



## **ASNC Names Dr. Brian Abbott as President for 2016**

Dr. Abbott assumed presidency of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology as of January 1, 2016.

Dr. Abbott has been an active member of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) for the past 15 years. He was an inaugural participant in the first year of ASNC's Leadership Development Program, in 2001, a program designed to guide junior members on a pathway to leadership in the society. Given his interest in postgraduate medical education he served as faculty as well as in the organization and planning of a variety of ASNC's educational programs for physicians, fellows, and technologists. He was program chair of the ASNC 2007 Annual Scientific Sessions in San Diego, and more recently served as chair of the Education Committee from 2011-13. He has served on the Board of Directors, and for the past 5 years on ASNC's Executive Council. He is also active in the American College of Cardiology as a topic leader for Noninvasive Imaging for the Annual Scientific Session, as well as Governor of his state's ACC Chapter.

"In the coming shift in reimbursement based on value rather than volume, our patient care will be measured by assessment of quality. Since education drives quality, meaningful education will be more important than ever to help providers of cardiovascular imaging meet these metrics," says Abbott.

ASNC's Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Executive Council have developed an innovative strategic plan designed to the needs of its members, and guide ASNC and the field of Nuclear Cardiology over the next few years. This plan will serve to maintain the essential role of Nuclear Cardiology as an important diagnostic and prognostic tool in the evaluation and management of patients with known or suspected cardiovascular disease. The pillars of this strategic plan will guide ASNC in the coming years to 'Educate, Evaluate, Advocate and Collaborate' to meets the needs of our members, but most importantly our patients. "I look forward to the important work ahead, and thank all of you who support ASNC in realizing its mission and goals," says Abbott.

Nuclear cardiology plays an important role in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the US. Heart disease, or coronary artery disease, results from narrowing, or constriction, of the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart. The blood vessels become narrow when fatty deposits build up inside the arterial wall. As the arteries become clogged, and diseased, the blood flow to the heart muscle is impaired and a heart attack can occur. Nuclear imaging studies use noninvasive techniques to assess blood flow, evaluate the pumping function of the heart, as well as, pinpoint the blockage area. Once a blockage is identified by these noninvasive studies, medical intervention can be used to treat the patient, with precision and accuracy from reading the nuclear imaging results. Therefore, physicians can identify patients at risk before a cardiac event occurs.

Nuclear cardiology studies continue to play an increasingly important role in the new millennium, in the noninvasive diagnosis of coronary artery disease, the assessment of the pumping function of the heart and in the prediction of outcomes in patients with heart disease.

#### About ASNC

The American Society of Nuclear Cardiology ASNC is the recognized leader in quality, education, advocacy and standards in cardiovascular imaging, with nearly 4,000 members worldwide. ASNC is the only society dedicated solely to advocacy issues that impact the field of nuclear cardiology and is working with success to influence regulations to fight onerous private health plan policies -- advertent reimbursement declines and fighting for improved payment and coverage. ASNC is dedicated to continuous quality improvement, education and patient-centered imaging, illustrating the ongoing commitment as a leader in the field of nuclear imaging and improving patient outcomes. ASNC establishes standards for excellence in cardiovascular imaging through the development of clinical guidelines, professional education, advocacy and research development. ASNC's members are comprised of cardiologists, radiologists, physicians, scientists, technologists, imaging specialists and other professionals committed to the science and practice of nuclear cardiology. [www.asnc.org](http://www.asnc.org)