



# TRACERS

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## Sixteen Months of Nuclear Medicine Training during Four Years of Diagnostic Radiology Training May Meet ABNM's Training Requirements



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The training requirements for diagnostic radiology (DR) residents (effective 7/2011) permit up to 16 months of training in any one of their nine subspecialty areas (neuroradiology, musculoskeletal radiology, vascular and interventional radiology, cardiothoracic radiology, breast radiology, abdominal radiology, pediatric radiology, ultrasonography, and nuclear radiology). Diagnostic radiology residents who satisfactorily complete 16 months of nuclear medicine training during their 4 years of diagnostic radiology training will meet the training requirements of the ABNM if their nuclear medicine training was done in an accredited nuclear medicine training program. This recent change provides a unique opportunity for diagnostic radiology residents to proactively plan their rotations to become eligible for ABNM certification as well as the ABR's DR certification.

Currently, ABNM policy requires that one block of nuclear medicine training be at least 6 months long. Nuclear medicine program directors

who are interested in taking advantage of this shortened pathway to dual board certification should write to the ABNM asking for approval of their proposed nuclear medicine training.

Hybrid imaging which combines the benefits of functional imaging with the anatomic information of standard imaging modalities such as CT or MRI increases the need for physicians who are well-trained in both anatomical and functional imaging. Satisfactorily completing 16 months of nuclear medicine training during four years of diagnostic radiology training is a very cost-effective way to produce these well trained physicians.