

## SNMMI Honors at 2016 Annual Meeting

**S**NMMI recognized outstanding contributions to the society and to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging during its 2016 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. These awards were presented at plenary and other sessions to honor the valuable role played by these individuals.

### SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Award

Two SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Awards were given in recognition of continued dedication to the society. These were presented to Peter Herscovitch, MD, director of the PET Department at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center (Bethesda, MD) and to Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, professor of radiology and chair of the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at the University of Utah (Salt Lake City).

A past president of SNMMI, Herscovitch has served at the NIH Clinical Center since 1987. He was named chief of the PET section that year and in 2005 was appointed director of the PET department. He was previously an attending physician at Barnes Hospital and an instructor and assistant professor of neurology and radiology at Washington University School of Medicine (both in St. Louis, MO). An SNMMI member since 1983, Herscovitch has been involved in many councils, committees, task forces, and other groups. He chaired the SNMMI Scientific Program Committee, served on the SNMMI Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation board of directors, and was a member of the Ethics and Education Committees.

Minoshima is SNMMI vice president-elect. He earned his MD and PhD from Chiba University School of Medicine (Japan). Before joining the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), as well as at the University of Washington (Seattle), where he was also vice chair for research in the Department of Radiology. He has published seminal research studies in neurodegenerative diseases and other brain disorders using innovative imaging technology. His contributions to the field include elucidation of the posterior cingulate abnor-



**Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA (right) presented the SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Award to (top) Peter Herscovitch, MD, and (bottom) Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD.**

malities in Alzheimer disease and invention and worldwide dissemination of diagnostic statistical mapping technology for molecular brain imaging. Minoshima served as president of the SNMMI Brain Imaging Council and currently is chair of the SNMMI Scientific Program Committee.

### SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Educator Award

Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD, was selected for the SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Educator Award for her contributions to education and professional development as editor of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. A past president of SNMMI, Delbeke is a nuclear medicine physician and professor of radiology and radiological sciences at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, TN), as well as director of Nuclear Medicine and Positron Emission Tomography at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She has coedited 5 texts and 70 book chapters and published more than 160 peer-reviewed articles. Her expertise and research interests focus on PET/CT and SPECT/CT, primarily in oncology but also in cardiology and neurology. She is a lifetime member of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine.



**Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA (right) presented the SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Educator Award to Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD.**

### Henry J. Wagner, Jr., Lectureship

Joanna S. Fowler, PhD, scientist emeritus of the Department of Energy Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL; Upton, NY) delivered the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Lecture on Sunday, June 12. Fowler is currently a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine (New York, NY), where she has collaborated with colleagues on brain imaging studies of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, among other conditions. Her lecture, titled "Working against time: designing and synthesizing  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG for the first human studies in 1976," outlined the historical development of



**Joanna S. Fowler, PhD.**

the radiotracer that has become the most widely used in basic research and clinical settings. In preparation for the lecture, Fowler developed a series of previously unseen photographs documenting the dramatic events of August 16, 1976, when  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG was transferred from BNL to Philadelphia, PA, for the first human studies.

### Kuhl–Lassen Lecture Award

Robert B. Innis, MD, PhD, received the Kuhl–Lassen Lecture Award, presented by the SNMMI Brain Imaging Council. The award recognizes a scientist who has made outstanding contributions and whose research in and service to the discipline of functional brain imaging is of the highest caliber. Innis's lecture was titled "PET of human brain can monitor neuroinflammation and cAMP signaling: applications to Alzheimer's disease and depression." He has been chief of the Molecular Imaging Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health (Bethesda, MD) since 2001. His laboratory develops and uses PET radioligands to study pathophysiology in several neuropsychiatric disorders. In addition to traditional receptor targets, his research group uses radiolabeled probes for in vivo imaging of intracellular signal transduction, gene expression, and a mitochondrial protein marker for inflammatory cells.



