Outstanding JNMT Articles for 2011

Norman E. Bolus, MSPH, MPH, CNMT, editor of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology (JNMT), presented awards at the 2012 SNM Annual Meeting to the authors of 3 articles chosen as the most outstanding 2011 JNMT contributions. The lead authors or their representatives received plaques and the first and second place recipients receive honoraria in a ceremony during the annual business meeting of the SNMTS, held this year on June 11 in Miami, FL.

Douglass C. Vines, David E. Green, Gen Kudo, and Harald Keller, from the Princess Margaret Hospital (Toronto, Canada), received the first-place award for “Evaluation of mouse tail-vein injections both qualitatively and quantitatively on small-animal PET tail scans” (J Nucl Med Technol. 2011;39:264–270).


“These papers represent the broad range of investigative endeavor that makes up the rapidly changing world of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging technologies,” said Bolus. “We congratulate this year’s awardees and all those whose contributions continue to make JNMT a vital resource.”

Welch’s enthusiasm for his research and his ability to make vital connections with other disciplines made him a notable and beloved educator. The list of individuals who trained with him as graduate students and postgraduate fellows includes the names of some of the most noted individuals in molecular imaging today and likely the names of others who will one day become leaders in the field.

He was recognized with honors and awards too numerous to mention in this limited space. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1999 and received many of his field’s highest honors. SNM alone awarded him its highest honors—the Paul C. Aebersold Award (1980), the Berson–Yalow Award (twice, in 1988 and 1990), the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award (1992), and the Benedict Cassen Prize in 2004. In 2008, SNM named a new award for outstanding contributions to radiopharmaceutical research in his honor.

A memorial service was held on June 4 at Graham Chapel on the Washington University campus. Welch is survived by a son, Colin Welch, of New Canaan, CT; a daughter, Lesley Tomlin, of Kirkwood, MO; 5 grandchildren; and by his longtime companion and nuclear medicine contributor, Mickey Clarke, of St. Louis.

A foundation has been established to honor his work and memory. According to the Web site of the Michael J. Welch Foundation, efforts will be directed to support “new talent as part of his legacy as well as support research in nuclear medicine and radiopharmaceutical chemistry.” Long-term goals of the foundation include: contribution to or sponsorship of lecture series within the field; fellowship endowment; and sponsorship of a graduate student to attend the SNM annual meeting and presentation ceremony for the Dr. Michael J. Welch Award. Memorial contributions can be made through the Web site at www.mjwelchfoundation.org.

As his longtime colleagues, it would be remiss of us, even in this formal In Memoriam, to fail to note Mike’s outstanding personal characteristics. He loved sports (especially soccer) and music (especially rock), adored his family and those close to him, traveled with enthusiasm to the far corners of the globe, delighted in others’ success, fought for the issues he believed in, and had a dry sense of humor that lightened everyone’s load even in dark times. He was simply a great human being, larger than life in so many ways. Although he will be keenly missed, he leaves a scientific and personal legacy that will burn bright and continue to illuminate our specialty for many years into the future.
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