



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am hopeful that this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. The recent world events sparked by the terrorism activities in New York and Washington D.C. are still quite troublesome and most of us are still trying to bring meaning to these tragic events. I was in Washington D.C. at the Hi-Res 2001 meeting (a meeting focused on small animal imaging) when the Pentagon was attacked. I had several post-doctoral fellows from India with me and was very aware that although we are in America we are still often viewed by some as foreigners. We must always maintain a sense of identity and remember that we are Americans but of Indian origin.

A brief review of my own background is provided for most of you who probably don't know who I am. I was born in Ambala, India and came to the U.S. with my family when I was 6 years old, and I am now 38. I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and majored in Physics at Arizona State University. I entered the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and obtained my M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in 1993. I then did an internship in internal medicine and a nuclear medicine residency at the Center for Health Sciences at UCLA. I am currently the residency director of Nuclear Medicine and an Associate Professor in Molecular & Medical Pharmacology at UCLA. I am also the Director of the Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging at UCLA ([www.crump.ucla.edu](http://www.crump.ucla.edu)). I am married to Aruna Bodapati Gambhir and have a 3 year old son Milan. My parents are retired and live in Tempe, Arizona. Most of my family in India resides in Delhi and Calcutta. Most of Aruna's family lives near Bangalore & Hyderabad. I was elected President of the Indo-American Society of Nuclear Medicine (IASNM) in June 2001 and will do my best to help the IASNM succeed.

The other officers of the IASNM are Dr. Chatinya Divgi (Secretary) & Dr. Padmakar Kulkarni (Treasurer). The Board of Directors (2001-2003) are Sushama Bhargava, M.D., Belur Chandramauli M.D., M., Muzafar Hussein, M.S., Vimal Sodhi, M.D., and Raja



Shankar, M.D. The Executive Director is Dr. Kulkarni M.D. There is no Vice President at the current time.

A brief update of IASNM issues is provided in the rest of this newsletter.

We had our annual meeting in Toronto, Canada at the Toronto Colony Hotel Restaurant during the SNM 2001 meeting in June. President Dr. Pradeep Garg did an excellent job in hosting the activities for the evening. We give him our whole-hearted thanks for leading the IASNM during the years 2000 and 2001. We appreciate his efforts very much.

Awards were given to the following individuals for their excellent contributions to Nuclear Medicine:

IASNM Lifetime Achievement Award Clinical Category  
(Dr. C. Chandarlapaty M.D.)

IASNM Lifetime Achievement Award Basic Science Category  
(Dr. P. Kulkarni Ph.D.)

Basic Science Abstract Award (Dr. M. Iyer Ph.D.)

Clinical Abstract (Dr. J.G. Rajendran M.D.)

Young Investigator Award for Clinical Abstract from India  
(Dr. S.K. Chirala M.D.)

Young Investigator Award for Basic Science Abstract from India  
(Dr. C.S. Bal M.D.)

IASNM Service Award (Dr. A. Alavi M.D.)



My specific goals for the IASNM over the next two years are outlined below:

1. To at least double membership of IASNM by June 2003
2. To organize the IASNM with a new web-site and electronic database
3. To promote scholarship between our colleagues in India and the U.S
4. To help organize visits by scientists/clinicians from the U.S. to India for the annual Nuclear Medicine India meeting in 2002
5. To help bring more discretionary funding into IASNM for various activities
6. To raise awareness about IASNM in industry

A web site has been created that has many new features about our society. It can be found at the URL ([www.IASNM.org](http://www.IASNM.org)). I urge you to visit the web-site and provide input on how to improve it. We will continue to refine this site so that it serves as a focal point for organizing IASNM activities. Full membership information can be found at the web site.

In order to promote scholarship between scientists in India and the U.S. I announced at the last meeting in Toronto, Canada that the two best abstracts submitted from a young investigator scientist/clinician in India for the SNM 2002 meeting in Los Angeles will be reimbursed for their full coach round-trip air-fare to the US, 4 nights hotel accommodation, and will also receive a \$500 award presented at the IASNM meeting in Los Angeles. The individual must be less than 40 years of age and a committee will select the winner.

Dr. G.T. Krishnamurthy represented the IASNM in New Delhi, India to attend the 33rd conference of the Society of Nuclear Medicine India meeting in December 2001 in New Delhi. Details of this meeting can be found at [www.snmicon@delhi.as](mailto:www.snmicon@delhi.as). We were not able to send a large coalition of scientists/clinicians due to recent world events.



A group of scientists/clinicians will go to Madras, India in December 2002 to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> conference of SNM India. Dr. Ramkumar (ahel@vsnl.com) of Apollo Hospital will be coordinating this meeting. The meeting was going to be in Lucknow, but this has now been changed. I urge any of you interested in going to Madras to contact me. I will be organizing visiting scientists/clinicians for this meeting over the next few months.

The next SNM meeting will be in Los Angeles, California in June 2002. I need your help to make this one of the best attended IASNM meetings to date. We are planning a dinner and live entertainment as well as an awards ceremony. A newsletter in April 2002 and reminders will provide more details.

***I urge you to pass this newsletter on to your colleagues who may be interested in joining IASNM.*** We need to significantly increase membership and particularly recruit younger members in order to help unify our activities over the next decade. We also need to have members from industry and private practice better represented.

These uncertain times only reinforce that we must all come together to work towards our common goals and to help support each other and our colleagues in India working in the field of radionuclide imaging. Please feel free to contact me through e-mail. I wish you all the best of success and look forward to getting to know you better over the next few years.

Sincerely,

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President, IASNM  
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