

Message from the Chair

Maria Rosana Ponisio, MD – Chair, American Board of Nuclear Medicine

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to provide this update on certification outcomes and the dynamic landscape of ongoing education in nuclear medicine. The field is witnessing substantial growth, driven by advances in theranostics and neuromolecular imaging, which are revolutionizing clinical practice and expanding the scope of patient-centered care. Market research anticipates that, within the next decade, a significant percentage of all nuclear medicine procedures will involve theranostics, underscoring the need for a highly trained, adaptable workforce.

Theranostics has become integral to modern nuclear medicine, combining molecular imaging with targeted radionuclide therapy to enable precision oncology. The clinical adoption of new radiopharmaceutical pairs such as Ga-68-DOTATATE/Lu-177-DOTATATE for neuroendocrine tumors and Ga-68-PSMA/Lu-177-PSMA for prostate cancer exemplifies the “see-and-treat” model. The development of new theranostic tracers for additional malignancies, including brain tumors and pediatric cancers, enables both high-resolution imaging and targeted therapy, supporting personalized management and enhanced outcomes.

Neuromolecular imaging is also advancing rapidly, with new tracers broadening the scope of clinical and research applications. While β -amyloid and tau tracers remain at the forefront, recent developments promise to introduce new agents targeting other key biomarkers. These advancements are poised to enhance early diagnosis, differential assessment, and therapeutic monitoring in neurodegenerative disorders and neuro-oncology. Additionally, hybrid imaging platforms such as PET/MRI and total-body PET are improving spatial resolution and quantification, while aiding research into disease mechanisms and drug development.

Certification outcomes continue to reflect the robustness of ABNM training pathways. Over the past decade, annual pass rates for candidates from

ACGME-accredited programs have consistently exceeded 80%, demonstrating the quality of education and the dedication of trainees. The American Board of Radiology’s (ABR) 16-month pathway for diagnostic radiology residents has revitalized interest in dual certification, with pass rates like those of traditional nuclear medicine residencies. However, the overall number of trainees has decreased, highlighting the need to streamline training and improve program visibility to prospective applicants. As the field evolves, it is crucial to adapt educational strategies to attract future talent and meet the growing clinical demand for expertise in theranostics and molecular imaging.

Ongoing professional development is fundamental for maintaining clinical competency. The ABNM’s [Continuing Certification \(CC\)](#) program, including the [CertLink](#)® longitudinal assessment platform, supports lifelong learning and knowledge retention. CertLink provides quarterly, practice-relevant questions and immediate feedback, enabling diplomates to stay up to date.

The future of nuclear medicine is promising, with its growing application in diagnosis and treatment set to become a universal standard of care. By embracing evolving training pathways, maintaining rigorous certification standards, and prioritizing continuing education, our community is well-positioned to lead in this transformative era.

Thank you for your dedication to advancing nuclear medicine and for your commitment to lifelong learning.

Sincerely,



Maria Rosana Ponisio, MD
Chair, ABNM