



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The nuclear medicine community in North America will be thinking about the next annual meeting of the SNM to be held in the beautiful city of Toronto, Canada. Many of us will be planning to present our results and successes at the meeting. The SNM itself is flying high under the leadership of Mathew Thakur, PhD, the current President, the first SNM President of Indian origin. Building on our strong foundation, and further strengthened by Mathew's Presidency, we are looking ahead for greater achievements for the IASNM.

During the past year, the IASNM took several steps toward strengthening the organization and expanding its services. These plans were further discussed and refined at the executive committee meeting on 6/20/04 in Philadelphia. The next IASNM awards ceremony will be in Toronto, Canada during the next SNM annual meeting. Voluntary help of Neil Vasdev and Raman Chirakal, both residents of Toronto, towards arranging the ceremony is very much appreciated and we extend our thanks on behalf of the IASNM. We hope to have an enthusiastic attendance similar to last year. If you have any suggestions to improve the format of the ceremony please let us know. Please mark your calendars! Plan on attending the meeting and participating in all the activities – we hope you will have paid the membership dues by that time, as these events are largely supported through membership fees. We would like to continue the tradition of not charging an entrance fee and not limiting the number of guests.

The cordial relationship between the IASNM and SNM(I) is rapidly growing. IASNM is building a strong bridge between the SNM and the SNM(I); the SNM President, Dr. Thakur, is attending the December proceedings. To commemorate Mathew's Presidency, we are having a strong presence in India, at the time of the annual meeting of the SNM (I) in Mysore, Karnataka December 15 – 18, 2004; more than 10 speakers, including Drs. Tom Miller of Washington University (Chairman of the SNM Scientific Committee), Steve Larson of MSKCC (a Director of the ABNM), Alexander McEwan from the Cross Cancer Institute (President, Nuclear Oncology Diagnosis and Therapy Council), Joseph O'Donoghue (MSKCC), Mathew Thakur (President, SNM), Diwakar Jain (Drexel University); Shankar Raja (St. Vincent's Hospital, New York); GT Krishnamurthy (Portland, OR), Alex Kurikeshu (Washington, DC); Chaitanya Divgi (MSKCC; President, IASNM) and Joseph Rajendran (University of Washington; Secretary, IASNM), will present topics of mutual interest. Professor Miller, who was a post-doctoral Fellow at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in the early 1970s, will be



awarded the Sarabhai Oration, and it is heartwarming to note that the SNM(I) has again accepted the IASNM nomination.

The SNM(I), under the direction of Dr. Anand, has prepared a comprehensive program covering the range of Nuclear Medicine, and the IASNM has keynote speakers in every category. There will also be a pre-congress session in Bangalore on the 14th of December, put together by Dr. Krishna with the help of the IASNM. We appreciate with gratitude the generous support of the following companies towards the SNM(I) conference: Capintec, Cytogen, Eastern Isotopes, GE and Nordion. Without their help it would not have been possible to coordinate this kind of strong presence in India.

Another proud moment for nuclear medicine in India is the selection of New Delhi as the venue for the next Asia-Australia congress in 2008. It is an important land mark for the future of nuclear medicine in India and opens up new avenues for sustained growth. It rightfully puts India in the nuclear medicine map. A great honor and a proud moment indeed for all of us! It is not immodest to say that Professor Thakur's pre-eminence in the field, and the close interaction between the IASNM and SNM(I), were important factors in this selection.

The web site (www.iasnm.org) for our society continues to grow. Please visit the site and provide your valuable suggestions to improve the contents. The web site belongs to all of us, and your comments for further refinement are very welcome. Also please make sure we have your current email address to enable us to effectively communicate with you. Full membership information can be found at the web site. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join and strengthen our organization. Those of you who have not yet become life members should consider doing so, in order to take advantage of all the associated benefits. For one, it takes away the need for annual renewal! An appeal letter from the President can be found at the web site. Please check this web site often for any updates.

If you need further information please contact Dr. Divgi at divgic@mskcc.org or Dr. Rajendran at rajan@u.washington.edu

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