

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President	1,3
Program Highlights	1,3
Merger News	2
Interest Groups	2
ESMI News	4
FASMI News	4
Meet the Officers	5

**YOUNG INVESTIGATORS
AWARD**

Please join us in congratulating this year's YIA semi-finalists, selected by the Select YIA committee!

(Z Bhujwalla, J-K Chung, D Doudet, J Evelhoch, P Foster, R Gillies, F Kiessling, H Kobayashi, C Moonen, M Neeman). Finalists will re-present their talks at the final Plenary Session at 16:15 on Saturday, Sept 10.

See the finalists at the bottom of page 3.

A Message from the President



ROBERT GILLIES, PRESIDENT

Welcome to the new World Molecular Imaging Society, WMIS, which was formed from a merger between the Society for Molecular Imaging, SMI, and the Academy of Molecular Imaging, AMI. You, the members of both societies, voted overwhelmingly for the merger and to convert your memberships to the new WMIS. This merger was made possible by

our shared understanding that the SMI and AMI had complementary strengths in basic and translational sciences of molecular imaging. The name was chosen to strengthen our association with our annual joint meeting, the World Molecular Imaging Congress, WMIC. We are now the only International Society dedicated to the multiple imaging modalities used in basic, translational and clinical science of molecular imaging.

Over the past several months, a small group of dedicated individuals have formed a transition team to shepherd the merger process. This Transition Committee was co-chaired by myself and Juri Gelovani, and included John Kotyk, Michael Tweedle and Kim Pierce representing the AMI; Jim

Basilion, Zaver Bhujwalla and Charles Metzger representing the SMI, and Tom Budinger as an *ad hoc* advisor. When you have a chance, please take time to thank these committee members for all their hard work and dedication. Without their participation, this process could not have taken place.

The merger process involved evaluating the legal requirements for merger, reviewing the finances of each predecessor society and developing an entirely new administrative structure, which is reflected in a new set of by-laws. The WMIS is now incorporated in the State of Nebraska and we have retained copyrights on the logos and acronyms from both predecessor societies. See Merger News on pg 2.

Continued on pg 3

WMIC 2011 Program Highlights



**PAULA FOSTER, PROGRAM
COMMITTEE CHAIR**

On behalf of the WMIS and its founding organizations I

am delighted to welcome you to San Diego for the fourth annual meeting of the World Molecular Imaging Congress. With the help of the Program Committee, a group of experts serving as Emphasis and Category Co-Chairs and more than 182 Abstract Reviewers, and co-Chair Bernd Pichler, we constructed a program to reflect the cutting edge of the field. The program includes 30

scientific sessions built entirely on the strength of peer-reviewed abstract submissions. We are honored to open the meeting with our Keynote Speaker Dr. Robert Kerbel who will give a presentation titled "Preclinical Modeling of Therapy of Early or Advanced Stage Metastatic Disease - Metronomic Chemotherapy as an Example". See more Program News on pg 3.

The New WMIS

The following are some of the exciting improvements have been enabled by this merger:

- Foremost among these is to strengthen the WMIC meeting with a clearer mission and scope to promote and foster the blending of basic, translational and clinical sciences of molecular imaging that is inclusive of all imaging modalities.



Gillies and Gelovani shake hands in Petra (Jordan) in March 2010, after initiating the merger accord.

- Additional strengthening of our field will come from WMIS-sponsored or -endorsed meetings, such as Interest Group workshops, WMIC satellite meetings, WMIS-sponsored symposia at other conferences (e.g. RSNA, AACR, etc) and international workshops/educational sessions in emerging areas. The WMIS will also work with sister societies to develop web-based curricular content.

- An office of Regulatory affairs will be established to reinforce our commitment to clinical translation and to assist in the movement of new molecular imaging approaches from investigation to approval. These efforts will build upon the success of NOPR to engage the FDA and CMS during the process of approval of molecular imaging approaches including molecularly-targeted probes from all major imaging modalities. Importantly, as an international society, the WMIS will be pursuing these translational efforts in the US, Asia and Europe.

