The Cardiovascular Council (CVC) of SNMMI works to ensure and enhance the quality and clinical utility of the use of cardiovascular nuclear medicine studies in patient care. The CVC achieves this goal via three endeavors:

- Develop and promote methods and procedures for proper clinical application of cardiovascular radionuclide / molecular imaging;
- Educate providers both within and outside SNMMI regarding the most up-to-date and highest quality cardiovascular nuclear medicine care, and
- Serve as a facilitator to the basic research development of new cardiovascular imaging techniques, and in the translation and clinical application of such new techniques.

Members of the CVC also work with SNMMI and other cardiac imaging organizations in the interaction between providers of nuclear cardiology services, and government and 3rd party payers with regard to quality and appropriate compensation for services. Finally, the CVC contributes to the presentation and explanation of cardiovascular nuclear imaging methods and benefits to the general public through print and other media.

SNMMI Value Initiative 2.0 – Engagement of Councils and Centers of Excellence

In 2018, SNMMI launched its Value Initiative – a comprehensive strategic plan to advance the crucial role of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in patient care and science ad discovery. The next step will become SNMMI’s Value Initiative 2.0. As part of Value Initiative 2.0 SNMMI will continue to adjust our organization to the changing health care environment. Value Initiative 2.0 will also engage as many SNMMI members as possible through the work of various committees, working groups, SNMMI councils and centers of excellences and the SNMMI chapters.

As part of this inward focusing effort, councils and centers of excellence will be participating in Domain conference calls and working directly with the chairs from the six (6) domains to address the opportunities and develop strategies to meet them.

As a council, the Cardiovascular Council will be mainly involved in the following domains; Research and Discovery, Quality of Practice and Outreach. However, the council may be asked to or request to be involved in other domains as issues or opportunities arise.

Goals and Programs for 2019-20

The Cardiovascular Council will aim to continue and amplify the SNMMI’s strengths of inclusiveness, and emphasis on science, quality clinical practice and education. In addition, the CVC will also continue to define quality and science as our field evolves with initiatives in PET FDG cardiac infection imaging, cardiac PET-MRI credentialing and other exciting emerging areas to be announced. Finally, we will extend the excellent educational opportunities at the Annual and Mid-Winter Meetings with educational initiatives via digital media. Specific goals and objectives include:

1. Educational Sessions at the 2020 Mid-Winter Meeting in Tampa, FL, (January 23 to 25, 2020). The meeting will have three concurrent educational tracks – Brain, ACNM Annual Meeting, and General Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. We hope to sponsor between two and four sessions in the General Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Track. We will also be co-sponsoring sessions with Computer and Instrumentation Council and with the ACNM.

2. Organization of Scientific and CME Program for 2020 SNMMI Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA (June 13 to 16, 2020). As in prior years, the CVC is prepared to organize a Saturday Categorical Seminar and multiple CME sessions on cardiovascular nuclear imaging. Recipient for the Hermann Blumgart and Distinguished Educator Awards will be selected and will be presented at the meeting. Oral and poster sessions will be composed by the CVC members of the scientific program committee and the CVC vice chair, sub-chairs for clinical and basic sciences, and the sub-chair for the YIA. Also, the CVC will again hold its cardiovascular Young Investigator Award Competition, for which the 6 best abstracts will be selected as finalists. The Council will give a $500 award to the best cardiovascular technologist abstract.
3. **Promote Closer Relationship with ASNC**

   In recent years, several joint efforts have been completed with ASNC. There is ongoing dialog between the leadership of the ASNC and the CVC on prevailing issues of mutual interest.

   A joint effort and initiative between the BOD of the CVC and ASNC has resulted in an appropriate use document for cardiac perfusion imaging with PET which is nearing completion under the guidance of Thomas Schindler, MD.

   A joint effort to describe training standards for hybrid imaging with a focus on cardiac PET-CT and SPECT-CT is in early development under the guidance of John Mahmarian, MD.

4. **Promote closer working relationship with other councils, centers and chapters of SNMMI.**

   The CVC recognizes that an open interaction among councils and other structures is a key component of integration within SNMMI. The CVC can only benefit from exchange of ideas, experiences, and expertise, and likewise it is expected that other SNMMI structures will benefit from close interaction with CVC.

   The CVC has worked with and will continue to work with the Computer and Instrumentation Council, the Correlative Imaging Council and PET Center of Excellence and the Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation on both educational and research projects. Designated CVC BOD members will continue to serve as primary contacts of the CVC for both Centers and will offer to participate and provide input at meetings of each Center’s leadership.

5. **Further Implementation of the CVC Internship Program.**

   Matthieu Pelletier-Galarneau, MD and Rene Packard, MD, PhD will be the 2019-2021 CVC interns. Mentoring arrangements are being developed.

6. **Facilitate communication and development of Outreach initiatives.**

   Dr. Dilsizian, former CVC President and SNMMI President, continues to serve as the Nuclear Cardiologist for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI). Sharmila Dorbala, MD, former CVC President, serves as President Elect of ASNC. Robert Beanlands, MD, former CVC President, serves as President of ASNC.

