President’s Message
Jon A. Baldwin, DO, MBS, Academic Council President

Dear Colleagues,

“May you live in interesting times.”

These certainly are interesting times for the medical field in general, and in the specialty of Nuclear Medicine in particular. There is the promise of a potentially limitless number of radiotracers and probes, as well as many beneficial novel therapeutic agents. This is somewhat at odds with pressure from government agencies and payers to limit reimbursement—with the (perhaps) unintended consequence of stifling innovation. The rapid progress of hybrid imaging has not only refined and improved diagnostic accuracy; it has challenged those involved in the interpretations of those exams to keep up with an ever-evolving array of modalities and radiotracers.

If you are reading this message I can safely assume that you get out of the home or office often enough to know that there is a proposal from the ABR-ABNM Taskforce related to both training of future generations of experts, as well as reorganization of Board structure. At the Annual Meeting in Baltimore the Academic Council hosted a question and answer session related to this topic during our combined business/board meeting (our best-attended meeting ever, coincidentally). A very robust discussion ensued. Rumors were put to rest, and there was an intelligent dialogue about the potential implications. If you were not able to make that meeting, and even if you did, more information about the topic can be found at these links: ABR-ABNM Joint Statement and Frequently Asked Questions.

I would urge you to have your voice heard. Whether you are for or against, or simply have concerns about particular aspects of the proposal, please go to the ABNM website (http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2241491/d664d6a7a0f2) and comment. The comment period ends September 21, 2015. Do not waste this opportunity to contribute to your specialty. Let the Task Force know your thoughts on what is best for our patients.

Dr. Leonie L. Gordon Selected for Academic Council’s Lifetime Achievement in Education Award!

The Academic Council congratulates Leonie Gordon, MD, FACNM, Past President of the Academic Council, as the recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement in Education Award. Jon Baldwin, DO, President of the Academic Council presented Dr. Gordon with this award at the 2015 SNMMI Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland (pictured). The Academic Council Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals within nuclear medicine who have distinguished themselves through a career dedicated to the advancement of patient care through academic achievement and education as well as extraordinary leadership and dedication to the Academic Council.
AC Meeting and Educational Sessions

The Academic Council was pleased to sponsor two very interesting continuing education sessions at the 2015 SNMMI Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. The first session entitled, “Scintillating CVs…What to do to Market Yourself in a Tough Job Market?”, covered various aspects of professional development and job hunting. Thank you to speakers Jessica Williams, CNMT, RT(N); Erin Grady, MD, CCD, FACNM; and Janis P. O’Malley, MD; and moderators Jon Baldwin, Do, MBS; and Norman E. Bolus, MSPH, CNMT, FSNMMI-TS.

The second session entitled “Combined Residencies Revisited: Regulatory Hurdles and Personal Experiences”, covered important topics and challenges faced by those developing a combined nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology residency. Thank you to speakers George M. Segall, MD, FACNM; Jon A. Baldwin, DO, MBS; and Marc Benayoun, MD, PhD. And thanks to Jon A. Baldwin, DO, MBS and David Brandon, MD for moderating the session.

The Academic Council’s combined business/board meeting was in full swing as members discussed the recent proposal from the ABR/ABNM Task Force.
AC Intern Update


Following my chemical engineering undergraduate training at Clemson University and medical school at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, I completed a surgical internship in my hometown of Greenville, South Carolina. I then served five years as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force which included a tour in Afghanistan and the opportunity to provide medical assistance to NASA astronauts during the historic final space shuttle landing in July 2011.

I am currently in my final year of nuclear medicine residency training at Emory University. I am particularly interested in resource utilization and efficiency for medical imaging in the wake of dwindling healthcare dollars. I am excited to be a part of the SNMMI Academic Council, and I hope to understand and assist in addressing the challenges within our specialty to facilitate a bright future in nuclear medicine as a whole.

During the 2015 SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting, the Academic Council discussed the potential value of obtaining data from nuclear medicine residencies pertaining to resident case numbers for commonly performed imaging studies and therapies. At this discussion, it was clear that information derived solely from radiology information systems would be insufficient as not all resident data would be captured from some programs. For the AC intern project, we would like to move forward in hopes of collecting sufficient data from as many nuclear medicine programs as possible to establish normative values for nuclear medicine procedures performed during residency training.

As the new SNMMI Academic Council intern, I am spearheading this project and requesting your participation as a nuclear medicine program director to join with the other NM program directors in supporting this endeavor. In addition, I would like to ask for volunteers to set up a working group to help determine the breadth of procedures surveyed and which data sources should be accepted as valid given the variable conditions in residency training.

Some may ask why undertake such a project in the face of the ABR/ABNM proposal, but what better time to have hard data on what our residents do to guide any transition that may take place. This data would be made available to any entity that requests it, in the hopes that it would facilitate the discussion of what changes, if any, need to be made.

Please contact me at shawn.carter@emory.edu if you are interested in volunteering to serve on this working group.

Save the Date!

Make plans to attend the SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting in Orlando, FL., January 28-31, 2016. The Academic Council and the Young Professionals Committee (YPC) will be co-sponsoring the session, “Part IV MOC in Clinical Practice.”

Please visit the Academic Council website for more information and to join!