Message From the President: Looking Ahead to the Coming Year

The Correlative Imaging Council (CIC) is undertaking exciting new initiatives that will ensure the vitality of our organization by recognizing outstanding young professionals. A young professional is defined as a resident or fellow in a nuclear medicine training program, or a nuclear medicine physician in practice less than five years.

The first new initiative is the establishment of a CIC internship. The purpose of the internship is to introduce a young professional to the organizational infrastructure and governance of the council and SNM. The intern will serve two years. During their two-year term, interns are expected to attend all the CIC business meetings at SNM annual and mid-winter meetings, participate in conference calls, and complete one project under the mentorship of a council officer or director. Interns will receive an honorarium from the council in the form of paid registration for the SNM meetings. Interns will be nominated for election to the CIC Board of Directors (BOD) at the conclusion of their internship.

It is anticipated that this new program will bring young professionals with new ideas into CIC, introduce them to senior colleagues who can serve as mentors, and allow them to learn how CIC and SNM operate so that they can effectively advance new ideas. Anyone wishing to nominate a young professional for the CIC internship should email George.Segall@med.va.gov by August 10. Candidates will be asked to provide their curriculum vitae and a brief statement of their professional goals. The CIC BOD will select the intern by October 1.

The second new initiative is the creation of the Walter W. Wolf Award for the best abstract by a young professional employing correlative imaging that is accepted for oral or poster presentation at the SNM Annual Meeting. The award will be accompanied by a $500 honorarium. The award is named in honor of Dr. Wolf, who was president of the Correlative Imaging Council from 1999 to 2005. The award will increase the awareness of the importance of correlative imaging and encourage research in the field.

CIC continues to plan educational activities for nuclear medicine physicians and technologists. Plans include a Basic CT for Nuclear Medicine Professionals course in Los Angeles on August 19. Program and registration information can be found on the SNM Web site at www.snm.org/cic. In August, the CIC BOD will also begin planning for a categorical course at the 2007 SNM Annual Meeting to be held in Washington, DC.

CIC welcomes new members and encourages existing members to participate in activities of the council to advance the field of nuclear medicine through correlative imaging. Members are encouraged to e-mail or call members of the BOD about new ideas.

George Segall, MD
President, CIC
Report on the Activities of the Correlative Imaging Council

CIC had a very productive year, with educational activities continuing to be our main functions. At the 2006 SNM Mid-Winter Meeting, CIC organized an educational track in PET/CT. The topics included PET/CT instrumentation, CT protocols and techniques, protocols and dose reduction techniques in children, and PET/CT evaluation in head/neck cancer, thorax, and abdomen. At the 2005 SNM Annual Meeting in Toronto, the CIC presented a very timely and state-of-the-art categorical course titled “Nuts and Bolts of PET/CT and Beyond.” The course was well attended and covered a wide range of topics including PET/CT in oncology, cardiology, and pulmonary embolism evaluation using ventilation/perfusion lung imaging and spiral CT. At the conclusion of the session, the CIC held its annual business meeting.

One of the highlights of CIC activities of 2005 was a retreat held in conjunction with a CT training course for nuclear medicine physicians organized by our incoming president George Segall, MD, on August 6, 2005. The Stanford faculty gave the CT course, which was very helpful in advancing a potential and much anticipated CT certification for nuclear medicine physicians. Useful resources for CT learning will also be compiled and made available for ready reference by the CIC.

The educational program was followed by a stimulating retreat for the CIC Board of Directors (BOD) in the lovely Thomas Fogarty Winery, again thanks to George Segall for his efforts in organizing the educational CT course and the retreat. During the retreat, the BOD not only enjoyed but also had a very fruitful brainstorming and strategy-planning session. Walter Wolf, PhD, our outgoing president, gave an excellent historical perspective of CIC. He continues to be an invaluable help to CIC.

The key outcomes of the discussions included a consensus that the CIC should continue to provide CT training courses for nuclear medicine physicians and program content for the categorical seminar at SNM meetings. The BOD discussed and approved the suggestion that an organ- or system-based categorical course be presented in the future, since that would be the most helpful and appropriate for best patient management. To further this goal, an organ-based seminar on breast cancer was planned for the 2006 SNM meeting in San Diego.

The seminar comprehensively addressed all aspects of breast cancer including diagnosis, oncological and surgical management, and future trends. The program was an exciting and state-of-the-art session. However, it was disappointing that the audience was not as high as anticipated. In view of this, the CIC board will discuss topics to be presented at future meetings that are of interest to a larger proportion of the membership.

CIC is sponsoring a CT review seminar on August 19 at the Los Angeles VA Wadsworth Hospital. Registration is now available on the SNM Web site (www.snm.org). Following the course, CIC is planning a retreat to discuss future activities of CIC.

