SNM House of Delegates
Mid-Winter Meeting
January 22, 2011
Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel
Palm Springs, CA

Members in Attendance:
Naomi Alazraki, MD; Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N); Robert W. Atcher, PhD, MBA; Scott C. Bartley, MD; Danny N. Basso, CNMT, NCT, FSNMTS; Aileen M. Carey, MSc, CNMT; Peter S. Conti, MD, PhD; Georges N. El Fakhri, PhD; Giuseppe Esposito; Fred Fahey, DSc.; Benjamin L. Franc, MD; Michael M. Graham, PhD, MD; Bennett S. Greenspan, MD; Deborah H. Havens, CNMT, ARRT(R)(N), BA; Jo Kathryn E. Hunt, MS, CNMT; Maroun Karam, MD; Alan K. Klitzke, MD; Anthony W. Knight, MBA, CNMT, RT(N),NCT; Lale Kostenkouglu, MD; Karen A. Kurdziel, MD; David H. Lewis, MD; Jim Littlefield; Nancy McDonald Deloatch; Michael L. Middleton, MD; Satoshi Minoshima, MD; Richard B. Noto, MD; John Oldershaw, MD; Todd E. Peterson, PhD; Lalitha Ramanna, MD; Janet S. Reddin, PhD; Lynne T. Roy, MBA, CNMT, FSNMTS; Mehran M. Sadeghi, MD; Rebecca A. Sajdak, CNMT, FSNMTS; Martin Sandler, MD; Ronald G. Schwartz, MD, MS, FACC, FAHA; George M. Segall, MD; David K. Shelton, MD; Jim Timpe, MS, RT (N)(MR); Mark Tulchinsky, MD; Henry VanBroicklin, PhD; Laura A. Wall, MBA, CNMT, NCT; Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA, CNMT, RT(N); Michael A. Wilson, MD Gregory A. Wiseman, MD; Harvey A. Ziessman, MD; Eleanor S. Zimmer, CNMT, RT(N)

Guests in Attendance:
Pamela Alderman, CNMT; Carolyn Anderson, PhD; Jon Bladwin, DO; Carol Bonanno, CNMT, MTASC, BA; Val Cronin, CNMT, FSNMTS; Mike Devous, MD; Eleanor Dicks; Gary Dillehay, MD; Theresa Elmer-Buckley; Leonie Gordon, MD; Merle Hedland; Gen Hedland; Susan Hogeboom; Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD; Warren Janowitz, MD, JD; Tony Knight, MBA, CNMT, RT(N),NCT; Mike Kroeger, BHS, CNMT, NCT, PET; Cindi Luckett-Gilbert, MHA, CNMT, FSNMTS; Charles Metzger; Dallas Miller, CNMT, RT(N), MPH; Laurie Mixon; Janis O'Mally, MD; Teri Pinkham; Jack Slosky, PhD, FACP, FASNCP; Mathew Thakur, PhD

Staff in Attendance:
Virginia Pappas, CAE; Vince Pistilli, CPA; Nikki Wenzel-Lamb, MBA; Joanna Spahr; Rebecca Maxey; Jen Rice; Jenny Mills

I. Welcome and Call to Order
Mike Middleton, MD, Speaker of the HOD called the meeting to order at 5:06pm and welcomed all SNM House of Delegates meeting attendees.

A. Establishment of Quorum
Richard Noto, MD, Secretary/Treasurer established that a quorum was present.

B. Review and Approval of Standing Rules and Agenda
1. The Standing Rules were reviewed.
   • Raise hand to be recognized
   • Those that have not yet spoken will get priority.
   • Limit discussion on any one topic to thirty (30) minutes unless voted on by the Board with majority vote approving to extend discussion.

   A motion was made to approve the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates.

   It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the Standing Rules of the SNM House of Delegates.
2. The meeting agenda was reviewed.

A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda for January 22, 2011.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the SNM House of Delegates Meeting agenda for January 22, 2011.

3. The meeting minutes from November 9, 2010 were reviewed.

A motion was made to approve the November 9, 2010 meeting minutes.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the November 9, 2010 meeting minutes.

