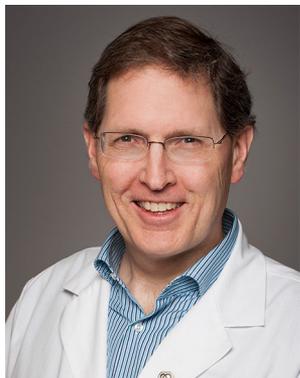




ASNC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY, THE FUTURE IS NOW!



Rob S.B. Beanlands MD,
FRCP(C), MASNC,
President of ASNC, 2019.

After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. – Nelson Mandela

At ASNC2019 we asked, “what does the future hold for Nuclear Cardiology?”¹ At ASNC2020, we noted, “the future is now!” ASNC has built a strong, diverse membership—more than 4300 strong, including clinicians, scientists, and technologists. Over the last 4 years, our strategic plan highlights professional development, quality, and research initiatives, advocacy, member engagement, alliances, and collaboration to (i) promote the unique benefits of PET; (ii) modernize Cardiac SPECT Practices; (iii) promote non-perfusion imaging (i.e., cardiac sarcoid, amyloid, and sympathetic innervation); and (iv) develop roadmaps to quality practice. These have been achieved through focus on referring physicians and patients, engagement of multi-modality imagers, increased education and resources for PET, and enhanced outreach for fellows, early career physicians and technologists. Through inspired research and innovation, enhanced engagement for early career

professionals, and cultivation of partnerships, we have transformed Nuclear Cardiology.

Last year, your Board of Directors identified that the future is bright if we (i) take care of our base by focusing on our strengths (quality, education, and programs); (ii) take care of patients through value-based imaging and care; (iii) find the care gaps to create solutions through research and innovation (i.e., in amyloid, flow, inflammation, and AI); (iv) collaborate (with industry, providers, and imaging society partners) to compete; and (v) foster our youth—they are our future!

Over the past year, we have inspired quality through programs and meetings such as (i) Nuclear Cardiology Today, (ii) PET workshops, (iii) Cardiac Amyloidosis: A Practical Overview, and (iv) the Nuclear Cardiology Board Prep course. We have enabled the ImageGuide Registry now with more than 70 registered sites, more than 130 physicians, and more than 20,000 submitted patients. With 5 years of QCDR approval by the CMS, providers can now choose from 20 different measures to report through the registry to MIPS.

ASNC has established a clear pathway forward and has been a pillar of success with Awareness and Outreach with focused and targeted education that emphasizes ASNC and position statements. ASNC has contributed to countless and Position Papers in 2019. Of particular note is the Consensus Recommendations for Imaging in Cardiac Amyloidosis.²; SPECT Guidelines, and AUC for Cardiac PET MPI (in collaboration with SNMMI).

In advocacy, ASNC is the leading voice in Nuclear Cardiology. We have met with senior CMS staff as well as senior Health and Human Services staff to present concerns as to why and how proposed fee changes would impact patient care and outcomes. We drafted and led the congressional letter, which yielded signatures from 45 members of Congress who opposed CMS proposed fees for 2020. We have enabled new codes for quantification with PET expected for 2020. Likewise, we led the opposition to the AUC mandate with 20 other medical societies. Recently, we have also obtained membership in the AMA House of Delegates.

ASNC2019, led by Panithaya Chareonthitawee with help from Terry Ruddy and all the organizing committee, brought us one of the most successful annual

meetings ever. In addition to many networking opportunities, high educational and research content, there were many ASNC attendees who were previously ‘never-ers’ (never attended ASNC) or had ‘been a long time’ since they were last seen at an ASNC annual meeting. All were extremely glad that they came and were looking forward to ASNC2020 in DC.

ASNC has strengthened collaborations with our valued partners, including physician organizations such as ACC, ASE, SCCT, SCMR, SNMMI, industry partners, payers, policy makers (government), and most importantly patients.

ASNC leads by example now by having members on all six continents in over 62 countries. In collaboration with professional organizations from around the globe, ASNC has co-sponsored 11 international meetings including a unique and extensive Nuclear Cardiology Workshop with the Chinese Nuclear Medicine Society.³

We have enabled our youth through Early Career Pathways including the Leadership Development Program, NC core curriculum, FIT program at ACC, and the inaugural Future Leaders symposium in DC. Their engagement is the key to our future. ‘It takes a village’ to enable the career of a young nuclear cardiologist and imager—ASNC is that village!

It has been an amazing year for ASNC which I say has all the attributes of Canada!—Moderate in size; what we do, we do well; punch above our weight; respected around the world; in spite of our occasional inferiority complex, we can be proud of who we are and what we do; we must continue to collaborate to compete and be the village (Canada means village).

We have now set the stage for a new strategic plan, which will:

- Increase awareness of our Value Proposition
- Enable Highest Quality Science through ASNC2020, a proposed Clinical Trials Network, a proposed clinical trial, and AI
- Invest in Young Faculty and Trainees – our Future!

- Expand our Staff Expertise
- Communicate and Engage
 - Patients, Public, Providers, Producers, Payers, and Policy Makers
 - Capitalize on the Power and Impact of Social Media

ASNC2019 embraced the power of social media and engaged in positive message practices to promote our educational opportunities, advocacy, and awareness. Thanks to Niti Aggarwal and Renee Bullock-Palmer for taking the lead in bringing the Twitter force to ASNC 2019.

In an uncertain world, it’s nice to know that there is something and some people upon whom we can always depend: ASNC and its staff will be there for its members for years to come, setting the course and transforming Nuclear Cardiology.

Thank you so much to our meritocracy’s committed executive council (Raymond Russell, Prem Soman, Sharmila Dorbala, Randy Thompson, Dennis Calnon, and Donna Polk), our illustrious CEO Kathy Flood, our incredible and talented staff, and you—our members—for making it true in 2019, the *future is now*. We are in very good hands.

References

1. Beanlands RSB. What does the future hold for nuclear cardiology? J Nucl Cardiol 2019;26:348–51.
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3. Beanlands R. ASNC’s global impact: transforming nuclear cardiology and making the world smaller. J Nucl Cardiol 2019;26:1497–9.

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