MICHEL TER-POGOSSIAN HONORED AS NUCLEAR MEDICINE PIONEER

Michel M. Ter-Pogossian, PhD, director of radiation sciences at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, will receive the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award at the Society's 32nd Annual Meeting next month.

Selected for this honor by Society President Michael J. Welch, PhD, Dr. Ter-Pogossian has played a distinctive role in developing the instrumentation applied to the practice of nuclear medicine.

Dr. Ter-Pogossian constructed in 1951 one of the first scanners employing a focused collimator for determining the concentration of radioactive material in vivo. In the mid-1950s he reported the first biomedical application of a sodium iodide detector for the diagnosis and localization of intracranial tumors.

In addition, Dr. Ter-Pogossian was an early promoter of the concept of stationary imaging devices and designed one of the first radioisotope cameras. He facilitated the development of gamma cameras using image intensifier tubes.

First medical center cyclotron

In 1956, Dr. Ter-Pogossian was the first nuclear medicine scientist to use radioactive oxygen-15 in biologic studies. He showed how this positron-emitting isotope of oxygen could provide valuable information on the kinetics of respiration. The promise of this preliminary work led to the installation in 1963 of a small biomedical cyclotron in the basement of Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital, Washington University Medical Center—the first cyclotron in the United States located in a medical center.

The cyclotron was designed specifically to produce short-lived, positron-emitting radionuclides to be used in biomedical research. Using these isotopes, Dr. Ter-Pogossian and his colleagues have developed techniques for measuring regional cerebral blood flow, oxygen metabolism, blood volume, and glucose metabolism.

Dr. Ter-Pogossian and his research group created a positron emission tomographic (PET) unit in 1974, and have developed several enhancements on the device during the past ten years. Today, PET units of this design are used in many medical centers throughout the world, noted Dr. Welch.

Second annual SNM lectureship

During the Annual Meeting, Dr. Ter-Pogossian will also give a lecture on "PET, SPECT, and NMR: Competing or Complementary Disciplines?" at the plenary session on Sunday, June 2.

The Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award was established in 1960, and was renamed in 1979 to commemorate the Hungarian chemist Georg Charles de Hevesy (1885–1966), often called "the father of nuclear medicine."

Dr. de Hevesy was the first scientist to use radioelements as physiologic tracers, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1943 for his concept of radioactive indicators. The Society's president selects the award recipient each year.

Born in Berlin, Germany, Dr. Ter-Pogossian received his BA in mathematics from the University of Paris, and later attended the Institute of Radium in France. He received his MS and PhD degrees in nuclear physics at Washington University.

Dr. Ter-Pogossian also received the Society's Paul C. Aebersold Award for Outstanding Achievement in Basic Science Applied to Nuclear Medicine in 1976, and the Herrman L. Blumgart Pioneer Lecture Award in the Field of Instrumentation from the Society's New England Chapter in 1984.

Michel M. Ter-Pogossian, PhD, director of radiation sciences at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, and professor of radiation sciences, Washington University School of Medicine.

Dr. Ter-Pogossian is an honorary fellow of the American College of Radiology, and an honorary member of the Society Belge de Medicine Nucleaire. He has been honored with many lectureships, including the R.S. Landauer Memorial in 1981, and the New Horizons from the Radiological Society of North America in 1968. In addition, he has served on various committees of the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

[Ronald G. Evens, MD, director of the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, will give the traditional nuclear medicine pioneer lecture when Dr. Ter-Pogossian receives his award at the plenary session. This lecture, a detailed summation of the awardee's distinguished career, will be published in a forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.] ■