Looking Ahead: 114th Congress

Following Senator Mary Landrieu’s (D-LA) defeat to Rep. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) on December 6, Republicans now hold a 54-46 majority in the Senate. Republicans also retained control of the House of Representatives with a 244-188 majority. However, Republicans may face hurdles in keeping control of the Senate in two years. In 2016, 24 Republican-held seats will be up for reelection while only 10 Democrat-held seats will be at stake.

The upcoming 114th Congress sees a reduction in physician members, losing both Rep. Paul Broun, MD, (R-GA) and Rep. Phil Gingrey, MD (R-GA). Rather than seeking reelection, both unsuccessfully ran for the Senate seat currently occupied by retiring Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). There will be 14 physicians in the House of Representatives and three in the Senate, including Representative/Senator-elect Cassidy. Senator Tom Coburn, MD (R-OK) will resign at the end of the year due to health-related issues.

A new Congress also brings new Committee Chairs and Ranking Members. In the House of Representatives, the powerful Ways & Means Committee will be chaired by former Vice Presidential nominee Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI). Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) will remain as the Committee’s Ranking Member. Also returning is Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI), who will continue to serve as Chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. Following a heated campaign, the full Democratic caucus chose Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) over Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) to serve as Ranking Member, a position available due to the retirement of Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA).

Following the Republican takeover of the Senate, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) will chair the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, taking over for recently defeated Senator Landrieu. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) will likely serve as the committee’s Ranking Member. The Senate Finance Committee will see their leadership flip with current Ranking Member, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), becoming Chairman and current Chairman, Ron Wyden (D-OR), serving as Ranking Member.

SNMMI Comments on NRC Part 35 and Part 20 Proposed Rules

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging recently submitted comments on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) 10 CFR Part 35 proposed rule and Part 20 advance notice of proposed rulemaking. SNMMI works with the NRC to mitigate any regulatory changes that may adversely affect nuclear medicine. Part 35 contained updates for the medical use of byproduct material, specifically, medical event definitions, training and experience, and clarifying amendments. Part 20 addressed radiation protection regulations.

SNMMI’s comments on Part 35 pertained to an update to allow an assistant/associate Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) on a license, a new exception of board certified individuals from training and experience requirements and Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) breakthrough
tests after each elution and required reporting of failed Mo-99 breakthrough tests.

SNMMI’s comments on Part 20 address several issues on radiation protection including methodology and terminology, occupational dose limit for the lens of the eye, dose limit for embryo/fetus of a declared pregnant occupational worker, individual protection, metrification, and reporting of occupational exposure.

SNMMI will continue to update our members on any future changes to Part 20 and Part 35.

SNMMI Submits Joint Consensus Statement to the FDA on Compounding

SNMMI, in conjunction with the American Pharmacists Association, the Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, the National Association of Nuclear Pharmacies and United Pharmacy Partners, Inc., recently signed a consensus statement to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the distinction between radiopharmaceutical compounding and preparation. Along with the statement, we also provided recommended definitions of compounding, preparation and minor deviation. These documents are in response to the Listening Session on Radiopharmaceutical Compounding held by the FDA on September 24, 2014. The Listening Session generated many inquiries from FDA, particularly on the need for specific terms and definitions which SNMMI hopes FDA will use for the development of a guidance document.

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**SNMMI Weighs In**

SNMMI provides comments to government stakeholders on a multitude of issues. For more information, please visit the [SNMMI website](http://www.snmmi.org) or contact the HPRA department directly.

- On Friday, November 21, SNMMI submitted comments to the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee’s (NSAC) Isotope Subcommittee regarding the availability and use of stable and/or radioactive isotopes.

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**Upcoming Events/Deadlines**

- Comments on the CY 2015 Final Rules for the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS) and Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) are due by 5p.m. ET on December 30, 2014.

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*Contact hpra@snmmi.org to be notified by email of future newsletters.*