- Membership will become renewable at the meeting and will be revenue-neutral for attendees. Membership is included in the registration fee. Furthermore, oral presentations and posters will be captured electronically and be available in perpetuity for all registrants, whether they attend the meeting or not. Memberships will still be available for non-registrants who just want to receive the Journal and maintain their membership status.

Interest Groups

An Important component of the new WMIS is the formation of “Interest Groups”, which will allow sub-groups to form around any common interest. These are intended to be research-focused international collaborative groups focused around a single theme, e.g. Intraoperative MI, radiochemistry, Imaging in 2020, PET-MR, optoacoustics, etc. A petition is needed to form an Interest Group and they are expected to have a span of 5 years, and can be renewed. There are multiple benefits that accompany the formation of an Interest Group:

- Meeting space will be provided within the program (evenings) for Interest Group meetings during the WMIC.

- Organizational and fundraising support will be provided by the WMIS to assist Interest Groups in setting up workshops outside the WMIC.

- Nominating Committee membership shall be recommended by the Interest Groups (Bylaws section 8.01).



MERGE

Part of speech: *Verb*

Definition: bring or come together

Synonyms:

absorb, amalgamate, assimilate, become partners, blend, cement, centralize, coalesce, combine, come aboard, compound, conglomerate, consolidate, converge, deal one in, fuse, hitch on, immerge, incorporate, interface, intermingle, intermix, join, join up, line up, marry, meet, meld, melt into, mingle, mix, network, plug into, pool, submerge, synthesize, tack on, tag, team up, throw in together, tie in, unite



President's Message (cont from pg 1)

The WMIC has been a dynamic and exciting meeting and I expect that formation of the WMIS will only strengthen and improve the message, content and excitement. We have enjoyed fruitful partnerships with our friends and colleagues in the ESMI and the FASMI in the past, and will continue to do so by alternating the WMIC between Europe, Asia and North America on a regular basis. I recently attended the ESMI in Leiden, and was pleased to see how vibrant and exciting this meeting was. I have high hopes for Dublin in 2012. Based on the unqualified success of Kyoto, I also anticipate a fabulous meeting in Seoul in 2013.

Before getting too far ahead of ourselves, though, we need to focus on the upcoming WMIC in San Diego. As chair of the Program Committee, Paula Foster has put together a fabulous program and we owe a strong debt of gratitude to her for her hard work. In many ways, she has built on the success of Kyoto (for which she was also program chair) and has made incremental but important improvements to the way the program will run. The vice-chair, Bernd Pichler will be the program chair for Dublin. He has done a fabulous job of organizing the poster sessions, which shall remain a key mechanism for scientific dialog at the WMIC. Scientifically, the 2011 WMIC may be the best yet, as new basic and clinical applications of MI will be revealed. Socially, San Diego is a great venue and I am sure we will be competing

with the beach and with the Gas Lamp district and the Padres (Sept 6, 7 vs. the Giants) or the Beer Fest (Sept. 9 @ W Hotel) for your attention! Whatever you do, please do not miss the Gala, however, as we have special plans in our continuing quest to find the best "Moonwalker".

My tenure as President will last approximately one month. At the San Diego meeting, I will step down and hand the reins over to Juri Gelovani who will become the next WMIS President, with Zaver Bhujwala becoming president-elect. Juri has considerable experience in running diverse organizations including past-presidencies of both AMI and SMI, spearheading the formation of FASMI and the experience of building and directing a large multi-disciplinary imaging center. He has worked tirelessly on the merger and program for the past year. Together with

the Transition Team, we have had weekly telecons to ensure a smooth and seamless transition from two societies into one. I am absolutely convinced that the WMIS will be in great hands for the ensuing year.

Finally, I also look forward to your active participation in this new society. We have endeavored to develop a structure that promotes member participation both in setting research directions and in contributing to the governance of the society. I would like to encourage everyone to attend the business meeting; start or join an Interest Group; and, discuss issues and new ideas with board members who have all volunteered many hours to make this one of the most dynamic and multi-disciplinary societies that exist today.



