



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As the New Year unfolded we were reminded about the power of nature and the vulnerability of human beings. We saw the mighty forces of nature cause significant damage and enormous human suffering and countless loss of lives in South Asia including India and Sri Lanka. The IASNM as a whole extends our deepest sympathies and prayers to the families of the victims.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (India) annual meeting was held in Mysore between December 15 and 19, 2004. The scientific program was excellent but the meeting was sparsely attended, diminishing the impact of the strong presence of the IASNM. Our contingent included the President of the SNM, Dr. Mathew Thakur, as well as Drs. Steve Larson, Tom Miller, Joseph O' Donoghue, Diwakar Jain, Chaitanya Divgi, Joseph Rajendran, G.T. Krishnamurthy, Alex Kurikeshu, and Shankar Raja. This exemplifies the growing bond between our two organizations. The IASNM organized a pre-congress session on 12/14/04 in Bangalore, which was, in contrast, well attended and participated by the local membership as well as post-graduate students from Bangalore and vicinity. Dr. Divgi took the opportunity to inform the audience of the efforts by the IASNM to encourage young Indian researchers to visit the US for the annual SNM meeting, to be held in 2005 in Toronto. Participation of the SNM, particularly the presence of its President Dr. Thakur in India, overwhelmingly portrays the growing relationship between the two entities.

Dr. Tom Miller of Washington University in St. Louis, MO, delivered the Sarabhai Memorial Oration, awarded in honor of his contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. His topic was "Beyond FDG – PET using Novel Tracers", which he eloquently delivered and summarized the future role for novel radiotracers in PET imaging, focusing on cancer.

Dr. Larson gave an overview on the current status and future prospects of nuclear medicine. Dr. Thakur spoke on nuclear medicine's role in gene therapy; Dr. Rajendran on the interactions between PET and Radiation Oncology; and Dr. Divgi lectured on the role of novel constructs in therapy. Dr. Jain gave an excellent teaching session and an overview of cardiac nuclear medicine; Dr. Krishnamurthy gave a superb overview of GI Nuclear Medicine; Dr. O' Donoghue spoke on the selection of radiopharmaceuticals for therapy, and Dr. Kurikeshu on SPECT in Nuclear Cardiology. These lectures were well received by the audience. Wide-ranging topics of great importance and relevance to the growing nuclear medicine practice in India indeed, and it was pity that the quality of the lectures was not matched by the size or participation of the audience.



As expected, PET is poised for tremendous growth in India. Most metropolitan centers would have PET facilities up and running this year. They will have on site cyclotrons to complement PET imaging with nearly all of them going in for dedicated PET-CT equipment.

The reduced attendance marred an otherwise excellent scientific program and was a cause for concern. Drs. Thakur and Divgi, in their addresses, stressed the need for the nuclear medicine community in India to join forces and be united especially with India having been awarded the 2008 Asia-Oceania Nuclear Medicine congress. Both stressed the importance of joint efforts; in unity lies strength. Indian nuclear medicine is ideally poised to capitalize on the rapid developments taking place in the field without losing ground.

The social events were well coordinated and arranged. We saw the other side of the 'development' process in India in the setting of historical Karnataka.

The web site for our society ([www.IASNM.org](http://www.IASNM.org)) continues to grow. Please visit the site and provide suggestions to improve the content. It is our web site and your comments for further refinement will be very welcome. Full membership information can also be found at the web site.

Please mark your calendars! The 2005 annual meeting of the SNM is scheduled for June in Toronto, Canada. IASNM is planning to have the annual dinner and awards ceremony, the Sunday of the meeting. *An important and critical request to all the current IASNM members is for everyone to be up to date with his/her annual membership dues for 2005, well in advance for the society to arrange, once again, a fully subsidized dinner and awards ceremony in Toronto.* The IASNM needs your active support in this regard to make this possible. Our web site will have information on applying for the 2005 IASNM fellowships – as in the past, we will award grants to deserving young scientists from India who have accepted abstracts for the annual meeting. If you need further information please contact the undersigned.

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