

## Updated Criteria Define Appropriate Use of Imaging Tests

The introduction of appropriateness criteria for single-photon emission computed tomography myocardial perfusion imaging (SPECT MPI) in October 2005 marked a milestone in the evolution of performance measures for cardiovascular imaging. Never before had the determination of test utilization been so precisely defined. Imaging tests could now be classified as “appropriate,” “inappropriate” or “uncertain” depending on the clinical scenario. Four years later, these criteria are the first to be updated and revised to reflect the ongoing advancement of the field. The “2009 Appropriate Use Criteria for Cardiac Radionuclide Imaging” (*J Am Coll Cardiol* 2009;53:2201-2229.) builds on the seminal 2005 document and provides recommendations for 67 clinical indications.



“Appropriateness can be measured, test ordering can be evaluated, and physicians can be educated about how to improve their performance.”

Dr. Hendel

The criteria were evaluated by a technical panel comprised of 12 physicians representing ASNC and five other medical societies. Drs.

Timothy Bateman,

Manuel Cerqueira, and Parker Ward participated on the panel on behalf of ASNC while ASNC Past President Dr. Robert Hendel chaired the document writing group. “Several assumptions were modified to provide clarity for the clinical indications as well as to broaden their applicability,” said Dr. Hendel. The new indications were added based on feedback regarding the 2005 criteria, research published in the interim, and an effort to provide a more comprehensive document by closing the gaps in indications.

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The ASNC newsletter is published by the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) and is provided as a benefit of membership in ASNC.

# ASNC NEWS BRIEFS

## ASNC Leaders Travel to Taiwan for Annual Conference

Dr. Gregory Thomas, a past president of ASNC, and Dr. Sam Wann, a member of the ASNC Board of Directors, recently traveled to Taipei, Taiwan for the 39th Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions of the Taiwan Society of Cardiology. Dr. Thomas presented a plenary address titled “State-of-the-Art SPECT and PET myocardial perfusion imaging in the diagnosis and risk stratification of CAD.” Dr. Wann served as faculty for a special imaging session with a lecture titled “What is the true value of a cardiac imaging test to the patient?” Both ASNC members joined a second special session on cardiovascular imaging to discuss new developments in nuclear cardiology and potential pitfalls in the interpretation of multi-detector computed tomography.



Dr. Thomas and Dr. Wann [first row] join attendees of the Taiwan Society of Cardiology convention in Taipei, Taiwan.

## New Guideline on Coronary CTA

The Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT) recently published a guideline addressing performance of coronary computed tomographic angiography (CTA). The guidelines review competency requirements for physicians and technologists, equipment standards, imaging protocols, and radiation reduction strategies. The “SCCT guidelines for performance of coronary computed tomographic

angiography: A report of the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Guidelines Committee” was published in the May-June issue of the *Journal of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography* and is available online at [www.scct.org/dgs/index.cfm](http://www.scct.org/dgs/index.cfm).

## ASNC Joins the Facebook Community



Visit ASNC on Facebook for another

way to learn more about the Society’s programs and initiatives and to connect with others who are interested in ASNC and the field of nuclear cardiology. Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), log-in, and enter “American Society of Nuclear Cardiology” into the search field to find ASNC on Facebook. Use the “Become a Fan” button to network with colleagues from around the world. ✧

## JNC SPOTLIGHT



### From the July/August issue of the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology*:

In this month’s *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology*, Bart et al. assess and compare the diagnostic accuracy and prognostic value of several imaging tests in patients with end-stage renal disease. Read about the authors’ findings in “Comparison of Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography, Dobutamine SPECT, and Adenosine SPECT Myocardial Perfusion Imaging in Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease.”

Also available in this month’s journal is a study by Khandaker et al. evaluate one of the indications rated as “uncertain” in the 2005 appropriateness criteria for SPECT MPI published by ASNC and the American College of Cardiology. Learn about the investigators findings in “Stress Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography for Detection of Coronary Artery Disease and Risk Stratification of Asymptomatic Patients at Moderate Risk,” which is now online at [www.onlinejnc.com](http://www.onlinejnc.com).



