



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds everyone in good spirits. This is indeed a difficult time as tensions continue to mount between India and Pakistan. I am hopeful that things will not escalate further and that everyone will survive these troubled times without incident. I am especially hopeful that our colleagues in India will be able to safely travel to Los Angeles in a few weeks.

On a more positive note, I am happy to announce that Mathew Thakur has been elected to the position of vice-president elect of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. This is a tremendous honor, as Mathew will become president of SNM in two additional years. Congratulations to Mathew, I am sure you will all join me in wishing him the best of luck in this very important position.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine meeting is now only a few weeks away (June 15-19, 2002). **I am writing to remind you to attend the IASNM meeting on Sunday June 16 from 6:30 pm – 11:00 pm at Gill's Cuisine of India (213-623-1050) inside the Stillwell Hotel at 838 South Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles.** An Indian buffet dinner will be served at ~7:30 pm. The meeting will include discussion of progress during the last year as well as presentation of the lifetime achievement and other abstract awards as listed below. We will also hear brief presentations from our young clinician/scientist award winners from India. I look forward to having you join us and to encourage others to attend.

The winners of this year's IASNM awards are:

Dr. Vijay Varma M.D. for lifetime achievement award (clinical science)
Dr. Gopal Saha Ph.D. for lifetime achievement award (basic science)

Dr. Narendran (abstract #381) best basic science abstract
Dr. Rao (abstract #1248) best clinical science abstract

Dr. J. Bharathi Dasan (abstract #143) & Dr. R.V. Parameswaran (abstract #757) are winners of the young investigators (age less than 40) competition from authors residing in India. These investigators have received a travel scholarship to attend the SNM meeting. Many other young investigators from India submitted excellent abstracts, but due to limited funds we could only select two. We congratulate all of our colleagues from India in doing an excellent job.



I want to thank the lifetime achievement award selection committee of Drs. M. Thakur, G.T. Krishnamurthy, and C. Divgi for their hard work. I also want to thank the abstract awards selection committee of Drs. C. Divgi, Shanker Raja, and S. Bhargava for their extremely difficult task, including searching through all of the SNM abstract submissions.

A web site has been created that has many new features about our society. It can be found at the URL (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.

A group of scientists/clinicians from the U.S. will go to Calcutta, India in December 2002 to attend the 34th conference of SNM India. The dates of the conference have been set to December 11-14, 2002. Note that previously the meeting was to be in Madras, but now it will be in Calcutta. Dr. (Mrs.) Mridula Misra (drmmisrasnmiconkolkata@yahoo.co.in) is the organizing secretary. I urge any of you interested in going to Calcutta to contact her or myself. I will be organizing visiting scientists/clinicians for this meeting over the next few months.

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 better representation of members from industry and private practice.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the SNM meeting in Los Angeles and don't forget to come to the IASNM meeting and dinner on Sunday June 16th. Have a safe and pleasant journey.

Sincerely,

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