Lalitha Ramanna, MD
Immediate Past President

Walter Wolf Honored with de Hevesy Award for Pioneering Contributions to Radiopharmacy

Walter Wolf, PhD, distinguished professor of pharmaceutical sciences and chair of the Biomedical Imaging Science Initiative at the University of Southern California—and a pioneer in the field of radiopharmacy—was awarded the 2006 Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award for his contributions to the nuclear medicine profession. The award was presented during SNM’s 53rd Annual Meeting June 3–7 in San Diego.

“For nearly 50 years, Walter Wolf has continued to make major breakthroughs in the study of human biology and disease,” said SNM President Peter S. Conti, MD, PhD, professor of radiology, pharmacy, and bioengineering at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. “He realized the need for pharmacists to specialize in the field of radioactive drug products when he joined USC in the late 1950s, establishing USC’s radiopharmacy program in the 1960s and running it for nearly 20 years. Through his unparalleled talents and dedication, Dr. Wolf has played an instrumental role in advancing the profession,” added Conti.

“It is an honor to receive the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award,” said Wolf, a distinguished professor of pharmaceutical sciences at USC since 1998. He explained that while it’s wonderful to get recognition for past research, “I am much more excited about the work I’ve yet to do.” The 1999 Paul C. Aebersold Award recipient continues to be active in the field and to expand his research activities into new dimensions of molecular imaging.

Wolf founded the USC Pharmacokinetic Imaging Program and has been its director since 1996. A full professor in the School of Pharmacy since 1970 and distinguished professor since 1998, Wolf served as director of its radiopharmacy program from 1969–98. Over the years, Wolf’s research has focused on pharmacokinetic imaging, a novel approach that allows noninvasive studies of drug biodistribution, targeting, and metabolism using both nuclear medicine imaging (including positron emission tomography) and magnetic resonance spectroscopy techniques. These studies measure the target pharmacokinetics of antitumor agents. Wolf’s interests also include studies on the synthe-
sis and mechanism of action of radio-pharmaceuticals.

The senior consultant in radiopharmacy and pharmacology for the LAC/USC Medical Center since 1987, Wolf also served as director of radiopharmacy services there (1971–87); visiting assistant professor (1962–63), assistant professor (1963–65) and associate professor (1965–70), all with the USC School of Pharmacy; research associate with the USC chemistry department (1959–62); research associate with Amherst College, Amherst, MA (1958–59); research associate, McGill University, Montreal, Canada (1957–58); associate professor of organic chemistry, University of Concepción, Chile (1956–58); Stagiaire and Attaché de Recherches, CNRS, Paris, France (1955–56); visiting professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1973, 1976 and 1983); and visiting professor, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (1967–82).

A former president of the Education and Research Foundation for SNM, he received a bachelor’s degree in the natural sciences (1948) and a master’s degree in organic chemistry (1952), both from the University of the Republic in Montevideo, Uruguay. He earned his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Paris in France in 1956.

Wolf, a former chair of SNM’s Correlative Imaging Council, is a foreign corresponding member of Académie Nationale de Pharmacie, Paris, France, and a fellow of both the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine. He received the Genia Czerniak Prize in Nuclear Medicine (Israel, 1979 and 1986); the Amersham Prize for Best Radiopharmaceutical Paper, iVTH; World Federation of Nuclear Medicine, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1986; Merit Award, University of Judaism, 1975 and 1978; and the Pioneer Award in Nuclear Pharmacy, American Pharmaceutical Association, 1996 and 2000.

Each year, SNM presents the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award to an individual (or individuals) for outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. De Hevesy received the 1943 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in determining the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of radioactive compounds in the human body. His work led to the foundation of nuclear medicine as a tool for diagnosis and therapy, and he is considered the father of nuclear medicine. SNM has given the de Hevesy Award every year since 1960 to honor groundbreaking work in the field of nuclear medicine.

A Brief History of the Correlative Imaging Council

In 1977 James J Smith, MD, VA national program director for nuclear medicine, proposed the formation of a Council on Correlated Imaging that would allow nuclear medicine to maintain a good working association with ultrasound, a new imaging modality that was emerging, and other “cognate modalities.” The Executive Committee of SNM approved the formation of a Council on Correlated Imaging at a meeting held in New York City on April 7, 1978. The first president of the council was William Blahd, MD.

The Correlative Imaging Council (CIC), as it is now known, has been very active in the educational mission of the SNM. CIC has sponsored or co-sponsored a categorical course at the Annual Meeting of the SNM each year, plus organized several symposia and continuing education seminars. For the past few years the educational focus of the CIC has been PET/CT.