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

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# MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Programs listed below are sponsored or co-sponsored by ASNC. For more information, visit [www.asnc.org/event.cfm](http://www.asnc.org/event.cfm).

## JULY 2009

July 31 – August 2, 2009 Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Preparation Course Baltimore, MD

## SEPTEMBER 2009

September 30 – October 1, 2009 Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Preparation Course  
*An Ancillary Program of ASNC2009* Minneapolis, MN

September 30 – October 1, 2009 Nuclear Cardiology for the Working Technologist —  
What I Need to Know  
*An Ancillary Program of ASNC2009* Minneapolis, MN

## OCTOBER 2009

October 1, 2009 Nuclear Cardiology for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners  
*An Ancillary Program of ASNC2009* Minneapolis, MN

**October 1 – 4, 2009 ASNC2009: The 14th Annual Scientific Session  
of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology Minneapolis, MN**

October 4, 2009 ASNC/ICANL Lab Accreditation Workshop  
*An Ancillary Program of ASNC2009* Minneapolis, MN

## NOVEMBER 2009

November 13 – 14, 2009 Second Annual Nuclear Cardiology Physics Course Baltimore, MD

## ASNC ANNOUNCES 2009 PHYSICS COURSE

Back for its second year, the ASNC Nuclear Cardiology Physics course will be held November 13 – 14, 2009 in Baltimore. This in-depth review of physics principles for nuclear cardiology is a valuable resource for physicians preparing for certification exams. Chaired by Dr. Gordon DePuey, this two-day course will review basic physics principles, instrumentation issues, imaging protocols, radiation safety considerations, and processing and display challenges. Mock exams and review sessions provide an opportunity for attendees to learn from experts in the field and to test their understanding of the material. A program schedule and registration materials are currently available at [www.asnc.org/physics](http://www.asnc.org/physics).



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

# ASNC2009

## MINNEAPOLIS

**The 14th Annual Scientific Session of the  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology**

**October 1 – 4, 2009 | Minneapolis Convention Center**

### ASNC2009 KEY DATES

**July 15, 2009**

Late-Breaking Clinical Trials Submission Deadline

**July 17, 2009**

Last Day to Register at Early Bird Registration Rate

**August 31, 2009**

Last Day of ASNC2009 Hotel Room Block

**September 23, 2009**

Last Day to Register at Pre-Registration Rate

**September 29, 2009**

On-Site Registration Opens at 2:00 p.m.

**Quality and Patient-Centered Outcomes in Cardiac Imaging**

## YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

ASNC is pleased to announce the seven finalists for the 2009 Young Investigator Awards. The following abstracts will be presented at ASNC2009 on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and a panel of judges will award a prize to the best abstract presentation.

### **Intravascular Detection of Inflamed Atherosclerotic Plaques with <sup>18</sup>F-Fluorodeoxyglucose and a Positron-Sensitive Catheter**

S Qadir,<sup>1</sup> RQ Migrino,<sup>1</sup> DR Elmaleh,<sup>1</sup> N Ghahremani,<sup>2</sup> TJ Brady,<sup>1</sup> F Daghighian,<sup>2</sup> A Tawakol<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, <sup>2</sup>IntraMedical Imaging LLC, Los Angeles, CA

### **Feasibility of SPECT Attenuation Correction by Separately Acquired CT and the Effect of Respiration on Its Accuracy**

MS Rajagopalan,<sup>1</sup> WP Follansbee,<sup>2</sup> J Spannuth,<sup>2</sup> P Soman<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, <sup>2</sup>Division of Cardiology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA

### **Assessment of Appropriateness of Referral for Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (SPECT MPI) in an Asian Tertiary Cardiac Centre**

AS Koh, JLS Flores, MF Chew, FYJ Keng, TSJ Chua  
National Heart Centre, Singapore, Singapore

### **Does Beta Blocker Therapy Affect the Prognostic Significance of Blunted Heart Rate Response During Dipyridamole Stress Tc-99m Gated Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography?**

