Proposed Name Change for the Society of Nuclear Medicine

Over the past year, SNM has been considering a name change to accurately reflect the society and the future direction of the field. The name “Society of Nuclear Medicine” has served us well over these past 60 years and has come to represent the most prestigious international organization in the field of nuclear medicine. However, the time has come for us to embrace our role in the expanding field of molecular imaging including the emergence of imaging technologies beyond those that utilize radioactivity.

With the launch of the Bench to Bedside campaign in 2006, SNM began to make a concerted effort to embrace other modalities that, like nuclear medicine, image physiology at a molecular level to better diagnose, stage, treat, and monitor therapy of disease. Our field and professional organization have the potential to grow for the ultimate benefit of patients by welcoming professionals who utilize these emerging technologies while maintaining our focus on our core area, nuclear medicine, both diagnostic and therapeutic. The name “Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging” retains our rich history and identity while recognizing the current diversity in our field: imaging and nonimaging, nuclear and nonnuclear, molecular and nonmolecular. Retaining the term “nuclear medicine” also recognizes the therapeutic, medicinal aspects of our specialty.

The SNM Board of Directors discussed the impact a name change would have on the SNM membership, in particular the importance of embracing the fundamental nature of the field while looking to the future. After careful deliberation the Board officially approved the proposed name change in April 2011 and began soliciting feedback from the membership.

To determine whether a name change was in the best interest of the society, SNM undertook a comprehensive process to educate members on the pros and cons of changing the name and to solicit feedback. Several articles were published in The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, including a point/counterpoint debate in the December issue to illustrate both points of view. More than 325 responses were received from members, all of which were reviewed by the Name Change Task Force. Generally speaking, almost 75% of the feedback was positive.

In January 2012 at the SNM Mid-Winter Meeting, the SNM House of Delegates—the leadership of the councils, centers, chapters, and technologist section that make up the society—supported by greater than a two-thirds majority a proposed amendment to the SNM bylaws that would change the society’s name to the “Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.”

The last step required by our articles of incorporation toward finalizing the name change is for our members to vote on this change at the annual business meeting. The vote will take place on Monday, June 11, at the Monday plenary/business meeting, held between 8:00 and 10:00 AM during the society’s Annual Meeting in Miami, FL.

SNM and SNMTS Leadership strongly encourage all members to attend this meeting in order to actively participate in this historic and very important vote. Changing the name of Carolyn J. Anderson, PhD

Frederic H. Fahey, DSc

Kathy Hunt, MS, CNMT

Official Notification of Proposed Amendments to Articles of Incorporation

The Society of Nuclear Medicine is incorporated in Washington State. According to section 24.03.165 of the Washington Not-For-Profit Statute, in order to amend the Articles of Incorporation, the proposed changes must be approved at a meeting of members with at least two-thirds of the members voting and present casting their votes in favor of the change.

The SNM will be utilizing the Monday, June 11, 2012 Plenary Session and Business Meeting, beginning at 8:00 AM in Hall D of the Miami Beach Convention Center in Miami, FL, as the forum to conduct this important vote to amend the Articles of Incorporation. If you are a voting member of the SNM, and are preregistered for the meeting, you will receive your voting card with your badge in the mail. If you register on site, and are a voting member, you will receive your voting card at that time. If you are a voting member of SNM and wish only to participate in the Business Meeting but not register for the meeting, staff will be available in the plenary room to distribute voting cards.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please e-mail: feedback@snm.org.

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Focus on Molecular Imaging at SNM 2012

At the 2012 SNM Annual Meeting, to be held June 9–13 in Miami Beach, FL, outstanding scientific and educational sessions on preclinical and translational molecular imaging will focus on cutting-edge and innovative topics. Among the featured sessions will be presentations on: Cerenkov imaging, intraoperative imaging, photoacoustic imaging, radiopharmaceutical development and applications, multimodal breast imaging, multimodal cardiovascular imaging, multimodal prostate imaging, neuroreceptor molecular imaging, and new agents for imaging prostate cancer.

The Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation (CMIIT) has partnered with the Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council (RPSC) to sponsor a full-day categorical seminar, “Molecular Imaging in Europe and Asia: New Lessons from the Old World,” to examine how researchers, scientists, and clinicians in the United States can adapt successful strategies used by investigators in other countries to accelerate the translation of radiopharmaceuticals and other imaging agents into human studies and ultimately into clinical use. The international lineup of expert speakers includes Richard Fejka, RPh, Marion DeJong, PhD, Albert Windhorst, PhD, Richard Baum, MD, PhD, Yasuhsa Fujibayashi, PhD, Sam Achilefu, PhD, Paula Jacobs, PhD, George Mills, MD, and Philip Elsinga, PhD. This course includes a lecture by Achilefu focusing on the application of a goggle system for NIRF image-guided surgery.

Several of the continuing education sessions sponsored by CMIIT will focus on the newest research in and applications for optical imaging. The photoacoustic session will include Vasilis Ntziachristos, PhD, on multispectral optoacoustic tomography, and Jingyi Chen, PhD, on the use of gold nanoparticles in photoacoustic imaging. This session will help attendees identify the strengths and weaknesses of photoacoustic imaging and learn how it may be applied in a clinical setting. The Cerenkov imaging session will include Gregory Mitchell, PhD, providing an overview of Cerenkov luminescence imaging; Robbie Robertson, BS, on applications; and Jan Grimm, MD, PhD, on new directions in research and practice. John Frangioni, MD, PhD, will start the session on intraoperative imaging by describing clinical translation of imaging systems and contrast agents for near-infrared fluorescence (NIRF)–guided surgery and will be followed by Ntziachristos, speaking about first-in-human clinical translation of fluorescence molecular imaging, and Grimm and Pat Zanzonico, PhD, addressing the use of radioactive tracers in intraoperative imaging.

Travel awards are available for laboratory professionals, students, and others involved in molecular imaging research. This year’s meeting will also feature expanded poster categories, virtual meeting learning opportunities, more than 70 expert-led CE sessions, and up to 15 SAM sessions. Information about the educational program, travel awards, and registration is available at www.snm.org/am2012.

Jonathan McConathy, MD, PhD
CMIIT Program Committee chair

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our society is not something that we take lightly, and each and every voting member should have the opportunity to have his or her voice heard. Detailed information regarding the name change can be found at www.snm.org/namechange. If you have any questions regarding the name change process or are unsure whether you are a voting member, please contact memberservices@snm.org.

Carolyn J. Anderson, PhD
Chair, SNM Name Change Task Force

Frederic H. Fahey, DSc
SNM President-Elect

Kathy Hunt, MS, CNMT
SNMTS Past President