

## MICoE Task Force Looks to the Future

The Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE) created a task force earlier this year to facilitate the development of new imaging tracers. As its first task, the Future Tracers Task Force (FTTF) is developing an inventory of tracers currently in clinical use or in the research pipeline.

The first step in developing the inventory is a survey of PET tracers, now underway. The survey can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/ya9x5hm> by those who wish to participate. The survey is designed to elicit information on isotope manufacturing, targets and pathways, and imaging agent use and approval status. Although the Molecular Imaging and Contrast Agent Database (MICAD), maintained by the National Library of Medicine, has a great deal of specific information, it is less focused on clinical translation and does not address questions such as geographic availability of various radiotracers. Ultimately, we expect to integrate data from MICAD with our inventory for a database that will be both comprehensive and useful to academic researchers, radiopharmaceutical development companies, and companies interested in the availability of imaging biomarkers for improved assessment of new pharmaceuticals.

We have designed the survey to be as efficient and compact as possible, consistent with our goal of obtaining comprehensive data. Most users will find that they can fill it

out in 5–10 min. Completing the survey may require more time at institutions with a wide variety of tracers, but the information will be extremely valuable to this effort. I urge everyone who works with PET imaging to take a few minutes to provide this information for the benefit of the profession.

Survey data will be shared with all participants in the survey. The raw data will be deposited into the SNM Clinical Trials Network database.

Members of the task force will also be working with the SNM Clinical Trials Network to recommend the next tracer(s) for which SNM will seek Investigational New Drug status (see *J Nucl Med.* 2009;50(4):18N; and *J Nucl Med.* 2009;50(8):30N).

Future plans for the FTTF include addressing problems of quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) in the manufacture of radiopharmaceuticals to help standardize requirements to meet FDA guidelines and provide a consistent level of QA and QC across academic sites. The goal is to make such tasks easier on academics, thus decreasing the barriers for participation, while ensuring that generated data is useful for sponsoring radiopharmaceutical developers.

*Umar Mahmood, MD, PhD  
Harvard Medical School  
Chair, Future Tracers Task Force*