S Mathur, A Shah, A Ahlberg, D Katten, GV Heller  
Hartford Hospital, University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT

### **Relative Contributions of Electrical Abnormality (LBBB) and Mechanical Dysfunction to LV Dyssynchrony: Evaluation by Gated SPECT**

P Atri,<sup>1</sup> WP Follansbee,<sup>1</sup> J Chen,<sup>2</sup> EV Garcia,<sup>2</sup> J Spannuth,<sup>1</sup> P Soman<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, <sup>2</sup>Emory University, Atlanta, GA

### **Feasibility of a Novel Protocol for Serial Assessment of Left Ventricular Synchrony by Gated SPECT Before and After Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy with a Single Injection of Radiotracer**

M Friebling,<sup>1</sup> J Chen,<sup>2</sup> S Saba,<sup>1</sup> EV Garcia,<sup>2</sup> E Adelstein,<sup>1</sup> L Martin,<sup>1</sup> WP Follansbee,<sup>1</sup> P Soman<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, <sup>2</sup>Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

### **A Comparative Study of Attenuation-Uncorrected and Corrected Tc99m-Tetrofosmin Myocardial SPECT Images for Diagnosis of Pulmonary Hypertension and Right Ventricular Hypertrophy**

RM Mazraeshahi, R Oeltgen, J Striet, M Gerson  
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

##### **Hilton Minneapolis**

1001 Marquette Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
Standard Room Rates: \$199 for single occupancy, \$209 for double occupancy, \$229 for triple occupancy, and \$249 for quadruple occupancy  
Executive Level Room Rates: \$229 for single occupancy, \$249 for double occupancy, \$269 for triple occupancy, and \$289 for quadruple occupancy

##### **Hyatt Regency Minneapolis at Nicollet Mall**

1300 Nicolett Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
Room Rates: \$194 for single or double occupancy, \$244 for triple occupancy, and \$269 for quadruple occupancy

To receive the negotiated ASNC rate, attendees must make reservations through the ASNC Housing Bureau by visiting [www.asnc.org/housing](http://www.asnc.org/housing) or calling 1-888-947-2233 (Code: 2009) by August 31, 2009.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT**

ASNC designates the ASNC2009 CME activity for a maximum of 25.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ASNC2009 has been approved by the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and is accepted by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board for 18 ARRT Category A credits.

Additional CME and ARRT Category A credit is available for designated ASNC2009 ancillary programs. Visit [www.asnc.org/asnc2009](http://www.asnc.org/asnc2009) for additional information.

#### **REGISTRATION**

ASNC offers three easy ways to register:

1. Online at [www.asnc.org/asnc2009](http://www.asnc.org/asnc2009)
2. By mail at 4550 Montgomery Ave., Suite 780 North, Bethesda, MD 20814-3304
3. By fax at (301) 215-7113

ASNC members and early registrants receive special rates, and special offers are available for attendees who attend the Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Preparation, Nuclear Cardiology for the Working Technologist, or the Nuclear Cardiology for Nurses

and Nurse Practitioners ancillary programs. Register by July 17, 2009, for additional savings!

#### **PREVIEW ASNC2009 WITH ASNC PODCASTS**

ASNC's Annual Scientific Session podcast series returns this summer with an exclusive preview of the speakers and sessions that make ASNC2009 a must-attend event. ASNC President Dr. Jennifer Mieres kicks-off the 2009 series with a discussion of what to expect from ASNC2009 in Minneapolis and why this year's meeting centers on the theme "Quality and Patient-Centered Outcomes in Cardiac Imaging." Visit [www.asncpodcast.org](http://www.asncpodcast.org) to listen to every episode in the ASNC podcast series, including re-caps from last year's meeting.

