Dear ABNM Diplomates:

This is an incredibly exciting time for our specialty of nuclear medicine! The recent introduction of PSMA-ligand theranostics is revolutionizing the management of patients with prostate cancer. The importance of nuclear medicine in this disease process is clearer than ever before.

But along with this excitement comes new challenges and many questions. The concept of radionuclide therapeutics is not new to nuclear medicine: after all, we've been using, I-131, the "original theranostic", for decades. But the volume and complexity of these procedures have increased. Many of us may be struggling with questions such as:

- How do our practices incorporate these new therapeutic procedures, while at the same time accommodating a growing volume of diagnostic imaging procedures?
- How do we ensure that our nuclear medicine teams are well-equipped to provide these services in a safe and high-quality fashion?
- How can nuclear medicine physicians actively collaborate as integral members of cancer treatment teams (alongside medical oncologists and radiation oncologists), partnering to contribute to optimal care of our patients?

These are not easy questions. The ABNM is aware of these challenges and working toward potential solutions. The board is partnering with key stakeholders to ensure the trainees successfully fulfill educational requirements that go beyond simply qualifying for authorized user eligibility. The intent is to meet the needs of modern nuclear medicine practice, in which our physicians must have competency with the complexity of parenteral radiopharmaceutical therapeutics. In addition, you will notice that future ABNM CertLink and maintenance of certification exams will have more questions related to radiopharmaceutical therapeutics, within intent to educate and ensure that practicing nuclear medicine physicians have the requisite knowledge and competency in these new procedures.

On that note, the ABNM continues to place strong emphasis on creating value with our maintenance of certification process. Many diplomates are now using CertLink, the ABNM’s online longitudinal assessment platform, which brings a number of advantages. Ongoing assessment in the form of questions every few months is generally better tailored to practicing physicians’ needs and is intuitively far more relevant than “cramming” for a recertification exam once every 10 years. The ABNM is committed to creating high quality, contemporary CertLink questions that are relevant to modern nuclear medicine practice. These will ideally serve an educational purpose as well, particularly with respect to new tracers and techniques. If you are not currently participating in CertLink, we would strongly recommend that you consider enrolling. As always, the ABNM welcomes your feedback which will help us to improve the quality of the ABNM’s processes and products.

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Chair