SNMMI: Academic Council Summary Report
June 2013

Activities and Accomplishments

The Academic Council continues to demonstrate vitality and activity in the tradition of service, innovation and support to education in Nuclear Medicine and to the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors.

The Academic Council total membership as of May 8, 2013 is 143. Last year, the Academic Council total membership as of May 15, 2013 was 159.

The Academic Council had another successful year at the SNMMI Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans. The Continuing Education session at the midwinter meeting entitled “Teaching the Modern Generation of Trainees in Changing Times” was very successful and well attended.

The Teaching Files taskforce has been working very diligently to improve the process for submitting, publishing and receiving recognition for teaching file cases. Pradeep G. Bhambhvani, MD, is heading this initiative and has been working with JNMT in this endeavor. See his article describing current efforts in this newsletter.

Communications within the Academic Council remain excellent, including a superb newsletter, due to the efforts of our Secretary, Tracy Brown, MD. The Council is stable financially. Membership also appears to be relatively stable from last year.

The Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association (NMPDA) continues to be a vital part of the Academic Council, and contributes to dissemination of information to Program Directors. Daniel Lee, MD, Chair of the NMPDA. Dr. Lee continues to be a vital and integral part of the Academic Council. He has continued to provide strong and innovative leadership, and has continued to provide the NMPDA and the Academic Council overall with valuable information and support.

The intern program is doing well in the Academic Council. The current intern, Erin Grady, MD, worked on a project to develop teaching modules. She has also been serving as the first Robert E. Henkin Government Relations Fellow. The incoming Academic Council Intern for 2013-2015 is Rafay Ahmed, MD, who is currently a nuclear medicine resident at Yale University.

The Nuclear Medicine Program Directors, through the Academic Council and the SNMMI, provided comments to the ACGME regarding the proposed changes of the Radiology RRC for the Nuclear Radiology Fellowship.

Several Academic Council members have continued to contribute in various ways. Dr. Greenspan serves on the SNMMI Board of Directors and House of Delegates, and moderated a session at the 2012 SNMMI annual meeting. Dr. Leonie Gordon co-chaired one of the subcommittees of the 2020 Task Force, serves on the House of Delegates, has been working on developing the Online Teaching File cases, and moderated a session at the 2012 SNMMI annual meeting. She has also been serving on the ABNM Board of Directors and will be finishing her term on NM RRC. Dr. Jon A. Baldwin continues his excellent service as the Academic Council Vice President and is also a member of the SNMMI Committee on Councils and Centers, the SNMMI House of Delegates and will join the NM RRC. Dr. David Lewis has done an admirable job as Treasurer, and also will start service on the NM RRC. Dr. Tracy Brown continues to do a superb job of editing the AC newsletter and will be rotating off the NM RRC. Dr. Daniel Lee continues to do outstanding job as Chair of the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association (NMPDA), and has also been involved in the Milestones project of the ACGME.
Looking Forward

There were minor changes in the officers of the Academic Council at the conclusion of the SNMMI 2013 Annual Meeting. Dr. Gordon continues as the President of the Academic Council and John Baldwin, DO will continue as Vice President until 2014. Dr. Tracy L. Y. Brown will also be continuing her term as Secretary. Dr. Lee will continue his term as Chair of the NMPDA. The Academic Council will be welcoming three new board members and treasurer.

The Academic Council is sponsoring the first Education Summit at the SNMMI Annual Meeting in Vancouver on Saturday, June 8, from 1pm to 4pm. This will be an opportunity for all members who are interested in education—especially those involved in resident training—to hear firsthand about Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) milestones, updates from the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) and the ACGME Nuclear Medicine Residency Review Committee (ACGME NM RRC), and to ask questions about changes that are occurring at different levels in education. Immediately following this summit, the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association (NMPDA) will have its annual meeting.

The Academic Council business meeting will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2013, at 12:15pm – 1:15pm in West Building 118. The Academic Council is also sponsoring the Tom Miller Lecture on Tuesday, June 11th, covering the topic of “Hybrid Imaging: Views from the USA and Europe.” The speakers include George Segall (SNMMI Past-President) representing the USA and Arturo Chiti (President of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine) providing the European perspective. We also are holding a session on “Item Writing and Developing SAMS – How to Do it Well” (Room - West Building – 201), Sunday, June 9 – 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. Our goals are to help members learn how to easily prepare SAMS sessions and how to create well-written and relevant SAMS questions.

The Academic Council will continue to provide information and support for Nuclear Medicine Program Directors, in part by providing sessions at the SNMMI annual and Midwinter meetings, and by participating in the AUR meeting, in addition to providing multiple resources for Nuclear Medicine Program Directors.

Officers of the Council

President: Leonie L. Gordon, M.D., FACNM
Vice President: Jon A. Baldwin, DO
Secretary: Tracy L. Y. Brown, M.D., Ph.D.
Treasurer: David W. Lewis, MD, PhD
Chair, NMPDA: Daniel Lee, MD
Immediate Past President: Bennett S. Greenspan, M.D.

Mission

The Academic Council is dedicated to the scientific interchange of ideas among SNMMI members who have an interest in training and education of undergraduates and graduates in Nuclear Medicine (which includes general Nuclear Medicine, Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine, PET/CT imaging and Molecular Imaging). The overall mission of the Academic Council is to:

(a) promote medical education, research and patient care related to Nuclear Medicine,
(b) provide to membership expertise in the training and education of undergraduates and graduates in Nuclear Medicine, including in mentoring and leadership,
(c) provide a forum for members for discussion of issues and problems of mutual interest and concern within the Nuclear Medicine community, as well as an informal exchange of ideas and programs,
(d) provide outreach to other professionals and organizations,
(e) nurture new membership into the society,
(f) serve as a resource to Young Professionals in career development, and
(g) serve as a resource to SNMMI leadership.

Within the Council there is a subgroup of Program Directors/Associate Program Directors of Nuclear Medicine residency programs (the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors Association, NMPDA). The Academic Council is an advocate for Nuclear Medicine education and training to organized Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, as well as providing an avenue of communication for Program Directors and Coordinators to the ACGME, ABNM, other societies, and government agencies.