### ASNC2009 Schedule at a Glance

#### Thursday, October 1, 2009

**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Government Changes and Their Effects on Office-Based Practice

**3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

ASNC Annual Business Meeting

**5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Exhibitors' Reception  
Poster Presentation I

#### Friday, October 2, 2009

**8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**P** Plenary Session I: Welcome and Mario Verani Memorial Lecture

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

NEW

**A** Joint ASNC/Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Session: Developments in Cardiac CT

**10:30 a.m. – Noon**

**A** Imaging in Acute Coronary Syndromes

**C** Imaging the Spectrum of Ischemic Heart Disease

**CT** State-of-the-Art in Cardiac CT (Advanced)

**T** Nuclear Imaging in Practice – The Fundamentals in 2009

**RE** Cardiac PET

**Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

Poster Presentation II

**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**A** Coronary Blood Flow and Flow Reserve

**C** Practice Guidelines and Quality Metrics

**CT** CT Angiography – Basic Aspects (Basic)

**T** Laboratory Considerations

**RE** Metabolic PET Imaging – Viability and Beyond

**RE** SPECT Artifacts Recognition

**2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Poster Presentation III

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**A** Advances in Hardware and Software

**C** Stress Testing Update 2009

**CT** Risk Stratification and Patient Management with CT and CTA (Basic)

**T** New Technologies and Techniques (1)

**RE** Integration of Clinical CT Imaging with Nuclear Imaging

#### Saturday, October 3, 2009

**7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**P** Plenary Session II: Challenges and Opportunities in Cardiac Imaging for 2009

**8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**A** Joint ASNC/American Society of Echocardiography Session: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Myocardial Blood Flow

**10:00 a.m. – Noon**

Late-Breaking Clinical Trial Abstract Presentations

### 10:30 a.m. – Noon

- C** The Need for Speed in Nuclear Cardiology
- CT** Integrating Cardiac CT and Nuclear Cardiology – How to Perform Hybrid Imaging (Basic)
- T** Practical Use of New/Old Radiopharmaceuticals
- RE** Quality Imaging – Cath Correlation

### Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Poster Presentation IV

### 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- A** Addressing the Challenges of Heart Failure with Cardiac Imaging (1)
- C** Quality Counts in Nuclear Cardiology
- CT** Technical Advances of CT (Advanced)
- T** Newer Imaging Technology and Techniques (2)
- RE** Challenging Cases in High-Risk Populations

### 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Poster Presentation V

### 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- A** Addressing the Challenges of Heart Failure with Cardiac Imaging (2)
- CT** Great Debates in Cardiac CT (Advanced)
- T** Cardiac PET in 2009
- RE** Myocardial Blood Flow and Coronary Artery Disease – PET and PET-CT
- RE** Case Review – CT/SPECT/PET

### 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Nuclear Cardiology Foundation Young Investigators Award Competition

## Sunday, October 4, 2009

### 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

- P** Plenary Session III: Great Debates in Cardiac Imaging

### 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

- A** Molecular Imaging: Targeting Left Ventricle Remodeling
- C** Clinical Cardiac PET 2009
- CT** Current and Future Directions for Cardiac CT and CTA (Advanced)
- RE** Case Review with the Experts – Choosing the Right Test for the Right Patient (CT, Nuclear, Echo, and Cardiac Magnetic Resonance)

Don't forget to check out the four exciting ancillary programs offered in conjunction with ASNC2009! Separate registration is required. Learn more at [www.asnc.org/asnc2009](http://www.asnc.org/asnc2009).

- Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Preparation Course:  
September 30 – October 1, 2009
- Nuclear Cardiology for the Working Technologist – What I Need to Know:  
September 30 – October 1, 2009  
*This program is supported by an educational grant from Astellas Pharma US, Inc.*
- Nuclear Cardiology for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners: October 1, 2009  
*Corporate support provided by Astellas Pharma US, Inc.*
- ASNC/ICANL Lab Accreditation Workshop:  
October 4, 2009  
*Corporate support provided by Astellas Pharma US, Inc.*

# ASNC Addresses Ongoing Mo-99 Supply Issues

Once again, the nuclear cardiology community is faced with a radioisotope shortage that threatens to disrupt service to millions of patients. ASNC has been working tirelessly with industry representatives, government agencies, and other medical societies to address the current shortage and find long-term solutions to avoid future supply issues.

