Quality of Practice Domain

Clinical Data Registry
During Industry roundtable at SNMMI MWM in Tampa, developing a clinical data registry for radionuclide therapy was identified as a very high priority item. Subsequently, SNMMI Quality Committee formed a Registry subcommittee that developed a detailed project plan for this registry. This project plan is also attached with the meeting documents and will be presented to the SNMMI BOD for their review and approval.

Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)
The quality domain has begun the development of 2 AUC topics for FY2021.
- Lymphoscintigraphy
  - Lymphoscintigraphy workgroup has been meeting bi-weekly and is currently working with OHSU to finalize the scope of literature search for this document.
- Brain Imaging with Amyloid and Tau PET.
  - The Brain Imaging AUC is being developed in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association. The kickoff call was held on 09/14/2020.

Clinical Decision Support Mechanisms (CDSM)
The existing AUC licensing contract with Clinical Decision Support Mechanisms (CDSM) like NDSC continue to work well. SNMMI AUC are available in the latest update of their CareSelect package.

Additional AUC approved by SNMMI BOD earlier this year (Prostate Cancer Imaging, Treatment and Evaluation of Differentiated Thyroid Cancer and PET Myocardial Perfusion Imaging) will be made available in the subsequent update cycles of NDSC system.

Exploring collaborations with other qualified CDSMs like Medicalis, Sage Analytics (Radwise), Test Appropriate, and Omni MD. We will continue to reach out to additional Q-CDSMs.

Annual Research Grant
Established an annual research grant to promote health economics outcomes research in nuclear medicine. Currently working on establishing the criteria for this grant. Once finalized, the request for proposals will go out and will be reviewed by the pertinent subject matter experts.

Nuclear Medicine and Therapy Accreditation
Exploring SNMMI accreditation of nuclear medicine and therapy centers. Under the auspices of Therapy Task Force, a survey on radionuclide therapies was conducted and the results of this survey will help determine the standards and best practices to establish SNMMI Centers for Therapeutic Excellence, that could pave the way for the SNMMI Accreditation Program.

Dosimetry Research Study
Continue to support the study/surveys in FY 20 for the quality assessment and improvement of dosimetry to select I-131 activity for the treatment of differentiated thyroid cancer. This proposal is being led by Dr. Doug Van Nostrand.
Research and Discovery

‘Mars Shot’

‘Mars-Shot’ for Molecular Imaging and Molecular Targeted Radiopharmaceutical Therapy manuscript was accepted by JNM. This paper highlights opportunities in molecular imaging and radiopharmaceutical therapy.

Discover MI Student Research Awards

The inaugural year for the Discover MI Student Research Awards was a great success; we received 18 high-quality applications in imaging immunotherapy and other targets, dosimetry in therapy, and artificial intelligence approaches. In 2021 the activity will be moved to the R&D budget and the program will be expanded. R&D is tracking whether the awardees stay in the field. In 2021, at least two awards will go to underrepresented groups in nuclear medicine.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force is up and running and meeting every 2 weeks with sub-groups working to tackle their charges. Some highlights include outreach to FDA to discuss how they regulate AI programs, developing a guideline on balanced data sets, a white paper on where we are with AI in NM, and other activities. The PIDS Council will offer their AI challenge for 2021.

Dosimetry Task Force

Dosimetry Task Force has been formed, is meeting every 2 weeks to develop, among other things, a ‘cookbook’—a step-by-step resource detailing how to get (take out ‘cookbook’) proper reimbursement for post-administration dosimetric SPECT/CT scans and calculations, publications on use of dosimetry in clinical trials, and gaps in our knowledge and capabilities in dosimetry.

R&D domain will host a Dosimetry challenge: a series of image data sets will be released and contestants—academics, industry, students—will be asked to measure the dose to the organs. This exercise will demonstrate the variability and methodology in field and form the basis for a publication outlining the results and best practices.

Imaging and Therapeutic Agents: Training Modules

The R&D domain will establish a library of image-based training modules for new imaging and therapeutic agents. A new multi-discipline committee will be formed to oversee this activity. We will request cases from councils and centers, especially early career professionals.

Summit on Barriers to Patients

The R&D domain had planned a summit on barrier to patients receiving molecular imaging and therapies in 2020. Because this meeting would be more effective in person, it was decided to postpone the event.

Cancer Cooperative Group Junior Faculty Mentorship Program/Award

This is a new initiative of the Therapy Center of Excellence. The long-term goal of the program is to ensure nuclear medicine and molecular imaging physicians have a more impactful presence in the NCI National Clinical Trials Network cooperative cancer groups. Imaging expertise is warranted in many of the therapeutic disease areas. With the recent and anticipated approvals of radiopharmaceutical therapies for oncology, more representation from NM and MI will be required to influence and lead these trials.

