

Singapore General Hospital Nuclear Medicine Update (SGH-NM Update)

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Nuclear medicine is a fast growing and dynamic specialty. In recent years with the advent and wide-spread use of PET, PET-CT, SPECT-CT and newer applications in radionuclide therapy, there has been a need for continuous appraisal and updating of nuclear medicine professionals on various aspects of the changing trends in the specialty. Although nuclear medicine is being practiced in most countries of the world, due to heterogeneous growth of the specialty there has been significant differences in the quality of practice between countries. For better comprehension and uniform standards of application in day to day clinical practice, nuclear medicine physicians from both developed and developing countries of the world need to interact in order to update their knowledge and gain wider exposure through more intensive theoretical and practical training in the field of nuclear medicine. This is best done in small meetings, rather than large conferences, where there is no focus and one is actually lost in the sea of people and activities.

Singapore in general and Singapore General Hospital in particular have excellent infrastructure in nuclear medicine with state of the art equipment, expertise and infrastructure for teaching and training. As a part of its global outreach philosophy, the Singapore General Hospital in collaboration with WFNMB, WRPTC and ARCCNM has been organizing "One Week Update in Nuclear Medicine" every year with a view to enhance awareness about the current trends in nuclear medicine among the nuclear

medicine physicians from around the world in general and from the developing countries in particular.

The SGH-Nuclear Medicine Updates of the year 2008 and 2009, which were held at SGH, Singapore during the first week of March every year attracted participants from all over the world; 91 participants from 29 countries in 2008 and 89 participants from 26 countries in 2009.

Registration is free for participants from Developing Countries. The organizing Committee also provides free local hospitality including accommodation to a significant number of participants from developing countries, depending on the sponsorship received from industry. Speakers with International Standing and renown participate in the Updates. Besides Plenary Sessions, we also hold "Free Paper Sessions" and Poster presentations.

Within a very short span of time, the Annual SGH NM Update has progressed in leaps and bounds; and our aim is to make it a significant global event in the field of nuclear medicine. The SGH NM Update 2010 will be held in conjunction with the 19th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Singapore Radiological Society – with a very contemporary theme: "Imaging and Therapy in the Era of Molecular Medicine".

The entire scientific programme of the combined meeting will be developed based on this theme and address several clinical and Basic Science Tracks in a more comprehensive manner where the experts from radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine can participate.



Figure 1. Participants of SGH NM Update 2008



Figure 2. Participants of SGH NM Update 2009

These would include scientific sessions on basic sciences (e.g., Instrumentation, Radiopharmaceuticals, Radiation Biology, Dosimetry etc.) and clinical sciences and applications (e.g., Image guided radiation therapy, Lung Cancer, GI Malignancies, Liver Cancer, Breast Cancer, Thyroid diseases, Neuroendocrine tumours, Hematological malignancies, Coronary Artery Disease, Infection, etc.) The conference will also address Education and training aspects of radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine and the role of National, Regional and International Organizations. There will also a “Technologists' Track” as well as a “Nursing Track” in the scientific programme, dealing with topics relevant to technologists and nurses who are engaged in the field of radiation medicine.

All professionals including medical doctors, medical physicists, radiopharmacists, scientists, radiation biologists, technologists, radiographers and nurses who are engaged in the practice of radiation medicine (Nuclear Medicine, Diagnostic Radiology, Radiation Oncology and Radiation Research) are welcome to participate in the SGH NM Update 2010 and the 19th ASM of Singapore Radiological Society scheduled to be held at Singapore from 25-28 February 2010. Let us all combine our acts together to make this congress another memorable event of nuclear medicine. For more details, please visit our website: <http://www.singaporeradiology2010.com>

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