

## From Editor's Desk



It is a matter of great pleasure to present the supplementary issue of the *Indian Journal of Nuclear Medicine* incorporating the scientific content of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, India (SNMI), being organized by Nuclear Medicine team of TMH at Mumbai, on December 12–15, 2019. At the outset, let me state that the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Society is a congratulatory event for all those who worked tirelessly in bringing this academic fiesta to life, each and every year, since the inception of the Society. All of us bear witness to the commitment and grit of the founding members and their successors who have upheld the standards of the society and ensured that with each pass of the baton, the flames rise higher. This is for the Fifth Time that Mumbai will be the hosting city of this prestigious Annual Conference of SNMI, the earlier ones being in 1969 (First), 1974, 2000, and 2013.

Mumbai (formerly, Bombay), the venue of SNMICON-2019, is home to three UNESCO World heritage sites and the commercial and entertainment capital of India. The world-famous “Bollywood” in fact is a portmanteau derived from “Bombay” and “Hollywood.” Mumbai is also the “uncrowned” Nuclear Capital of India housing the apex bodies, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Atomic Energy Commission of India, and the Department of Atomic Energy. It provides the perfect combination of work and play, and I urge all delegates to maximally utilize both the opportunities.

The specialty of Nuclear Medicine in India is growing very rapidly. The emergence of molecular imaging which includes single-photon emission computed tomography and positron emission tomography technology has brought forward exciting new possibilities for clinical applications as well as teaching and basic research in the field of nuclear medicine. Molecular and functional imaging enables the visualization of the cellular function process in living organisms without perturbing them. The multiple and numerous potentialities of this field are applicable to the diagnosis of diseases such as cancer and neurological and cardiovascular diseases. This technique also contributes to improving the treatment of these disorders by optimizing the preclinical and clinical tests of new medication.

At the 51<sup>st</sup> Conference, the Indian College of Nuclear Medicine will continue the much-anticipated Continuing Medical Education (CME) program to provide concise and informative talks covering a wide range of topics in Nuclear Medicine and allied sciences. The goal of these CME discussions is to bring the renowned faculties in Nuclear Medicine, specialists in their fields to a common platform for an inclusive coverage of various aspects in a relatively short time span. These will be excellent and not to be missed lectures, especially collated for the residents and junior members of the Society. I am also sure that the educational program of SNMICON-2019 would continue to be a rich, thought-provoking, and a condensed version of the portal to the uncharted territories in Nuclear Medicine Sciences.

For this year's conference, we received 189 abstract submissions, which underwent rigorous peer-reviewing and selection by the scientific committee. There will be 44 oral presentations and 145 posters presentations. Majority of the presentations will be from oncology track (53) followed by radiopharmacy (47). As always, during this conference also, distinguished personalities in Nuclear Medicine worldwide will be honored by bestowing them with the prestigious oration awards established as a tribute to and thus bearing the name of Homi J. Bhabha, the father of the Indian Nuclear program, Vikram A. Sarabhai, the father of Indian Space program, and Brigadier S. K. Mazumdar, considered the father of Indian Nuclear Medicine. Dr N. Ramdas prize in Nuclear Thyroidology and Dr. Shakuntla Krishnamurthy prizes in the field of Nuclear Hepatology for best papers have been also planned.

As organizers of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at PGIMER, Chandigarh, last year, we have had a first-hand experience of the challenges that are an integral part of organizing an event to this large a scale. However, challenges are nothing but hidden opportunities for us to grab and make hay while the sun shines. I am positive that the organizers of SNMICON-2019 will be putting together an unprecedented event for all of us to relish, both academically and socially. My best wishes to the entire organizing team of SNMICON-2019 and a hearty welcome to all delegates to *Aamchi Mumbai*.

**B. R. Mittal<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

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