SNMMI will provide awards to fund junior faculty imagers to attend cooperative group meetings. This competitive award process will identify 4 junior faculty imagers to represent their institutions—one at each of the cooperative groups. The R&D domain will identify at least one mentor (a molecular imaging physician) to be involved in each of the four main cooperative groups (ACRIN-ECOG, SWOG, NRG, and Alliance). The SNMMI mentors will provide an overview/background lecture on the work of the cooperative group.

The mentors would provide an overview/background lecture on the work of the cooperative group. At the cooperative group meetings, typically spring and fall, the mentor will introduce the awardee to the key personnel and provide guidance. At the SNMMI AM, all awardees and mentors (current and past) will meet to discuss advances and objectives for future interactions with the cooperative groups.
Workforce Pipeline Domain

Educators’ Summit

As a follow-up to last year’s high level summit of nuclear medicine/nuclear radiology program directors, representatives from Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), NM/DR RRC, ABNM, ABR and Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR) and other thought leaders in radiology and nuclear medicine, a second meeting (virtually/webinar) was held on August 1, 2020, with NM/NR program directors and SNMMI leaders.

The main takeaways from that meeting are:

- General agreement that residents need greater command of existing training and experience requirements, specifically in the areas of radiopharmaceuticals, radiobiology, and internal dosimetry.
- There was consensus on a need for greater clinical knowledge and competence in interacting with and caring for cancer patients, which could be obtained through some rotations on radiation and/or medical oncology, as well as greater participation in their ongoing management through continuity clinics.
- Given that fewer patients may be getting referred for RAI ablation for hyperthyroidism, the possibility of adopting simulated cases for training and education.
- Need for a curriculum and shared resources for didactics.
- Share list of SNMMI online resources to NMPDA.

Action items from NMPD Virtual Meeting include:

- Appoint a taskforce to implement suggestions from the NMPD summit.
- This taskforce should have 8-12 members with representation from the NMPD group, the Academic Council, the Therapy Center of Excellence, Early Career Professionals group and In-training/NMRO group.
- The initial goal of this taskforce is to conduct needs assessment, identify the gaps and find out way to fill those gaps. Once the relevant core clinical content is identified, the group may ultimately define what therapy curriculum should cover.

Chapter Champions

We continue to identify additional ‘Chapter Champions’ to coordinate the activities of this domain and engage with NM/DR residents and fellows at the local level.

Dedicated Resident/Medical Student Web Portal (RMDS)

We continue to update RMDS website dedicated to NM/DR residents, program directors and medical students (http://rmds.snmmi.org), including the addition of past SNMMI virtual meetings, as well as other valuable, relevant content available for free to SNMMI members. We have also started to collect and post information at our SNMMI COVID resource portal.
Outreach Domain

Patient Education Day
Our Patient Education Day was held virtually as three sessions: Prostate Cancer (8/1), NETs (8/15) and Thyroid Cancer (8/22). The events were lived-streamed on YouTube and Facebook, and the recordings are now available on YouTube. To date, we have had more than 800 views of the videos. The sessions were all excellent and well attended, with a total of 116 questions coming in from patients to the speakers.

#ReturnToCare Coalition
This Coalition, which was spearheaded by SNMMI’s Outreach Domain and COVID-19 Task Force, continues to grow, including the recent addition of ASCO. The coalition now includes 8 medical/imaging societies, 8 patient groups, and MITA as members. Check out the www.returntocarecampaign.org website for full details. We also now have a Twitter account: @ReturnToCare.

Support for HR 3772
Outreach has been working to involve additional medical societies and patient groups in providing support for this important reimbursement legislation. Recently, we succeeded in getting NANETS to sign on to a letter of support, and we succeeded in getting two prostate cancer advocacy groups—Cancer ABCs and the National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions—to sign on as well. And, we received word from the Lymphoma Research Foundation that they sent out an action alert to their members encouraging them to contact their representatives in Congress to support the bill.

Breast Cancer Imaging Outreach Working Group
We have formed this new working group, chaired by Dr. Amy Fowler. Its first initiative is to review and make any necessary updates to breast cancer-related pages on both the SNMMI site and the DiscoverMI site.

Cardiac Webinar
We have hosted two of four cardiac webinars (done in conjunction with the Correlative Imaging Council and the Cardiovascular Council) and have had a total of 155 participants on those live webinars.

Prostate Cancer Patient Videos
The Prostate Cancer Outreach Working Group has developed content for three patient videos, on bone scan, fluciclovine, and PSMA diagnosis. We will be recording those videos on October 1-2. We will post them on SNMMI’s YouTube channel and are hoping to work with some of the PC patient groups to see if they will put them up on their websites as well.

