

## Emerging from Lockdown: How to Restart Nuclear Cardiology Operations

**ASNC President-elect to Moderate Webinar This Thursday**

Join us April 30 at 8:00 PM (U.S. EDT) for "[Restarting Your Nuclear Lab Operations as the COVID-19 Pandemic Recedes](#)," a new webinar addressing questions that nuclear cardiology teams will tackle as lockdown measures are eased. A faculty of nuclear cardiology professionals from around the world will discuss key questions on how to safely and efficiently restart labs, including –

- Factors to consider for an individualized emergence from lockdown;
- How to customize screening, consent, and safety measures based on your region's COVID-19 incidence;
- Which physical distancing, PPE, and sanitization precautions should continue and for how long;
- How to prioritize backlogged patients and address their questions;
- Special precautions to take with exercise vs. pharmacologic testing; and
- Strategies for efficiently and cost-effectively returning to normal operations.

This important webinar will be moderated by ASNC President-elect Randall Thompson, MD, FASNC, of St. Luke's Mid America Heart Institute, and Nikolaos Spiliadis, MD, of the Cleveland Clinic.

Faculty will include:

- Hongcheng Shi, MD, PhD, Xiaoli Lan, MD, PhD, and Xiaoli Zhang, MD, PhD, from China;
- Hee-Seung Bom, MD, PhD, from South Korea;
- Felix Keng, MBBS, FASNC, from Singapore; and
- Iain McGhie, MD, and Tara Lawson, BS, RT(R)(CT), from Kansas City, Mo.

ASNC members are invited to attend this timely webinar free of charge. Non-members may join for \$25 or [join ASNC](#) and immediately begin enjoying all of ASNC's many [member benefits](#).

**REGISTER TODAY**



ASNC thanks Cardinal Health for supporting this activity.

## PUSHING FOR POLICY PRIORITIES ASNC Asks Congress for More Clinician Support in Potential COVID-19 Relief Legislation

On April 20, ASNC led a coalition of cardiovascular societies in a letter to Congressional leadership asking for inclusion of a number of policy priorities in a COVID-19 relief package. ABC, HRS, SCAI, and SCCT joined ASNC in the request to Congress.

The coalition of CV societies asked for the following:

- Additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program;
- Establishment of a no or low interest loan program specifically for physician practices;
- Additional funding for direct relief grants to respond and recover from COVID-19 response;
- Changes to Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment program, including a longer recoupment period, extending the repayment period, waiver of interest accrual on the repayment period, and reduction of the per-claim recoupment amount;
- Payment parity for audio-only telehealth visits and requiring ERISA health plans to cover telehealth services;
- Suspension of AUC program implementation; and
- Temporary suspension of prior-authorization and step therapy requirements.

**READ THE LETTER TO CONGRESS**

## COVID-19 NEWS & RESOURCES

**ACC Offers Webinar on "The Role of Multimodality Imaging in Patients With COVID-19."** On Wednesday, April 29, Marcelo F. Di Carli, MD, MASNC, and Todd C. Villines, MD, will moderate a one-hour discussion of multimodality imaging in managing COVID-19 patients and following up on cardiac complications from the disease. The webinar will begin at noon (U.S. EDT). [Register now](#).

**FDA Eases Requirements on Modifications to Imaging Equipment for COVID-19.** On April 23, the FDA provided a list of modifications that would not pose undue risk to patients, including expansion of a clinical indication (e.g., where an extremity-only indication is expanded to other body parts if no alternative exists), modifications to expand mobility, portability, or relocation of an imaging system, and design changes that make it easier to clean, disinfect or sterilize a system. [View the FDA announcement](#).

**CMS Issues Guidance on Opening to Provide Non-urgent, Non-COVID Care.** The recommendations encourage maximal use of telehealth while noting that low-COVID-19-incidence regions may consider opening facilities for non-emergent, non-COVID-19 care. Healthcare systems or clinicians should evaluate factors such as personal protective equipment, workforce availability, facility consideration, sanitation protocols, supplies, and testing capacity. [See the full guidance](#).

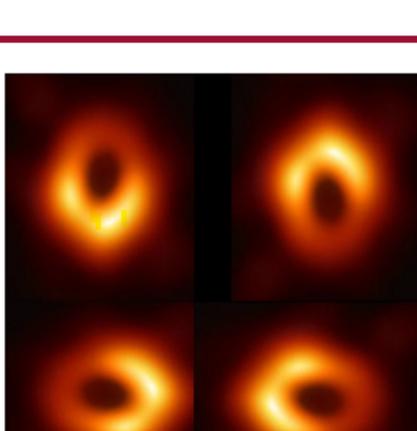
**Encouraging News on Air Transport of Mo-99.** Noting that air transport of the radiopharmaceutical has been one of the most significant challenges in recent weeks, Nuclear Medicine Europe announced that KLM Airlines has agreed to resume transport of radioactive material for certain flights. Pending approval by regulators, KLM will begin transport as early as today and continuing for an initial five-week period. Thereafter, the airline will review whether extensions are necessary.

**Amid Pandemic, IAEA Recommends Adaptations for Nuclear Medicine Departments.** New guidelines provide guidance on infection control and prevention measures, staff training, PPE use, hand and respiratory hygiene protocols, and equipment disinfection. The guideline is published in the [European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging](#).

**COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER**

## ASNC UPDATES

ASNC/SNMMI COVID-19 Best Practices Now Available in ePoster. Key takeaways from "Guidance and Best Practices for Nuclear Cardiology Laboratories During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic" are now displayed in a user-friendly poster. ASNC thanks Cardinal Health for supporting this project. [Download the ePoster](#).



### Can You Read This Image?

You can? Then join us for a brand-new round of "What Is This Image?"

To play, review the [image](#), go to the [submission portal](#) and enter your interpretation.

One winner will receive an ASNC Gift Pack and be eligible to win complimentary ASNC2021 registration.

The submission deadline is **May 20**.

[ENTER YOUR INTERPRETATION.](#)

ASNC in the News: *Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiology* interviewed ASNC Board Member Stephen Bloom, MD, FASNC, about precautions for protecting healthcare workers from COVID-19. Dr. Bloom was a member of the faculty on ASNC's [webinar](#) on Nuclear Lab Preparedness. [Watch the interview](#).

**ASNC's LATEST NEWS**

## Showcase Your Science with ASNC

- **Present at ASNC2020 this Sept. 24-27:** All accepted abstracts will be published in the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology (JNC)*. Learn more and [SUBMIT BY THIS FRIDAY, MAY 1](#).

- **Research Funding and National Presentation Platform:** The early-career investigators who win ASNC's research awards earn \$50,000 in project funding and the priceless opportunity to present their findings to the nuclear cardiology community at ASNC Scientific Sessions. To compete for the [2020 IANC Research Fellowship Award](#) or the [ASNC/Pfizer Young Investigator in Cardiac Amyloidosis Research Fellowship Award](#), submit your proposal by June 19.

## ASNC IS WORKING FOR YOU.

If you aren't a member yet or you haven't renewed your membership,

**PLEASE ACT NOW.**

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**Take care. Stay well.**

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