**World
Molecular
Imaging
Society**

**NOW COMBINING
THE STRENGTH OF
TWO LEADERS
WORLD
MOLECULAR
IMAGING SOCIETY
BRING YOU A WORLD
OF INNOVATION IN
MOLECULAR
IMAGING.**

More News from Paula Foster, Program Chair

This year the program includes two special Close-to-Clinical sessions focused on fluorescence imaging and cancer and two new scientific sessions: *Early Cancer Detection* and *Epigenetics*. Don't miss the Young Investigator Award competition where the finalists will present their abstracts during the last plenary session. There will be four, dedicated 1.5 hour poster sessions, one per

day. Informal poster walks will be hosted by approximately 50 session chairs who will be judging the best posters per category and emphasis. Winners of poster awards and the Young Investigator award will be announced at the last session on Saturday. We look forward to your participation in WMIC. See you in San Diego!

The Young Investigator Semi-finalists are:

**Lucia Crane
Parsin Hajireza
Ying Kong
Vivek Venugopal
Ping Wang
Katheryne Wilson**

ESMI News

Dear President, Dear Colleagues, and Friends,

To build up a society is for sure an ambitious intention that needs scientific and personal enthusiasm, passion and commitment and people who inject life into the entity. To merge two established societies with diverse structures seems to be an even more challenging task. In my capacity as president of the ESMI and on behalf of the entire European MI community, I would like to express our excitement and respect for creating the new WMIS.

We believe that the strength and the success of a society is also based on exchange of know-how and resources: we are looking back at a trustful and open-minded cooperation between the AMI, SMI, and the ESMI within the last years.

And we are looking forward to further intensifying and structuring this fruitful cooperation between the WMIS and the ESMI.

To cooperate and combine forces on the one hand and to establish an own profile without being narrow-minded and inflexible on the other hand is for sure an advantage. But, and I can say this without any doubt, it was and will always be a pleasure working with you in order to provide a worldwide platform for cross-communication in the field of MI by our common efforts in organising the WMIC.

Sincerely yours,

Clemens W.G.M. Lowik
President of the ESMI



FASMI News

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the World Molecular Imaging Society,

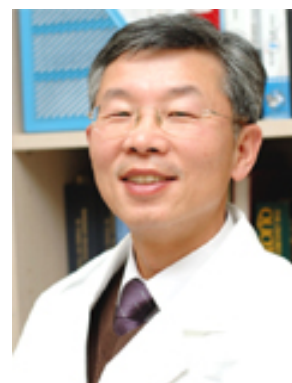
It is with great pleasure that I send my congratulations and glad welcoming to the new WMIS. On behalf of the Federation of Asian Societies for Molecular Imaging, I would like to express my sincere respects for each member of the WMIS who continues to build and share the legacy of this great merger. Considering the increasing need of understanding biology and medicine using molecular imaging, it is truly unique, innovative and forward-thinking decision at the right time. I am sure that this merger propels the worldwide molecular imaging societies to move forward, and your enthusiastic efforts instill the reverence and pride in the name "WMIS."

From the successful partnership with AMI and SMI in the past, we have enjoyed many fruitful achievements from cooperation and exchanging knowledge.

I am confident that the combined force from WMIS will also generate more efficient society to promote an advanced relationship with FASMI. We will continue to do active participation and collaboration with international molecular imaging community for developing in-depth molecular imaging studies and education as a founding organization of WMIC.

Sincerely,

June-Key Chung, MD, PhD



www.wmis.org (coming soon!)

Meet the Officers



The officers and Board of the WMIC volunteer their time to advance the field of molecular imaging. If you want to volunteer, contact any of the following to express your interest.

Officers

President - Robert Gillies, PhD - robert.gillies@moffitt.org
President-elect - Juri Gelovani, MD, PhD - jgelovani@mdanderson.org
President-elect (as of WMIC 2011) - Zaver Bhujwala, PhD - zaver@mri.jhu.edu
Treasurer - James Babilion, PhD - james.babilion@case.edu
Secretary - Michael Tweedle, PhD - michael.tweedle@osumc.edu

Board of Trustees

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www.wmis.org (coming soon!)