## The Current Shortage

On May 18, 2009, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) announced the shutdown of the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor at Chalk River, Ontario after a heavy water leak was detected in the facility. The AECL is responsible for nearly 80 percent of molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) produced in Canada and the United States, and the shutdown has the ability to greatly impact patient access to nuclear cardiology imaging studies. Subsequent information released by the AECL indicates the Chalk River reactor may be shut down for a minimum of three months and potentially longer.

ASNC has received customer letters from Covidien and Lantheus Medical Imaging stating that they hope to meet supply demands through arrangements with other reactors based in Europe and South Africa. MDS Nordion is working with Canada to activate the MAPLE project to address the current shortage and avoid similar shortages in the future. The MAPLE project was initially started in 1996 and was intended to build new reactors to replace the NRU reactor, but the project was discontinued by the Canadian government in May 2008.

## Long-Term Solutions

ASNC has been working with government officials and other medical societies to propose long-term solutions to radioisotope supply issues. On June 17, 2009, ASNC President Jennifer Mieres wrote to the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations leadership urging Congress to swiftly address this issue. She provided two recommendations to the House and Senate leadership: 1) provide sufficient funding to the National Nuclear Security Administration to develop a reliable source of medical isotopes and 2) provide government financial incentives to private industry to expedite isotope production.

ASNC has also met with staff from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration and the Health and Human Services Department on the medical isotope supply issue. ASNC continues to partner with the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, American College of Radiology, American Society for Radiation Oncology, Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, Health Physics Society, Nuclear Energy Institute, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine to develop strategies and policies for addressing potential radioisotope shortages.

## Keeping Informed

Because of the rapid developments associated with the shortage, ASNC has been communicating with members via e-mail and the ASNC Web site. ASNC letters to Congress, customer letters from impacted companies, and clinical information about the use of thallium 201 in lieu of technetium-99m agents are posted at [www.asnc.org/content\\_7978.cfm](http://www.asnc.org/content_7978.cfm). Please check this page often as information about the shortage continues to accumulate daily. ✧

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# Barcelona Provides Beautiful Backdrop for ICNC9

Hundreds of nuclear cardiology professionals from around the world recently gathered in Barcelona for ICNC9 — Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiac CT. Jointly organized by ASNC, the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, and the European Society of Cardiology, ICNC has become the premier international meeting for nuclear cardiology professionals. Drs. Robert Hendel and Juhani Knuuti chaired this year's program.

The Congress was fully international in scope, and focused on the most recent and rapidly evolving areas of nuclear cardiology and cardiac CT. ICNC9 kicked off with an exciting plenary session with three world-renowned experts. Dr. Valentin Fuster presented research on imaging atherosclerosis, Dr. Ernest Garcia discussed recent advances in nuclear cardiology, and Dr. Stefan Achenbach reviewed recent developments in cardiac CT. The comprehensive

program also included "Read with the Experts" case reviews, and advanced tracks focused on PET and cardiac CT. As in previous years, ICNC9 provided a very successful mini-symposium that brought together experts from the host country.

More than 285 original scientific and clinical contributions were presented at ICNC9 after a record-setting number of abstract submissions. A highlight from the conference included the selection of the Best Regional Abstracts with investigators representing Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Spain, and the United States. For more information about presentations from ICNC9, visit [www.icnc9.org](http://www.icnc9.org).

The next ICNC will be held in Amsterdam in spring 2010. Information about ICNC10 will be posted on [www.asnc.org](http://www.asnc.org) as it becomes available. ✧

# ASNC Updates Two Key Guidelines: Reporting and PET

ASNC is pleased to announce the publication of two guidelines addressing key aspects of imaging practice. “Standardized reporting of radionuclide myocardial perfusion and function” and “PET myocardial perfusion and metabolism clinical imaging” have been revised to include new research and updated procedures for providing optimal care to patients. Both documents can be found in the Guidelines & Standards section of the ASNC Web site — [www.asnc.org/section\\_73.cfm](http://www.asnc.org/section_73.cfm).