II. Speaker of the House of Delegates Report
Dr. Middleton reminded the members of purpose of HOD to bring issues to develop and recommend to the Board of Directors, Society policies and programs regarding professional issues affecting nuclear medicine. Dr. Middleton thanked the members for participating in the quarterly conference calls and indicated that much progress has been made regarding communication to the House of Delegates.

III. Historian Report
Naomi Alazraki, MD, SNM Historian reported that 2011 is the 3rd year in a row that the SNM Annual Meeting would include a history session.

In addition, the Necrology report was read and the HOD participated in a moment of silence.

IV. SNM Leadership Report
George Segall, MD, SNM President-Elect announced that Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD, SNM President, was unable to attend the SNM MWM due to an accident the previous week. She asked that George pass her regrets and report on SNM initiatives. This year the SNM has taken a conservative effort to make sure expenses do not exceed revenue for FY2011. Education continues to remain a top priority at SNM. In addition, SNM has created a new radioimmunotherapy (RIT) program this year. RIT2 – RIT Resources, Information, and Tools as an education and awareness program to recognize the importance of radioimmunotherapy.

Dr. Segall announced that Sue Bunning has recently joined the SNM staff as the new Director of Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a hearing in several cities, in November 2010, focusing on regulations for radiation exposure and release of patients treated with I-131. Several SNM representatives attended these meeting. SNM is diligently working to submit comments, due at the end of January. Fred Fahey, DSc., SNM Vice-President Elect is working to coordinate data about radiation doses received by different types of radiation workers at academic institution and industry. SNM leadership is also revising the SNM brochure for patients treated with I-131 and will seek NRC approval, once finalized. SNM created a new FDA Task Force, chaired by Sally Schwartz, PhD, and Henry Van Brocklin, PhD, who is working to redefine SNM’s role and interaction with FDA regarding the submission of PET NDAs. Lastly, SNM has drafted a new fundraising plan in collaboration with the Education and Research Foundation (ERF). This fundraising plan identifies programs that are in the strategic and implementation plans of the various commissions to meet the six main goals of the SNM strategic plan.

Dr. Segall informed the HOD that the leadership of both, ERF and SNM met earlier this week to confirm areas where there is agreement, identify areas of disagreement and continue the process of resolving those differences. The SNM and ERF are working on a project of the SNMTS to create a half day educational program that would be presented at several locations throughout the U.S. to supplement local educational programs. The SNM and ERF are working together on the Grants and Awards Committee to develop a policy on naming the awards. Most significantly, we are
working together on a strategic plan for fundraising, which will serve as a roadmap for joint fundraising activities.

V. Committee on Nominations
Robert Atcher, PhD, MBA, SNM Past President informed the HOD that there were two positions that they would be voting on; Historian and Vice-Speaker of the HOD. Naomi Alazraki was the only candidate for the Historian positions. Karen Kurdziel, MD and Harvey Ziessman, MD were the two candidates for the Vice-Speaker position. Both gave a two minute presentation on their background and experience that would benefit serving in this capacity. Ballots were distributed to voting members of the HOD.

Dr. Atcher announced that Dr. Alazraki was elected as Historian and Dr. Ziessman was elected as Vice-Speaker.

VI. Future of Nuclear Medicine as an Independent Specialty
Maorun Karam, MD, HOD member, provided the background on the future of nuclear medicine as independent specialty. While Nuclear Medicine is an independent specialty in its current form, radiology has always incorporated some nuclear medicine training into their curriculum. Members of the HOD discussed the importance of proper training of all individuals (nuclear medicine or radiology) prior to performing nuclear medicine procedures.

Dr. Segall reminded the HOD that the SNM, ABNM and ACNM have a joint statement that states that radiologists who wish to do low dose therapy need experience in ten (10) cases of radiiodine administration not the minimum of three (3) as prescribed by radiology. In addition, the ACR and SNM have been meeting frequently and discussing these issues. A joint task force was formed several years ago and the final report will be released later this Spring. The preliminary report concludes that additional training in nuclear medicine is necessary.

In addition, Dr. Segall explained that the SNM is working to create a 2020 Task Force that will help to plan the future of nuclear medicine and outline the various scenarios of its future. One of the working groups within the task force will include external stakeholders, so that radiologists and other specialties will be involved in the process. The task force will have the input of the HOD in the form of participants from the HOD. The HOD will be apprised of the discussions and decision being made by the task force.

