

Consideration of a Name Change for the SNM

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) is completing its 5-y campaign to embrace all molecular imaging modalities while, at the same time, its 60th anniversary is rapidly approaching. As a specialty, nuclear medicine arose from the application of sophisticated technology providing a unique ability to image function and physiological processes. Nuclear medicine also provided ways to treat diseases such as thyroid disease and non-Hodgkin lymphoma by utilizing radioactive medicines that specifically targeted fundamental aspects of the organ's physiology or the pathophysiology of the disease. Over the past 5 y, we have incorporated nonnuclear molecular imaging technologies into SNM and SNM-sponsored scientific and educational programs and publications, such as *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, *Molecular Imaging*, and the *Molecular Imaging Gateway* newsletter. This transition was quite natural, as SNM came to realize that molecular imaging and therapy have always been integral parts of our specialty. However, the society recognized the need to expand its vision to look beyond radioactive biomarkers into optical, ultrasonic, and magnetic resonance strategies that utilize multiple modalities to answer scientific questions as well as to diagnose, treat, and monitor therapy of disease. As an organization we now stand prepared to lead the way in translating novel molecular imaging and therapeutic strategies for the new era of molecular and personalized medicine.

It is appropriate at this critical juncture to consider whether the name "Society of Nuclear Medicine" adequately describes who we are and where we are headed. It has certainly served us well over these past 60 y and has come to represent the most prestigious international organization in the field of nuclear medicine. However, as molecular imaging expands, we need to incorporate emerging imaging technologies beyond those that utilize radioactivity.

For these reasons, the SNM Board of Directors and House of Delegates, in conjunction with the Technologist Section leadership, are asking the membership to consider a new name: the "Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging." We recognize that renaming SNM has been considered previously, and many of us opposed a name change in the past. Although we want to keep our nuclear

medicine identity, now is the time to once again consider a name change that embraces our past, present, and future.

The name "Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging" retains our identity while opening our arms to new possibilities as well as to scientists, technologists, clinicians, and laboratory professionals whose primary focus is nonnuclear molecular imaging. It recognizes our growing diversity in imaging, nuclear and nonnuclear, molecular and nonmolecular. It also recognizes the therapeutic, medicinal aspects of our specialty by retaining the words "nuclear medicine." Although no name will suit all of our members, we feel that the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging best represents where we come from, who we are, and where our future lies.

A name change requires that a change in our bylaws be approved by the SNM House of Delegates. However, the consideration of a name change is an endeavor that must be carefully considered by all within SNM, including the Technologist Section, chapters, councils, centers, and, most important, the membership at large. We want to apprise you of these considerations early in the process. In the months ahead, we will be soliciting opinions in a more formal manner, because we are very interested in your thoughts regarding this most important matter. Please contact leadership of the SNM Board of Directors, House of Delegates, SNMETS Executive Board, and National Council of Representatives by sending an e-mail to feedback@snm.org. We look forward to hearing from you.



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