The PET CoE held its board of directors and annual strategy retreat in Los Angeles, Calif., on Saturday, November 8, 2014. The operational objective of this one-day annual retreat is to review the activities of the Center and discuss possible need for realignment of actions or develop new aims to not only provide improved benefits to Center members but also ensure useful contribution to the society’s overall strategic goals. The board also reviewed the accomplishment of the various task force groups and set goals for the coming year.

The Radiotracer Encyclopedia Task Force chaired by Dr. Bennett Greenspan presented four new tracer information guides that were unanimously approved by the board and will be soon available on the PET CoE website. These tracers were C-11 PIB, C-11 choline, F-18 flutemetamol and C-11 acetate. These four guides will be added to the eight guides that were already available on the website, making the total to 12 PET tracer guides. The task force already has plans for preparing another set of guides that may include Rb-82 chloride, hypoxia agents and Ga-68 DOTATATE.

The PET/MRI Task Force co-chaired by Dr. Andrei Iagaru and Dr. Ryan Niederkohr has been successful in designing several high-profile educational sessions (categorical and continuing education) for both the Mid-Winter and the Annual SNMMI meetings. An exciting new collaboration is being discussed and will hopefully soon be established with the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) to provide additional educational opportunities in PET/MRI at both organizations.

The Joint SNMMI/ACR PET/MRI Credentialing Task Force, co-chaired by me from the SNMMI side and by Dr. Rathan Subramaniam from the ACR side, has nearly completed its work, and a draft document is now at hand for brain PET/MR. This document will be forwarded to the SNMMI and ACR boards of directors for consideration for approval in January 2015. Upon approval, a white paper will be published in both The Journal of Nuclear Medicine and the Journal of the American College of Radiology. The next planned credentialing statement will focus on PET/MR of the head and neck.

The Treatment Response Using PET Task Force, which was led by Dr. Hubert Vesselle and Dr. John Prior, will continue its work on summarizing the evidence on the use of PET in treatment response assessment in comparison to other non–PET-based assessment methodologies in order to identify challenges and opportunities for PET in this important clinical setting. Dr. Prior completed his tenure on the board in June 2014, and Dr. Vesselle will complete his term in June 2015.
Mittra and Dr. Katheriene Zukotynski will continue the efforts of this important Task Force as the new co-chairs.

Another exciting event for the PET CoE will be the inaugural offering of the Peter E. Valk, MD, Memorial Lectureship Award during the SNMMI Annual Meeting in Baltimore in June 2015. Nomination packets for this prestigious award will be sent to the PET CoE membership in January 2015 and the winner will be selected by the PET CoE Board of Directors and announced in early February 2015.

As 2014 comes to a close, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to all the PET CoE board members, the current and previous task force leaders, the SNMMI support staff and all the loyal PET CoE members for their dedication, commitment and help. I wish you all a prosperous and healthy 2015.