   While the relationship with ASNC is considered highest priority due to the significant overlap of interests, there are other medical societies active in the field of cardiac imaging (such as ACC, AHA, WMIS, SCCT, SCMR). Those may have infrastructure and experience that can benefit SNMMI, such as with regard to issues of practice guidelines, credentialing, interaction with 3rd party payers, etc. The CVC will seek to establish more formal relationships with these societies. Because our field continues to become more international in scope the CVC will also seek to establish relationships with the cardiovascular nuclear medicine sub-specialties of similar international organizations. Methods to do this include meeting and communicating with the leadership of these societies on common issues and concerns and working to elect CVC Board of Directors Members who also have positions within these societies.

7. **Work for education of outside medical community and the general public on benefits of nuclear medicine, nuclear cardiology and cardiovascular molecular imaging**

   As members of SNMMI, members of the Cardiovascular Council know that patient imaging using radiotracers offers tremendous benefit to patients in terms of accurate diagnoses, highly effective prognosis/risk stratification, and in guiding appropriate patient management. Additionally, novel molecular imaging techniques hold promise to play a key role for a future personalization of medicine. The CVC will continue to strive to be a leader in effectively communicating the benefits of our techniques to physicians and health care providers less familiar with the benefit of nuclear medicine, as well as providing patient fact sheets to the general public at large (including 3rd party payer and governmental agencies).

8. **Increase Membership and Communications**

   Continue to work on increasing membership and participation in the Cardiovascular Council especially to international members.

   Continue to provide professional and educational information through Council newsletters and the webpage. The CVC has modified its newsletters to 2-3 pages in order to get information out to the membership in a timely manner. Identify and develop potential leaders and define and incentivize priorities in cost effectiveness.
research in cardiovascular nuclear medicine in the current critical era of enhanced competition and reduced reimbursement for cardiac imagines services.

The CVC voted and approved a motion to offer free in-training membership to in-training residents, in-training associate scientist and in-training technologist.

A social media strategy was initiated in the prior year and expansion to include brief summaries of relevant cardiovascular nuclear medicine research papers is underway under the leadership of Thomas Schindler, MD with deep involvement by the CVC interns.

9. **2020 Board Meetings**
   Cardiovascular Council Board of Directors meetings will be held during both the SNMMI midwinter and annual meetings in January and June 2020, in order to discuss ongoing activities of the council. As well, a Leadership Retreat including the Board of Directors will be held at the SNMMI midwinter meeting.

**Proposed FY20 Budget and Resource Requirements**

1. **Summary of Financial Needs**
   The attached FY2019 budget summarizes the total resources needed to support the goals set forth in the business plan.

2. **Resource Requirements**
   Ongoing SNMMI staff support, materials, technology and marketing support
1. **Mission**

   The Cardiovascular Council is a group within The Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc., hereafter referred to as the Society, dedicated to the interchange of scientific and medical ideas among Society members who have interest in cardiovascular imaging using radiopharmaceuticals. The overall mission of the Cardiovascular Council is to:
   
   a. provide a forum for members with similar interests
   b. provide expertise in the field of interest to the membership and to the nuclear cardiology community at large
   c. foster research and education in the field of interest
   d. provide outreach to other professionals and organizations
   e. nurture new membership into the Society
   f. serve as a resource to SNMMI Leadership

2. **CVC Leadership:**

   **Officers:**
   - President: Venkatesh L. Murthy, MD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2020
   - President-elect: Timothy Bateman, MD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2020
   - Vice-President Elect: Edward J. Miller, MD, PhD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2020
   - Secretary: Wengen Chen, MD, PhD  
     Term: June 2018 – June 2020
   - Treasurer: Saurabh Malhotra, MD, PhD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2020
   - Immediate Past-President: Terrence D. Ruddy, MD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2020

   **Board of Directors:**
   - Robert Bober, MD  
     Term: June 2017 – June 2020
   - Salvador Borges-Neto, MD  
     Term: June 2017 – June 2020
   - James R. Corbett, MD  
     Term: June 2017 – June 2020
   - Piotr J. Slomka, PhD  
     Term: June 2017 – June 2020
   - Esma A. Akin, MD  
     Term: June 2017 – June 2020
   - James R. Galt, PhD  
     Term: June 2018 – June 2021
   - Miguel Hernandez Pampaloni MD, PhD  
     Term: June 2018 – June 2021
   - James T. Thackeray, PhD  
     Term: June 2018 – June 2021
   - Daniel Juneau, MD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2022
   - Jamieson MacDonald Bourque, MD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2022
   - Richard Weinberg, MD, PhD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2022
   - Danilo Neglia, MD, PhD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2022
   - Mouaz Al-Mallah, MD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2022
   - Erick Alexanderson Rosas, MD  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2022
   - Ed Lyons, Jr., RT, CNMT (non-voting Member)  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2022
   - Vasken Dilsizian, MD (non-voting Member)  
     Term: June 2015 – June 2021
   - Thomas Hellmut Schindler, MD (non-voting Member)  
     Term: June 2017 – June 2021
   - Matthieu Pelletier-Galarneau, MD (Intern, non-voting)  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2021
   - Rene Packard, MD, PhD (Intern, non-voting)  
     Term: June 2019 – June 2021
   - Prem Soman, MD, PhD (non-voting Member)  
     Term: June 2016 – June 2020

