

# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium

April 8-11, 2015  
Sonoma, California

## FAQs

### **Q. When is The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium?**

A. The Best Practices Symposium in PET/CT will be held Thursday April 9 and Friday 10, 2015. These dates were chosen to minimize conflict with major nuclear medicine and radiology meetings. Fall is harvest and crush time in Sonoma, a busy and event filled time. The choice of a fall meeting was made to provide a slight change in venue from our past spring time meetings. The air filled with the scent on ripe fruit and fermenting grapes.

### **Q. What is the goal of this meeting?**

A. The Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium will serve as an education symposium for the participants and a focus group to develop consensus on variety of issues germane to quality and safety of PET-CT in oncology and strategies to promote quality and safety in the user community at large. Participants will have an opportunity to share experiences and opinions on what constitutes quality in PET-CT practice and the best means of measuring quality and safety in PET-CT practice, and how the user community, professional societies and industry can promote quality and safety in PET-CT. As before, the results of the meeting will be presented at national meetings and published.

### **Q. How will the symposium be structured?**

A. The Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium will consist of two full days, each day following a similar structure (see Itinerary). In the morning there will two hours of short lectures (10 minutes each) be some of the participants framing the issues to be discussed in the afternoon. For the entire afternoon the participants will be broken up into small groups of 7 to 8 and each group will spend the afternoon visiting wineries (transportation will be provided) of their collective choice discussing the topics and issues. This affords participants an enjoyable venue to get to know others and share experiences, ideas and opinions. Each group will have a facilitator assigned to insure all topics of the day are discussed and conclusions recorded. In the early evening the participants will reconvene at The Lodge Hotel and there will be a two hour working dinner in which the break out groups will share their afternoon findings, and consensus on the day's topics developed. In addition, there will be a final consensus breakfast Saturday morning, April 11<sup>th</sup>, to wrap up the discussions of the previous two days.

**Q. Who is sponsoring the Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium?**

A. The symposium is sponsored by industry, including manufacturers of PET-CT scanners, producers and distributors of radiotracers, and imaging software development firms, through unrestricted educational grants. This activity is for scientific and educational purposes and will not support any proprietary or business interest of any industry contributors. The unrestricted educational grant contributions will cover the hotel room charges at The Lodge Hotel (three nights- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), breakfast and dinner during the sessions and transportation to local wineries. Additional expenses incurred at the hotel and tasting fees at wineries are at the participants own expense.

**Q. Are there provisions for accompanying spouses, friends or companions?**

A. The symposium is specifically for the invited participants, and to keep the focus on the intent and goals of the symposium, spouses and the like will not be invited to the morning or evening sessions or the afternoon breakout group excursions. Spouses, friends or companions can certainly accompany a participant and take full advantage of The Lodge Hotel amenities as well as the many attractions in Sonoma, although any related additional expenses will not be covered by the sponsors. The sessions on Thursday and Friday are over at 8:30 PM, allowing for evening activities with an accompanying person. The symposium has been scheduled on a Thursday and Friday so participants have the weekend for any addition activity they would like in the region or bay area, and this also affords plenty of flexibility for the return trip home.

**Q. What events are open to accompanying spouses, friends or companions?**

A. The wine and cheese welcoming reception on Wednesday, April 8, from 6:30-9:30 PM is open to all, including accompanying spouses, friends or companions of the invited participants. This will take place at the Carneros Bistro fire pit patio, which is to the right of the main lobby entrance. This event is sponsored by the Operations Committee of Best Practices Symposium and will not involve any funding from the industry sponsors. Funding from industry sponsors cannot be used to pay for any expenses or activities of accompanying persons of invited participants per governing compliance agreements of the sponsoring company's unrestricted educational grants for this meeting.

**Q. What activities are there for accompanying persons otherwise?**

A. Amenities at the Lodge Hotel are listed on their website, which is linked on the right hand side of the Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium website. For further details, call the Lodge Hotel directly. Also on the Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium website activities in the Sonoma area are linked. Mrs. Susan Kirk is the official “gentil organizeur” for this Symposium and she will assist in arranging activities for accompanying spouses, friends or companions.

**Q. Will sponsoring companies be showing or discussing their products and services?**

A. No, The Best Practices in PET/CT Symposium is for scientific and educational purposes only and will not support any proprietary or business interest of the industry sponsors. The representatives from sponsoring companies are present as observers to learn more about the needs of the user community by listening to the discussions throughout all phases of the symposium.

**Q. What should I plan to bring to the Symposium?**

A. Bring a relaxed attitude and desire learn. If there are images or related materials you may want to show others you can bring this, but you are not obligated to do so. Mostly bring your hands on experience and opinions based on your practice of PET-CT imaging and relations with referring clinicians as well local payors. This year we are asking everyone to bring their laptop or tablet device as the morning lecture power point presentations will be distributed via E-mail and the like the morning of the lectures, rather than printing out hardcopy versions. We will have our own printer on site for anyone who wishes to print out the talks. All participants will be provided with convenient small notebooks for the meeting materials on Thursday morning. Much of this material will be on the meeting website as well.

**Q. What kind of weather is expected?**

A. Generally perfect. Early April in Sonoma is well into the spring season with the winter rains largely past and before the summer heat. Daytime temperatures will typically be in the high 60s to 70s, and evenings cool, down to the 50s and high 40s in the early morning, so consider bringing a sweater or light jacket. Bring sunglasses as it will very likely be bright and sunny. There is still a chance of rain, as the rain doesn't taper off completely until May.

**Q. Are all the meals provided?**

A. Yes. You will be well fed on Thursday and Friday and Saturday morning. An exquisite breakfast buffet will be served right in The Palm room throughout the morning sessions. For the afternoon breakout session, each group will have a picnic basket of nuts, fruits, crackers and cheeses to enjoy during the afternoon visiting wineries. A complete dinner buffet will be served right in the Palm room throughout the evening session. Wednesday evening, the welcome reception will feature outstanding wines from the Sonoma region and local artisan cheeses as well as additional light fare. Any additional dining Wednesday would be at your own expense.

**Q. Is the wine tasting at wineries covered?**

A. The actual wine tasting fees that most wineries charge is not covered and is at your own expense. Fees vary depending on the winery and level of vintages you elect to taste, usually \$5 or \$10, but can be higher for the reserve wines. Small wineries are often free, and usually if you purchase wine, your tasting fees are waved. If you purchase bottles of wine be aware you cannot take this home as carry-on luggage, and the bottles would have to be properly stowed in checked luggage. Due to the moderate temperatures however, early April is a perfect time to have the winery ship any wine you purchase directly to your home if your home state allows this (most do, and the winery will know which states permit shipping).

**Q. What happens after the meeting?**

A. The Symposium officially ends 11 AM Saturday morning if you chose to attend the consensus breakfast. The remainder of the weekend is free for exploring the Sonoma region or bay area or returning home. Contact information of all the participants is also on the website.