

ACNM Expands International Ties as We Build Toward Next Year and Beyond: Letter from ACNM President

This year, The ACNM has been busy and productive. The success of the ACNM activities and programs is due to the dedication of its member volunteers, and the progress of the year is demonstrably due to the hard work and dedication the many individuals serving on our Board and in our Committees. This report includes summary of notable activities of the year.

ACR 2018 AMCLC Report

There were five Practice Parameters (PPs) related to Nuclear Medicine which were discussed in the 2018 American College of Radiology Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference. Three were revisions of existing PPs and two new PPs.

The “ACR–SPR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Scintigraphy for Inflammation and Infection” was approved by the ACR Council as an updated revision without substantial debate. The ACR–SPR–STR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Pulmonary Scintigraphy likewise passed without any significant dissension. The other three PPs all received substantial debate centered around the inclusion of a section entitled “Interpretation”. During the ACR Council Assembly, there was a distinct feeling among a number of Council members that interpretation is outside the scope of an ACR Practice Parameter and should not be included.

One of the three PPs was a revision of an existing PP, namely the “ACR–SPR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Parathyroid Scintigraphy.” This was thus rejected as written and will be revised for next year’s ACR meeting.

One of the new ones was a collaborative effort between the ACR and ACNM. It is the “ACR–ACNM Practice Parameter for the Performance of Fluorine-18 Fluciclovine-PET/CT for Recurrent Prostate Cancer.” I was the official attendant as the ACNM Specialty Society Representative to specifically address any issues related to this single joint society Practice Parameter. The other new PP was “ACR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Gallium-68 DOTATATE PET/CT Neuroendocrine Tumors.”

Both of these also prompted multiple Councilors to rise to support a motion to not approve due to the inclusion of the offending ‘Interpretation’ section. Rathan Subramaniam and I, with help from a few of our Council friends, counterargued for each of these. These new PPs were too important to put off for a year for such revisions. Our argument prevailed and they both passed, with the clear intention that future revisions of these PPs would include the removal of any section on Interpretation.

Thank you to the ACNM representative Committee members who contributed to this creation of our joint ACR-ACNM F-18 Fluciclovine-PET/CT Practice Parameter. They were: Olga P. Molchanova-Cook, MD, PhD; Amol Takalkar, MD, MS, MBA, FACNM; Mark Tulchinsky, MD; and Jian Q. Yu, MD, FRCPC, FACNM. A number of our members, who worked as representatives of the ACR, also contributed to both of these new Practice Parameters.

International Collaborations

Prior to this year, the ACNM had developed international collaborations with the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Turkish Society of Nuclear Medicine, and the Israeli Society of Nuclear Medicine. International ties for the ACNM have flourished during this year.



Toasting to ACNM-KSNM MUO
ACNM President, Alan Klitzke, MD, FACNM
& KSNM President, Sang Eun Kim, MD, PhD

I am proud to announce that in June the ACNM started official collaborations commemorated by the signing of additional Memorandums of Understanding with The Korean Society of Nuclear Medicine (KSNM) and the Society of Nuclear Medicine-India (SNM-I). The latter agreement is the result of a long collaboration with the SNM-I by ACNM Board of Directors member, Amol M. Takalkar, MD, MS, MBA, FACNM. The Board is very pleased to bring the exponential value of these latest collaborations to the ACNM. That brings our total up to five nations with whom we have



Signing MUO with SNM-India
SNM-I President, Rakesh Kumar, MD, PhD, FAMS;
Amol M. Takalkar, MD, MS, MBA, FACNM;
ACNM President, Alan Klitzke, MD, FACNM

currently designated formal international professional relationships.

It is my pleasure and honor to announce a new relationship, official this September, with a nuclear medicine organization comprised of 53 Nations of the Asian and Australian Oceanic region. The ACNM is entering into a new partnership with the Asia Oceania Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (AOFNMB). Moreover, the ACNM is the *only* Nuclear Medicine organization with which the AOFNMB has made such an agreement! The verbal commitment was made in June during meetings with



Celebration of Agreement Between ACNM and AOFNMB
ACNM President, Alan K. Klitzke, MD, FACNM &
AOFNMB President, Professor Jun Hatazawa, MD, PhD

AOFNMB President Professor Jun Hatazawa, MD, PhD, who assured me that formal ratification by the AOFNMB Board would occur in September. Our meetings in June were the culmination of prior conversations between Dr. Hatazawa and members of the ACNM International Committee, including the committed, consistent efforts of Simin Dadparar, MD, FACNM and Twyla Bartel, DO, FACNM. The AOFNMB Board just met, and it is now made official. The new agreement will help to expand the global expanse and image of both organizations.

