



## JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY NEWS UPDATE

### FROM LECTURE TO LABORATORY: IMPROVING PRACTICE THROUGH EDUCATION



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I will not be ashamed to say 'I know not,' nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.  
—Modern Hippocratic Oath, Louis Lasagna, 1964

ASNC members are well aware of the importance of collegiality in the medical profession. Whether you work as a solo practitioner or as a member of a large hospital staff, you must broaden your perspective and continually seek new information to deliver optimal care to your patients. This communal approach is particularly important in the field of cardiovascular imaging. Ongoing developments in equipment, radiopharmaceuticals, and imaging techniques necessitate effective and efficient educational processes for the dissemination of new knowledge so that physicians and technologists can make informed decisions at the bedside.

With so many demands on our time and resources, it can be difficult to leave our practices and personal lives behind to attend continuing education programs. The increasing availability of online programs has filled a very important need for flexibility and convenience in medical education. Yet, the value of attending a conference in person and networking with colleagues from

around the world cannot be underestimated. In addition to listening to didactic lectures from experts on topics central to our everyday practice, live educational programs provide opportunities to interact directly with specialists in the field, exchange ideas with colleagues who face challenges similar to our own, and participate in interactive sessions directly relevant to practice. While many of these informal exchanges of ideas may not earn the formal continuing education credit required by state licensing boards and certification organizations, these discussions are extremely important to our overall learning experience.

If there is one program you should attend this year, it should be the ASNC Annual Scientific Session in Minneapolis. Chaired by Dr. Jeroen Bax of Leiden University Medical Center, ASNC2009 is the centerpiece of ASNC's educational calendar. With a focus on patient outcomes, this year's meeting is designed to translate cutting-edge research into practical approaches to improve patient care. Distinguished lecturers such as Dr. Manuel Cerqueira, Dr. Robert Bonow, and Dr. Jack Lewin will provide keynote addresses on critical issues—multimodality imaging, utilization management, and government policy—affecting our field. Dozens of faculty will provide more specialized talks tailored to the subsets of our membership. Presentations on the latest clinical trials, minimizing radiation exposure, imaging patients with heart failure, evaluating new radiopharmaceutical agents, and risk stratification using computed tomography are just some of the sessions available this year. Please join ASNC October 1-4, 2009, in Minneapolis for this seminal event!

ASNC2009, and all other ASNC educational programs, is developed specifically to reflect the essential mission of our organization, which is to be the preeminent voice in nuclear cardiology. The programs are designed for healthcare professionals with an interest in cardiac imaging, specifically focusing on nuclear cardiology and cardiac CT. By providing opportunities for imaging professionals to exchange information, ASNC aims to support the research and growth of cardiovascular imaging. Most importantly, ASNC provides a wide range of topics within its programs, each specifically targeted to subgroups of the range of physicians, nurses,

and technologists that constitute the nuclear cardiology community. This year, the Society hosted courses for certification candidates, authorized user candidates, technologists, fellows-in-training, nurses, and, of course, physicians. Planning for 2010 programs is already underway.

In order to provide educational programs that are most relevant to cardiac imaging specialists, ASNC works closely with credentialing bodies, accreditation organizations, and certification boards to ensure that the programs offered reflect the body of knowledge needed to practice responsibly and provide optimal care. As new technologies emerge, ASNC evaluates their relevance to nuclear cardiology and integrates them into

the course schedule when appropriate. However, the foundation of ASNC's educational offerings remains focused on nuclear cardiology.

If you have not attended an ASNC meeting in the past, please consider attending ASNC2009 this fall. The Annual Scientific Session truly represents the best of nuclear cardiology. First-time attendees quickly become lifelong attendees after witnessing all the meeting has to offer. For those of you who have been faithful attendees of ASNC's programs, thank you for supporting the profession and demonstrating your commitment to the field through education. We are constantly refining and expanding our educational curriculum and welcome your feedback as we develop future programs.

## CALENDAR

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Please note that the programs listed below are sponsored or cosponsored by the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC). For more information, visit the ASNC Web site (<http://www.asnc.org/event.cfm>)

**September 30-October 1, 2009.** Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Preparation Course. Minneapolis, MN.

**September 30-October 1, 2009.** Nuclear Cardiology for the Working Technologist—What I Need to Know. Minneapolis, MN.

**October 1, 2009.** Nuclear Cardiology for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners. 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. Minneapolis, MN.

**November 13-14, 2009.** Nuclear Cardiology Physics Course. Baltimore, MD.

ASNC would also like to provide a reminder about the following deadlines for the certification exams in

cardiovascular computed tomography and nuclear cardiology:

### **Certification Board of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Exam**

[www.cbct.org](http://www.cbct.org)

Late application deadline: July 24, 2009

Final withdrawal deadline: September 4, 2009

Examination dates: September 15-16, 2009

### **Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology Exam**

[www.cbnc.org](http://www.cbnc.org)

Regular deadline date (recertification): August 21, 2009

Second deadline date (certification): September 18, 2009

Late deadline date (certification & recertification): October 9, 2009

Cancellation deadline: November 19, 2009

Examination dates: November 30-December 5, 2009