The reporting guideline, authored by Drs. Peter Tilkemeier, David Cooke, Gabriel Grossman, Benjamin McCallister, and Parker Ward, contains instructions for developing final reports that convey critical data in a clear and consistent format. The guideline is compatible with ASNC’s position supporting mandatory

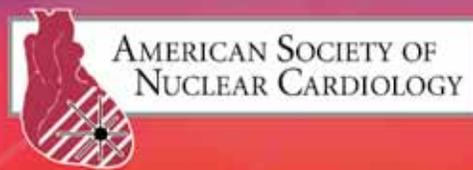
structured reporting for myocardial perfusion imaging tests using standardized data elements. Sample reporting templates are included as appendices to the guideline, illustrating the proper methods of recording the essential elements of a final report: indication, clinical history, procedure, findings, and impression.

The PET guideline also received a comprehensive update under the leadership of Drs. Vasken Dilsizian, Stephen Bacharach, Robert Beanlands, Steven Bergmann, Dominique Delbeke, Robert Gropler, Juhani Knuuti, Heinrich Schelbert, and Mark Travin. Last revised in 2006, the PET guideline includes information about instrumentation, quality control procedures, and acquisition and processing parameters for PET and PET/CT. The guideline also provides two sample protocols for IV glucose loading. \*

## LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR JULY BOARD PREP COURSE

Time is running out to register for ASNC’s Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Preparation Course scheduled for July 30 – August 2, 2009 in Baltimore. Visit [www.asnc.org/boardprep](http://www.asnc.org/boardprep) today to reserve your space in this popular course for nuclear cardiology certification candidates. Donna Polk, MD, MPH, FASNC, will chair this year’s programs and has designed a comprehensive course to cover key exam topics in an intense review format.

For members who cannot attend the July course, the course will be repeated September 30 – October 1, 2009 as an ancillary program of ASNC2009 in Minneapolis. Attendees who register for the September Board Exam Preparation Course can register for ASNC2009 at a reduced rate. Visit [www.asnc.org/asnc2009](http://www.asnc.org/asnc2009) for details.



# 2009

## Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Preparation Course



**JULY 31 – AUGUST 2, 2009**  
Hilton Baltimore, Baltimore, MD



**SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 1, 2009**  
Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN  
*An Ancillary Program of ASNC2009*

**Program Chair: Donna M. Polk, MD, MPH, FASNC**

**Register Early and Save! Visit [www.asnc.org](http://www.asnc.org) or call (301) 215-7575.**

The American Society of Nuclear Cardiology is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.™

## Updated Criteria Define Appropriate Use of Imaging Tests *continued.*

Of the 67 indications evaluated by the technical panel, 33 were considered appropriate, 25 were deemed inappropriate, and 9 were classified as uncertain. The authors define an appropriate imaging study as “one in which the expected incremental information, combined with clinical judgment, exceeds the expected negative consequences by a sufficiently wide margin for a specific indication that the procedure is generally considered acceptable care and a reasonable approach for the indication.” An uncertain classification indicates that the test may be acceptable, but more research or patient information is required to make this a definitive approach in all instances. An inappropriate classification indicates that cardiac radionuclide imaging is not an acceptable test for the noted indication.

Since the first publication of appropriate use criteria in 2005, physicians and payers alike have incorporated them into their decision-making processes. The authors stress that the criteria are not a substitute for clinician experience and expertise, but the criteria do provide a valuable summary of accepted best practices for performing cardiac radionuclide imaging. “Appropriate use criteria allow clinicians to measure baseline performance and identify areas for potential improvement,” said Dr. Hendel. “Appropriateness can be measured, test ordering can be evaluated, and physicians can be educated about how to improve their performance.”

The 2009 Appropriate Use Criteria for Cardiac Radionuclide Imaging document is currently available on the ASNC Web site at [www.asnc.org/section\\_73.cfm](http://www.asnc.org/section_73.cfm). \*

## HELP ASNC FIGHT FOR HEALTH REFORM

Congress is working fast to address health system reform, and ASNC is actively working to ensure that Congress understands the value of cardiovascular imaging to Medicare patients. Both the House and Senate intend to pass their health care reform legislation by the August recess. As Congress works through the process of finalizing legislative language, ASNC encourages our members to contact their lawmakers and voice their concerns over the impact any further cuts to medical imaging will have on patient care.