Prostate Cancer Webinar
On September 9, our Prostate Cancer Outreach Working Group held a free webinar. We worked with UroToday to publicize this and had 125 attendees. We will be posting the recording on both SNMMI’s site as well as on the UroToday site.
Advocacy Domain

COVID-19

- Helped lead discussions on the regulatory impact of COVID-19 in the RP space
- Curated content on COVID-19’s impact on the profession for the website and advocacy purposes
- Interviewed patients/MDs on the effect COVID-19 has had on their diagnosis/treatment/practice
- Helped drive letter writing campaign with our coalition partners in industry and other medical societies to address topics including, hero’s pay, PPE shortages, regulatory relief requests, and how COVID-19 is impacting nuclear medicine.

H.R. 3772

- Co-hosted an Alzheimer’s (January 2020) and Cancers (prostate and breast) briefing (September 2020) with our industry partners. Rep. Rush gave the keynote speech at the Jan briefing, Rep. Murphy gave the keynote speech at the September briefing.
- Hosted a webinar on how to be a productive patient advocate for H.R. 3772 with our Coalition partners. The recording and slides are posted on the website.
- Led strategic alternatives discussion to H.R. 3772. Earlier this year, we deemed the best alternative was to ask Congress to extend separate payment in the short-term (3-5 years) while a permanent solution is worked out in consultation with CMS. Currently there are efforts to attach the bill to some form of COVID-19 healthcare stimulus package due to the financial burden faced by hospitals and hospital outpatient facilities (where certain diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals are inequitably reimbursed). Another option is getting the bill into the end-of-the-year Medicare Extenders or energy and water appropriations package.
- Wrote SNMMI’s position on the GAO interview/survey on pass-through and RP reimbursement. Also responded to a GAO follow-up survey
- Interviewed Rep. Murphy, MD on his endorsement of H.R.3772 April. Dr. Murphy, a urologist is the keynote speaker for the “Advancements in Diagnostic Imaging and Cancers” briefing. Currently, we are at 23 co-sponsors.
  - Catalyzed SNMMI membership for virtual fly-ins with our Appropriate Payment Coalition partners targeting House and Senate offices. We plan to target 60 offices overall. Currently our focus is targeting Senate Offices. Recent offices that have been targeted are Blackburn (she will sponsor the bill), Menendez (likely will co-sponsor), Crapo, Sinema, Cardin, Casey, Markey, and Hassan.

CMS

- Led therapy strategy session on new CMS codes for 2020
- Hosted a workshop on CPT codes involving telemedicine and E/M on June 11th
- Creating a workgroup to write a position statement for payers refusing to reimburse for SPECT/CT
- Developed two AMA CPT Assistant Articles for SPECT and myocardial PET codes
- SNMMI experts addressed members’ coding and reimbursement questions and updating website coding & reimbursement materials. Continue to monitor and put pressure on CMS/NCCI to fix PTP codes. Many have been fixed already.
- Creating a therapy workgroup to develop a document with common therapy pathways involving radiation oncology, nuclear medicine, and physicist codes
- Collaborating with our fellow societies and coalition partners to responded to Proposed HOPPS and MFPS Rules’ request for comment.
Advocacy Domain continued

FDA

- Helped lead a workshop on Best Practices for PET Drug Manufacturing with the FDA, our industry partners, and the Coalition for PET Drugs
- Leading the Coalition for PET Drugs working on a white paper regarding the FDA PET Drugs Workshop
- Co-hosted a townhall/webinar with the FDA involving the impact of COVID-19 on submission mechanisms, facility inspections, and general regulatory changes to be held on June 17th
- Developing a SNMMI expert FDA Q&A Corner for PET drug manufacturing questions

NRC

- Presented at the NRC briefing involving the medical uses of radioactive materials. The main topic of interest was training and experience requirements for authorized users.
- Working with the NRC/FDA on a workshop on October 14, 2020. The workshop is titled: Collaboration for Enhancing Development of Emerging Technologies: Radiopharmaceuticals and Radiological Devices

State Advocacy

- Launching a survey of technologist requirements across the US
- 2020 Scope of Practice document approved by the board in May 2020
- Continue to monitor licensing legislative and regulatory developments in key states
  - So far, we have sent letters of support for bills in Georgia and Michigan

Priority Metrics/Impact Measures

Reimbursement:

- Three to six victories by 2021 in the following areas of reimbursement
  - Payment
  - Coverage
  - Coding

Legislative

- Establish 5 champions of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging by 2021:
  - Identify Congressional districts with dense membership population
  - Identify Congressional districts with prominent nuclear medicine facilities
  - Provide constant grassroots outreach

Regulatory Approval

- Arrange 3 collaborative educational endeavors per year with the FDA