As part of the agreement, each organization will share and host speakers from the other organization at the respective Annual Meetings every few years, just as we are committed to

doing with the other organizations with which we have made such agreements.

Also, I have been in conversations with the Dr. John Buscombe, President of the British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS), to finalize an agreement between our two organizations. I look forward to announcing this new official collaboration soon. Dr. Buscombe is invited to attend and speak at our upcoming 2019 Annual Meeting, where we expect to officially sign our agreement.



Geraldine B. McGinty,
MD, MBA, FACR

ACNM 2019 Annual Meeting

It seems as if the year is just underway and yet it is already time to look to our next Annual Meeting at the Renaissance Palm Springs - Palm Springs, California, January 17-19. I would like to reiterate thanks to last year's Keynote Speaker, Geraldine B. McGinty, MD, MBA, FACR, the current Chair of the ACR Board of Chancellors, for her talks at 2018 Annual: "The Future of the Radiologist and Nuclear Physician: Essential or Extinct," followed by "Why Strategy Matters Now in Healthcare."

We have a compelling program designed for Annual 2019, which includes among other things, Theranostics and a 4-hour radiation safety course, with certificate, sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of Energy, which is provided at no additional cost.

American Medical Association

There are newly elected leaders for Diagnostic Imaging in our AMA who deserve mention. During the 2018 Annual Meeting of the AMA HOD, there were several members of the AMA Section Council on Radiology, the combined imaging caucus which is the imaging family to which the ACNM and SNMMI belong at the AMA, who were elected to influential positions in the AMA. Dr. Gunjan Malhotra, a second-year diagnostic radiology resident at the University of Michigan, was elected as the AMA-RFS Vice Chair. Keven Reilly, MD, Sr, a neuroradiologist (Kentucky), was elected to the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws; and Sheila Rege, MD, FACRO, a radiation oncologist (Washington), was elected to the AMA Council on Medical Service.

Of particular note, Scott Ferguson, MD (Arkansas), was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees. The AMA BOD is the highest elected body and is charged with the task of carrying out all of the policies created at the semiannual HOD meetings. Placing leaders in these positions helps to strengthen the interests of imaging, including nuclear medicine, in our AMA, the single most politically influential medical organization.

In June, Barbara L. McAneny, a practicing oncologist (a specialty with close ties to Nuclear Medicine), was elected president of the American Medical Association, She is the fourth woman to become President of the AMA since its beginning in 1847.

The AMA will have at least three female presidents in a row in the coming years. Patrice A. Harris, MD, a psychiatrist from Atlanta, was elected as the new President-Elect, and will serve from June 2019 to 2020. Susan R. Bailey, MD, an allergist and immunologist from Fort Worth, Texas, and longtime Speaker of the AMA HOD, appears to be running unopposed for President-Elect at the Annual 2019 meeting (A-19). She would follow Dr. Harris and would serve from 2020-2021.

For details of some important policy debates at meetings of the AMA, please see the separate Government Relations Update article elsewhere in this publication, and in subsequent publications.

Recognition of ACNM Fellows at the 2019 Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

I want to invite and encourage all Fellows of the College to attend the 2019 Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony, which will take place on Friday, January 18 at 7PM. We also want to encourage all Fellows to wear regalia to the Banquet. This allows those in attendance to easily identify and honor those who have earned the distinction of Distinguished Fellow of the ACNM. It also serves as a powerful visual of the esteem with which we hold our Fellows. For those Fellows who don't have regalia, now is the time to buy it. (I still have to get mine!)

Honoring Past Presidents at the ACNM Annual Meeting (with SNMMI MWM)

The 2019 Annual Meeting will mark the Second Annual Honoring of Past Presidents. I ask that all of the Past Presidents of the ACNM and ACNP who will be attending the meeting to plan to be in the ACNM lecture hall on Friday by 10:45 AM for a President roll call and photo. This occurs just prior to the ACNM Plenary Session. Those who received their Past President's medal last year are asked to bring it to the meeting and wear it. For those who did not yet receive one, yours will be presented to you. The process of honoring of Past Presidents will also take place at the Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony that night.



Past Presidents at the 2018 Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Looking forward to see all of our past leaders.

Alan K. Klitzke, MD, FACNM