety of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.
- Goal E: Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: 2015 Missouri bill failed, however new bill for 2016 introduced into HR. Current effort in Jefferson City with MoSRT and MVC SNMMI.

Next Steps: If we are successful in Missouri then we will forward the legislative language to government relations for creation of model legislation. Help re-introduce bill in Missouri, extend olive branch to ASRT and gain access to RA Medicare reimbursement bill. Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act of 2016 was introduced on Feb. 25 by Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) as H.R. 4614 and a Senate companion bill will soon be introduced by Sen. John Boozman (R-AR).

As of 9/2016 the legislative initiatives for the NMAA were halted due to the SNMMI-TS resolution.

Goal 7: Education Outreach

Target NMT programs.

All undergraduate programs will be contacted with literature describing the activities of the NMAA and AAC. Campaign to all programs to have current NMAAs guest lecture on advanced practice. Currently Many undergraduate programs are not familiar with the NMAA program.

Advocate for scholarships of the NMAA students.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal E: Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: Not enough students

Next Steps: Need physician and hospital administration support to create new advanced practice positions. AAC potentially meets with the AHRA.

Need to increase number of programs student enrollment! Currently working on increasing student enrollment.

Need to be in sessions- career pathways, etc with students at every meeting.

Goal 8: Develop a speaker's bureau for NMAA/advanced practice issues and make that list available through the website.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal D: Advance and promote quality, value and safety of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.

Current Progress: Program committee has been task with this and is in the process of collecting names. The AAC sponsored two sessions at the 2015 Annual Meeting: o The NMAA and the Application of the Mid-Level Provider Services in the Detection of Pathological Processes with Functional Imaging o Metabolic Imaging AAC talk at MWM tech session about NMAA AAC sponsored Session at 2016 Annual Meeting on technologist tracks has been approved.

Next Steps: The AAC needs time in all Summary Sessions to address a wider audience. Several session organized by the AAC have received unpopular time slots and therefore reduced audience numbers. Especially physician numbers.

Goal 9: Develop resources for continued financial, academic, and professional support SNMMI

Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal D: Advance and promote quality, value and safety of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.
- Goal E: Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: Have entered preliminary discussions with potential interests in new NMAA program.

Next Steps: Working as intermediary between UAMS and interested party. Provided a joint presentation with UAMS and Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences on March 30th that included 4 NMT programs.

Updated: 07/2016 Working with NMTCB on developing additional NMAA recognition criteria.

Goal 10: Ongoing goal - Continue to develop the council website to make information regarding NMAAs widely available on the internet. A member of the council will work closely with SNMMI staff to review and improve the content of the website.

SNMMI Strategic Plan Goals that relates to this goal:

- Goal A: Advance the development and approval of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies.
- Goal B: Facilitate and support the availability and clinical utilization of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies.
- Goal E: Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: the web site has recently been updated with current information. The web site has more information than it did previously. We need staff support to complete this and other goals. We had significant staff turnover. As 4th Quarter 2015, We have held calls and enhanced the website. We are adding a FAQs page and new resources for NMAAs.

- Goal E: Support and enhance the professional workforce and environment.

Current Progress: Currently updating website. Will add the Speakers Bureau, selected talks, and Forms.

Next Steps: Underway Have added New NMAA survey results. Working on FAQs page. Adding proposed legislative bills that include NMAA language.

Next Steps: keeping site current

Open Comment Section

CHALLENGES – There has been a “tug of war” regarding who oversees the AAC, the SNMMI or the SNMI-TS. This has caused tremendous turmoil as we attempt to function as a physician council however see activity such as strategic meetings being developed by the Section. It is also very concerning that current NMAA’s are not included in the potential course of action of our discipline.

The majority of the physician membership of the SNMMI is not aware the NMAA exists.

The majority of undergraduate NMT program directors are not aware of the advanced practice clinical pathway.

Multiple, potential students for the NMAA have been “discouraged” from applying to the program. Apparently non-NMAA’s have determined there is no potential for jobs, recognition, or a future for advanced practice in nuclear medicine. This spurious theory has created a huge disadvantage for those of us attempting to recruit future students. ~~This has been a blatant attempt of sabotage from persons who have no firsthand experience as an advanced practitioner in nuclear medicine. This cannot be acceptable protocol of the SNMMI, and should be investigated by the Society and the Section.~~

We understand the premise behind the need to investigate other options for advanced practice but we need to ensure we have utilized all available resources for this iteration that took 10yrs to formulate.

OPPORTUNITIES – Please provide information on opportunities that you believe exist within your council/center OR other related special interest groups (or outside stakeholders) that the SNMMI can help facilitate or should be aware of.

Advanced Practice is relevant and needed in nuclear medicine. We must speak to those who are willing to listen to gain support and acceptance. This needs to be facilitated by Leadership of the SNMMI as well as the SNMMI-TS in one united voice.

With continued support we can facilitate a re-birth of the NMAA in this iteration focusing on educator outreach and target practicing radiologists, and administrators. It is important for technologists to know that the NMAA is for them to extend their careers and the physicians to know the NMAA is there for them to extend the quality of care in Nuclear Medicine they deliver.