Experts from around the world answered questions and shared their experiences of working in nuclear medicine during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic. Webinar participants received advice on operational plans, scheduling guidelines, and safety precautions for staff and patients.

- Overall the panelists agreed that nuclear medicine departments should continue routine operation, focusing on urgent needs (oncology and cardiology)
- Patients are screened outside of arrival into the nuclear medicine department (temperature checks and questions about symptoms and travel history)
- Consultation appointments and tumor board meetings have been moved to phone discussions.
- Teaching and training sessions have been reduced
- Many clinical trials have been put on hold

Extra precautions to help protect staff and patients include:

- Ensuring adequate supplies of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Providing re-training on infection control
- Dividing into teams between working on site and staying at home.
- Implementing social distancing in waiting rooms and staff common areas

Routines have changed for everyone, with some staff working from home full time and some staff even working in other areas within the hospital. If a patient is proven to be COVID-19 positive, some sites have focused on isolating the patient from others as much as possible, reducing the path of travel from treatment/injection room to scanner, and scheduling the patient at the very end of the day to allow for adequate deep cleaning of all areas of contact. With hybrid scanners, we can help our radiology colleagues during time of need when their departments are overloaded with the number of CT scans.

The producers of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals across the world are also able to continue operation and have shared common experiences:

- Communication again is key! Surveys have been distributed and a website was created for major producers in the IAEA member states to upload information of how they have been affected by the pandemic
- Similar protections found in the hospitals have also been applied for their staff, with dividing their staff into teams, wearing PPE, and modifying their schedule in order to continue production to meet the demand
- For most, demand has decreased about 50%
- Air transportation has been the most significant bottleneck for shipping orders and producers have adjusted to using more cargo flights instead of passenger flights
- Concern of potential closures or bankruptcies was expressed, particularly for smaller, independent radiopharmacies, where revenues are significantly affected while about half of routine procedures are being significantly delayed or cancelled

In all three webinars, panelists shared valuable information for nuclear medicine professionals working in such unprecedented times. Collaboration among the nuclear medicine healthcare community is strong. As the panelists reminded webinar participants, we are in this together. We will continue to learn from each other and improve caring for each other and our patients.