ASNC has set up an online resource at [www.asnc.org/healthreform](http://www.asnc.org/healthreform) that includes instructions for contacting legislators, talking points on key ASNC issues, and copies of correspondence from ASNC to Congress on imaging cuts, radiology benefit managers, and other reform proposals. Don't wait — ASNC needs your help now! Visit [www.asnc.org/healthreform](http://www.asnc.org/healthreform) and help ASNC fight for affordable and accessible imaging tests.



## NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR CT BOARD PREP

ASNC is pleased to offer a new online resource for physicians preparing for certification exams in cardiovascular computed tomography. A digital library of presentations from ASNC's CT Board Exam Preparation Course held this past April is now available for purchase at [www.asnc.org/ctonline](http://www.asnc.org/ctonline). Users will have access to lectures and handouts from 18 sessions from the two-day course. Listen to experts from the field walk through dozens of cases and address the most common challenges posed by CT imaging. Whether studying for the exams or looking for an introduction to CT imaging, this online resource provides valuable information in an easy-to-use format.

# New Accreditation Pathway for Labs Using Emerging Technologies

Acknowledging the rapid development of software algorithms and camera technologies in the field of nuclear cardiology, the International Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL) has announced a new accreditation pathway. Applicants that use new technologies or novel imaging approaches that are not included in professional society guidelines can now apply for accreditation through an Emerging Technologies Pathway. Laboratories that apply through this pathway are eligible for one-year provisional accreditation status during which the laboratory must submit supplementary material and undergo additional review.

Laboratories using technology that is not included in the scope of the current ICANL Standards must demonstrate 1) clinical validation and 2) reproducibility. ICANL defines clinical validation as producing clinical results that are equal or better than currently accepted technology, based on published, peer-reviewed data. Reproducibility requires laboratories to demonstrate the stability of the device with clearly defined quality control procedures and data.

Laboratories applying through the Emerging Technologies Pathway must submit the following supplemental material:

- Images from a physiologic patient simulator study
- Acceptable quality control measures

- Imaging protocol
- Training and competency documentation for laboratory staff

Potential applicants should note that laboratories using standard conventional technology and FDA-approved pharmaceuticals or radiopharmaceuticals according to FDA label uses are not subject to the additional documentation required under the Emerging Technology Pathway.

In concert with the launch of the Emerging Technology Pathway, ICANL and the Society of Nuclear Medicine have released a Quality Assessment Patient Simulator Program that provides laboratories with the physiologic phantom study required to identify and quantify abnormalities and determine the diagnostic significance of these findings. The first module in the program, the Cardiac SPECT Phantom, is currently available to laboratories.

For detailed information about ICANL's Emerging Technology Pathway or the ICANL/Society of Nuclear Medicine Quality Assessment Patient Simulator Program, visit [www.icanl.org](http://www.icanl.org). ✱

**ASNC2009**  
**MINNEAPOLIS**

**The 14th Annual Scientific Session of the  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology**  
October 1 – 4, 2009 | Minneapolis Convention Center

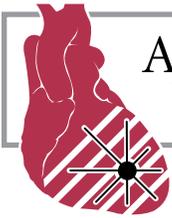
#### ASNC2009 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Concurrent educational tracks, including Advanced, Core, Computed Tomography, and Technical
- A robust curriculum centered on the theme "Imaging for Quality and Patient Outcomes"
- Ancillary programs including the Nuclear Cardiology Board Preparation Course
- Late-breaking clinical trial presentations and Cases with the Experts panel discussions

Visit [www.asnc.org/asnc2009](http://www.asnc.org/asnc2009) to register today and for all the latest information about ASNC2009 or call (301) 215-7575.

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The American Society of Nuclear Cardiology is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*.™  
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