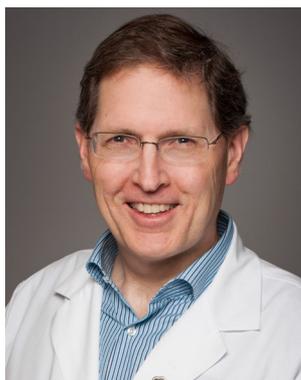




ASNC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ASNC'S GLOBAL IMPACT: TRANSFORMING NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY AND MAKING THE WORLD SMALLER



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“It’s a world of laughter, A world of tears. It’s a world of hopes, And a world of fears. There’s so much that we share, That it’s time we’re aware, It’s a small world after all.” Robert and Richard Sherman

I was excited to attend this year’s International Congress of Nuclear Cardiology and CT (ICNC), a conference which epitomizes teamwork—three sponsoring societies working together for the greater good of the field. From its humble beginnings in 1993, ICNC has established itself as a focal point for knowledge exchange in imaging (Figure 1). It has created an unprecedented international learning environment with world class field experts, emerging young faculty, and enabling trainees who will be our future experts. Global

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networks and Imaging Teams¹ comprised of Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Radiology enable a potential for improved world cardiovascular health through knowledge translation to local practice that impacts patients around the world.

ASNC’s mission is to improve cardiovascular outcomes through image-guided patient management. We now comprise more than 4300 members including clinicians, researchers, and technologists. ASNC’s strategic priorities are to promote the unique benefits of PET, modernize cardiac SPECT practices, and promote non-perfusion applications such as sarcoid and amyloidosis imaging and developing a roadmap for quality practice. ASNC does this through its focus on referring physicians and patients, engaging multimodality imagers as well as increasing education resources for PET and outreach for Fellows in Training and early career physicians and technologists. Through inspiring research and innovation (as is published in the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology), enabling pathways for early career professionals, and cultivating partnerships such as with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) and European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI)/European Society of Cardiology (ESC) as well as alliances with industry and other partners, we will continue to transform nuclear cardiology.

ASNC is now a truly international society with members in more than 62 countries. By the end of 2019, we will have co-sponsored more than 11 international meetings with our multiple society partners including the ESC, EACVI, EANM with whom we partner for ICNC and other initiatives as well, as with Cardiology Societies in Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Brazil and Nuclear Medicine societies in China, Australia, New Zealand, Latin America, Canada, and recently the Japanese Society of Nuclear Cardiology. We also have developed a special relationship with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to promote nuclear imaging around the world.

Recently, the international impact of ASNC was brought to the forefront in a highly successful visit to China by a delegation of ASNC leaders including Drs Sharmila Dorbala, Manuel Cequiera, Ernest Garcia, Greg Thomas, and Saurabh Malhotra along with Kathy Flood and Jocelyn Adamoli (Figure 2). In collaboration with the Chinese Society of Nuclear Cardiology (CSNM) and an industry partner,* attendees shared



Figure 1. Photo from the first ICNC meeting including Drs Mario Verani (deceased), Frans Wackers, Jeff Leppo, Ken Brown (deceased), and Ami Iskandrian.

cases and learned from ASNC experts' approaches to stress testing, acquisition, analysis, and interpretation of nuclear imaging. Events such as this highlight for us that nuclear cardiology is a strong and growing field around the world.

ICNC and other international meetings afford an opportunity to enable early career development. Accordingly, this year ASNC has sponsored 17 early career professionals from around the world to attend ICNC. Many of us are also fortunate to work with international trainees who inspire us with their commitment to learn and advance care in their corner of world after having 'been to America.'² These early career imagers and trainees are our future—treat them well!

ASNC's goals of quality, education, and early career development are achieved through its international connections, symposia, workshops, and conferences. For 26 years ICNC has been the focal point for the international nuclear cardiology community.

ICNC 2019 was no exception. The meeting had all the ingredients for success including venue, location in beautiful Lisbon, the weather !, and most importantly outstanding scientific and educational content which engaged a breadth of faculty (including our trainees and early career colleagues). This success is thanks to the teamwork leadership and innovation of our organizing as scientific program committee members and chairs (Drs Sharmila Dorbala, Oliver Gamperli, Hein Verberne, Wael Jaber, Danilo Neglia, Fabien Hyafil). I left ICNC with a sense of camaraderie, having connected with old friends and made new ones; inspired by the science to work to solve the common problems we all face; and a sense hope for the future not just through the emerging technologies, tracers, and positive outcomes but through our youth.

International meetings such as ICNC, the CSNM workshops, and others remind us how small the world has become and how fortunate we are to have a society such as ASNC and its staff to enable our field not just in



Figure 2. Photo from the ASNC-CSNM workshop including CSNM attendees and in the front row Dr Xiaoli Zhang and SiJin Li (center) and from ASNC, Manuel Cequiera, Ernest Garcia, Sharmila Dorbala, Kathy Flood, Jocelyn Adamoli, Saurabh Malhotra.

America but around the world. If you sensed that at ICNC and with ASNC, we are all part of something greater than any one individual, you are not alone. Together, we can and will transform Nuclear Cardiology.

Disclosures *The workshops in China were co-sponsored by ASNC, CSNM, and GEHealthcare.

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