3. **Current Status**

   **Financial**

   As of May 31, 2019, the CVC has total revenue of $23,991. This includes $8,040 in membership dues and a carryover of $13,951 from FY2019. The total projected expenses for FY2019 are $3,751. Revenue is generated through annual meeting membership dues, which are $20.00 per member.
Membership
The membership of the Cardiovascular Council consists of physicians, scientists, and technologists. It continues to be one of the largest councils of SNMMI with 409 active members as of May 2019. The CVC voted and approved a motion to offer free in-training membership to in-training residents, in-training associate scientist and in-training technologist.

Many members of the CVC belong to and have important leadership roles in other cardiovascular societies, including the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC), the American College of Cardiology (ACC), the American Heart Association (AHA), the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT), the Canadian Society of Nuclear Medicine (CSNMMI), the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), and the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), among others. As a result, the CVC has a unique role to play in Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine by providing a crucial link between clinical and specialist cardiologists, and cardiac imagers in the aforementioned societies on the one hand, and the expertise and experience of physicians, technologists and basic scientists in SNMMI on the other. Such a link is essential to advancement of applications of basic research in instrumentation, radiopharmaceutical and computer sciences, molecular biology and imaging into clinical practice, and also to enhancing cardiac clinical care provided by members of SNMMI. By this, the CVC is well positioned to play an important role in improving the evaluation and management of patients with cardiovascular diseases.

The annual CVC membership counts for the past few years are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Member Benefits
Continuing Education: The CVC organizes scientific and continuing education sessions of the SNMMI Mid-winter meeting and Annual scientific meeting of the SNMMI. These activities are for the members of the council and for the SNMMI membership at large. The CVC also organizes educational programs in collaboration with other SNMMI councils, centers and chapters.

Collaborative Activities: The CVC supports additional programs on specialized topics such as cardiac PET/CT, CV Molecular Imaging and cost effectiveness research. The CVC collaborations with the ASNC, ACC, and other councils and centers within the SNMMI.

Outreach Committee: The CVC has a very active Outreach committee that facilitates the communication and development of cardiovascular outreach initiatives including outreach to international members.

Newsletter: Council news and activities is circulated to the council membership in a newsletter several times a year.

Webpage: The council page on the SNMMI webpage is restructured to provide professional information, scientific updates, information about CME opportunities, award announcements, and other information relevant to the field of cardiovascular imaging.

4. Accomplishments for FY2019
   a. Education
      As part of its mission, the CVC organizes scientific and continuing education sessions at the SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting and the Annual Meeting.

SNMMI Mid-Winter Meeting 2019, Palm Springs, CA: The CVC sponsored 11 continuing education sessions:
   1. New Frontiers in Cardiology
   2. Evaluation of Cardiac Sarcoidosis
2. Cardiac PET/CT Cases Workshop
3. Starting a Cardiac PET Program
4. PET Myocardial Blood Flow: Nuts and Bolts
5. Improving Value and Quality in CV Nuclear Medicine
6. Nuts and Bolts of Stress Perfusion Imaging
7. Cardiac Amyloidosis Imaging
8. Clinical Controversies Relevant to Cardiovascular Imaging
9. Myocardial Viability Assessment
10. Cardiovascular Inflammation & Infection Imaging

2019 SNMMI Annual Meeting Categorical Session:
Image Guided Decision Making and Therapy for Optimal Cardiovascular Patient Care

2019 SNMMI Annual Meeting CE Sessions:
Cardiovascular Molecular Imaging & Theranostics
Non-Invasive Evaluation of CAD in 2019
Cardiac Amyloidosis: Introduction and Applications
Cardiovascular Boot Camp II
Herman Blumgart Award Lecture: Growing Research Opportunities in Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine
Cardiac Image Quantification

b. Newsletter
The CVC provided informative and interesting newsletters for the council membership in 2018-19 and maintained a web site. Communications to the CVC membership was also done through email blasts.

c. 2019 Board Meetings
Cardiovascular Council Board of Directors meetings were held during both the SNMMI midwinter and annual meetings in January and June 2019, in order to discuss ongoing activities of the council.

d. Awards
The CVC presented the 2019 CVC Hermann L. Blumgart Award to Terrence Ruddy, MD at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

Numerous cardiovascular oral abstract and poster presentations. The CVC again organized and conducted its Young Investigator Award competition. The following are the winners of the 2018 CVC YIA Awards:

**Basic Science**
- Matthieu Pelletier-Galarneau – 1st Place
- Gyu Seong Heo – 2nd Place

**Clinical Science**
- Rene Packard – 1st Place
- Mario Jreige – 2nd Place

e. The CVC Internship Program
The SNMNI provides each council with $1500 for one intern. In June 2017, the CVC BOD voted and approved the motion to have two CVC interns. The council will fund the second intern. Matthieu Pelletier-Galarneau, MD and Rene Packard, MD, PhD will be the 2019-2021 CVC interns.