



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Hope you all had a wonderful year and are experiencing the change in season with the onset of winter. The past year had a lot of challenges and difficulties but we all have had something to be proud of. As we reflect the events of the past year, it is heartening to see the accomplishments and progress.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (India) annual meeting was held in Bhopal between December 11 and 14, 2003. The meeting was well attended, and the scientific interaction was significant. The IASNM had a strong presence. The contingent included Drs. Chaitanya Divgi, G.T. Krishnamurthy and Shankar Raja. This shows the growing bond between our two organizations. The IASNM organized an afternoon continuing education session on the first day. Speakers included Dr. Shanker Raja, who spoke on brain SPECT and PET, particularly in epilepsy; Dr. GT Krishnamurthy, who spoke on Nuclear Medicine in the evaluation of hepatobiliary disorders; and Dr. Chaitanya Divgi, who spoke on Nuclear Oncology (PET and therapy). Dr. Divgi took the opportunity to inform the audience of the efforts by the IASNM to encourage visits by young Indian researchers to visit the US for the annual SNM meeting, to be held in 2004 in Philadelphia. He also pointed out that Dr. Mathew Thakur would be the next President of the SNM (USA), and that as a consequence plans were afoot to have a significant IASNM presence at the next SNM(I) meeting (Mysore, December 15-18, 2004).

The session was well attended and the intellectual exchange considerable. The growing interest in PET, in particular, reflects the increased awareness of PET imaging particularly with [F18]FDG. It is of note that [F18]FDG is being produced in Mumbai under the auspices of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and several groups are planning to purchase cyclotrons to produce [F18]FDG and other radiopharmaceuticals with [F18].

The following afternoon, Chaitanya Divgi was awarded the Sarabhai Memorial Oration a proud moment for the IASNM. His topic was "Nuclear Oncology in the New Millennium", which he divided into PET imaging beyond [F18]FDG and Advances in targeted radiopharmaceutical therapy. Again, the lecture was well attended.

Drs. Krishnamurthy and Divgi met with Dr. Anand, President of the SNM(I), who expressed enthusiasm for a strong IASNM presence in Mysore in 2004, and promised the cooperation of the SNM(I) to this end. The meeting was extremely productive, and Drs. Krishnamurthy and Divgi were able to formulate plans for a successful trip.



The web site for our society continues to grow. It can be found at the URL (www.IASNM.org). Please visit the site and provide your valuable suggestions to improve the contents. It is our web site and your comments for further refinement are very welcome. Full membership information can be found at the web site.

Please mark your calendars! The 2004 annual meeting of the SNM is scheduled for June 19 - 23 in Philadelphia, PA. IASNM will have the annual dinner and awards ceremony during that. Please check this web site at a later date for further details. Our web site has information on applying for the 2004 Travel award. If you need further information please contact Dr. Divgi at divgic@mskcc.org.

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