VII. 2011 Final Rules
Gary Dillehay, MD, SNM Committee on Coding and Reimbursement Chair, provided an overview of the most pressing 2011 coding issues; Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS) and AMA RUC and CPT Committees. Dr. Dillehay explained that the MPFS uses RVU's and conversion factor, it is also fixed by Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of December 2010 and expires in December 2011. HOPPS is for all non-physician services, most drugs, RPT's contrast agents packaged, and therapeutic RP’s paid separately.

VIII. CMSS Conflict of Interest
Dr. Segall announced that the Center for Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) approved new Conflict of Interest guidelines that the SNM has endorsed. These guidelines give specific regulations for commercial support to the society and to the leadership within the society. The SNM Ethics Committee is working to develop SNM specific policies and guidelines to coincide with the CMSS guidelines. Dr. Segall recommended that all HOD members review the CMSS guidelines.

IX. SNM/ERF Interaction
Karen Kurdziel, MD, Mid-Eastern Chapter Delegate explained that at the 2009 MWM, the SNM Board of Directors discussed the possibility of merger with the Education and Research Foundation to ensure one Development office.
The Mideastern Chapter objects to both a merger and to the establishment of a “foundation” within the SNM, since the Chapter feels that there should remain a distinction between funds donated to the ERF (by industry or membership), which should be used entirely for the ERF mission of supporting education and research, and those of the Society as a whole. A merger of assets and governance would make both the Society and Foundation funds vulnerable to an increasingly more narrow scope of governance. This trend toward concentrated decision making threatens to undermine the current system of checks and balances that provides both transparency and representative decision making. The ERF maintains a separate board which functions independently of the SNM governance, which is appropriate for its purposes.

A motion was made that the HOD issue a formal statement indicating that the HOD is against the SNM and ERF merging into one financial/governing entity AND against the SNM attempting to form a second educational foundation or fundraising program (inherently competing with the ERF) which is NOT a separate financial entity from SNM, Inc.

The motion was seconded.

Val Cronin, CNMT, FSNMTS, ERF President commented that over the past year there has been progress in the relationship between the SNM and ERF and the discussions that happened in 2009 is very different than the discussions happening now. The SNM and ERF created a joint task force and the task force is working toward a demonstration project that will allow both groups to work together. Ms. Cronin noted that the proposed resolution may have been more accurate if it had been presented last year, however, at this time, there is no discussion of a merger.

HOD members expressed their concern that the money given to ERF by SNM members may not go to SNM specific initiatives. If the ERF choose to follow a different path, their money may not be directed at SNM programs.

The HOD discussed the importance of participating in the discussion regarding where the funds of the ERF should be directed.

Dr. Segall reminded the HOD that in approving this resolution it would prohibit the SNM from doing any future fundraising activities and would put key programs in jeopardy. He requested that the HOD work with the Leadership to gather additional information prior to making this decision and to allow time for the SNM and ERF Task Force to work together on the demonstration project.

Dr. Sandler commented that the HOD has not been privy to much of the discussion and conversation regarding the SNM and ERF relations and requested that the decision by tabled pending a full overview of the issue.

A motion was made to table the resolution until the House of Delegates has had the opportunity to be presented with information from both the ERF and SNM on a future HOD conference call.

It was moved, seconded and voted to table the resolution until the House of Delegates has had the opportunity to be presented with information from both the ERF and SNM on a future HOD conference call. (1 opposed)

X. Finance

Dr. Noto, SNM Treasurer, reported the year-end financials, Society only, were at $7,694,884 revenue and $7,917,506 expenses; creating a net change of –$222,622. The Capital Fund showed $103,432 in interest and dividends, 301,053 in realized gain, $(67,029) in unrealized loss and -$15,222 in bank fees. This is a net change of $322,234, in comparison to FY09 with -$184,500.
XI. Old Business

There was no old business.

XII. New Business

There was no new business.

XIII. Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the House of Delegates meeting at 6:39pm.

It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn the House of Delegates meeting at 6:39pm.