Mission

The Correlative Imaging Council is a group within the Society of Nuclear Medicine dedicated to the interchange of scientific and medical ideas among society members who have an interest in correlative imaging and clinical practice. The overall mission of the Correlative Imaging Council is to:

- Provide a forum for members with similar interests;
- Provide to the membership expertise in both correlative imaging and clinical practice;
- Foster research and education in both correlative imaging and clinical practice;
- Provide outreach to other professionals and organizations;
- Nurture new membership in SNM; and
- Serve as a resource to the SNM leadership.

Benefits of Membership

The Correlative Imaging Council has 254 members. CIC encourages all members to participate in planning educational activities and new initiatives by contacting the officers of the council or attending the general business meetings. New members are welcome. Membership benefits include:

- Discounted registration fees for educational activities sponsored by CIC;
- Semiannual newsletter providing information about educational activities and initiatives;
- Opportunity to participate in planning educational activities at the SNM mid-winter and annual meetings; and
- Forum for discussion and support for new ideas concerning correlative imaging.

George Segall, MD
President, CIC
Election Results
The results of the election for the Board of Directors of the Correlative Imaging Council were announced at the 2006 SNM Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Simin Dadparvar, MD, was elected president-elect, and B. David Collier, MD, was elected secretary/treasurer. Dr. Dadparvar and Dr. Collier will join George Segall, MD, president, and Lalitha Ramanna, MD, immediate past president, as the officers of the board of directors (BOD). They will serve for two years, beginning with the general business meeting of the Correlative Imaging Council on June 9, 2006.

Six directors were also elected: Bob Carretta, MD; Vince Sodd, PhD; and Alan Waxman, MD, who will serve 4-year terms; and Stephen Bartold, MD; Maroun Karam, MD; and Lisa Wall, CNMT, who will serve 2-year terms. All terms began June 9, 2006.

The next meeting of the BOD will be held in Redondo Beach, CA, on August 20. A special thank you is given to Walter Wolf, PhD, who retired from the board in 2006. Dr. Wolf served as president from 1999–2005 and more recently served as immediate past president. His knowledge, experience, and wisdom will be missed, but Dr. Wolf will continue to work with the board as a consultant.

Thanks is also given to Kirkman Baxter, MD; Barbara Croft, PhD; and Frances Keech, MBA, RT(N), FSNMTS, who completed their term as directors.

The names and e-mail addresses for the new Board of Directors of the Correlative Imaging Council are listed below:

- George Segall, MD, President, george.segall@va.gov
- Simin Dadparvar, MD, President-elect, sdadparvar@aol.com
- B. David Collier, MD, Secretary/Treasurer, bertdavidcollier@hotmail.com
- Lalitha Ramanna, MD, Immediate Past President, ramanna@usc.edu
- Bob Carretta, MD, Director, robert.carretta@tycohealthcare.com
- Alan Waxman, MD, Director, waxman@cshs.org
- Stephen Bartold, MD, Director, sbartold@apex2000.net
- Maroun Karam, MD, Director, karamm@mail.amc.edu
- Lisa Wall, CNMT, Director, lisa.wall@va.gov

Save the Date! CT Review Symposium

When? August 19, 2006
Where? West Los Angeles VA Medical Center

Are you prepared to meet the demands of today’s imaging requirements? SNM will help you succeed with expert CT training. Designed for the nuclear medicine physician and technologist with minimal CT experience and the radiologist with limited recent experience in CT interpretation, the CT Review Course is your opportunity to gain a solid understanding of CT anatomy to more effectively diagnose and treat patients—in just one day. Our expert faculty will offer top-notch insight and instruction on the latest advancements in CT and PET/CT. Click here to register today.

Join us and upon course completion you will be able to:
1. Identify normal cross-sectional CT anatomy of chest, abdomen, pelvis, head/neck and musculoskeletal structures;
2. Describe the commonly used CT protocols for patient studies;
3. Recognize the various CT abnormalities that should not be missed when reading PET/CT scans, including pneumothorax, aortic aneurysm, and others;
4. Review commonly encountered CT pathology in various body organs; and
5. Understand and recognize the various CT artifacts and the underlying rationale for the artifacts.

Case examples demonstrating the importance of normal and abnormal CT findings as they relate to PET/CT imaging will be emphasized. The course will include CT physics, as well as technical problems and limitations of CT. Nuclear medicine technologists and residents seeking more advanced CT training as it relates to PET/CT will also find this course valuable.

CE credit will be offered for this activity. Please check the SNM Learning Center Web site for details.

Register online today to reserve your space!

Registration costs:
- Physician non-member: $299
- Physician member: $250
- Technologist non-member: $199
- Technologist member: $150
- Residents/retired physicians: $199

NOTE: Residents and in-training attendees require written verification, on official institution letterhead, signed by their program director to qualify for the reduced rate.