**Henryk Barthel, MD, PhD (left), presented the Kuhl-Lassen Award to Robert B. Innis, MD, PhD (right).**

### Hermann Blumgart Award

Prem Soman, MD, PhD, was selected by the SNMMI Cardiovascular Council to receive the Hermann Blumgart Award. The annual award recognizes key contributors to the science of nuclear cardiology who are also advocates for the field through involvement with the society's research and educational activities. Soman is an associate professor of medicine and of clinical and translational science in the Division of Cardiology at the Vascular Medicine Institute of the University of Pittsburgh (PA). He is also director of the Nuclear Cardiology Laboratory and the advanced cardiac imaging fellowship at the institute. Soman is widely recognized for contributions to the field of nuclear cardiology. He practices clinical cardiology, nuclear cardiology, and echocardiography at



**Thomas Schindler, MD (left) and Robert J. Gropler, MD (right) presented the Blumgart Award to Prem Soman, MD, PhD (middle).**

the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center Presbyterian Hospital. Under his direction, the Nuclear Cardiology Laboratory performs high-volume, state-of-the-art imaging and is a national leader in clinical research, including the use of a new-generation, solid-state SPECT camera and innovative imaging protocols that have enabled significant reductions in radiation dose to patients.

### Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award

Irène Buvat, PhD, was the 2016 recipient of the Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award, which is presented annually by the SNMMI Computer and Instrumentation Council. The award was established to honor the memory of Edward J. Hoffman, PhD, and recognizes scientists in the field of nuclear medicine for their service and devotion to research and development of nuclear medicine instrumentation and to educating and training the next generation of scientists. Buvat received her doctorate in particle and nuclear physics from Paris-Sud University (Orsay, France) in 1992 and has since focused on applications of nuclear physics in medical imaging. She is currently the head of the In Vivo Molecular Imaging Research Lab at the Service Hospitalier Frédéric Joliot PET Center in Orsay. Since 2005, she has been the spokesperson for the worldwide OpenGATE collaboration, developing the GATE Monte Carlo simulation tool dedicated to emission and transmission tomography and radiotherapy applications.



**Scott Metzler, PhD, presented the Hoffman Memorial Award to Irène Buvat, PhD.**

### Michael J. Welch Award

Robert Dannals, PhD, director of the PET Center and professor of radiology and radiological science at Johns Hopkins Medicine (Baltimore, MD), received the Michael J. Welch Award, which is presented annually by the SNMMI Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to radiopharmaceutical sciences. Dannals is well known for his pioneering research in development of short-lived radiotracers for PET and SPECT. He serves as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Labeled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals*.

### Peter E. Valk, MD, Memorial Award

Richard L. Wahl, MD, received the Peter E. Valk, MD, Memorial Award, created to honor Valk's memory as a pioneer in the establishment of PET as an important clinical technology. Wahl was recognized for his contributions to the advancement of PET, including PET/CT, PET/MR imaging, and other emerging technologies, as well as his dedication to the SNMMI PET Center of Excellence. Wahl is the Elizabeth Mallinckrodt Professor of Radiology, chair of the

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leadership and community. Bennett Greenspan, MD, MS, the current SNMMI president-elect with extensive experience in physician training issues and who also holds certifications from ABR, ABNM, and the ABR-NR, will chair Phase 2 discussions with the radiology community. In a short time, the path will doubtlessly become clearer, and both radiology and NM communities will work together to ensure high-quality clinical NM practice for the ultimate benefit of our patients.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Task force members in Phase 1 included representatives from the SNMMI leadership team (Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, as the Task Force chair, Bennett Greenspan, MD, as Associate Chair of the Task Force, and Sally Schwarz, RPh, MS, BCNP), SNMMI Board of Directors (Vasken Dilsizian, MD), SNMMI House of Delegates (Leonie Gordon, MD), SNMMI Academic Council (David Brandon, MD), SNMMI Young Professionals Committee (Erin Grady, MD), SNMMI-Technologist Section leadership (Aaron Scott, CNMT, and Sara Johnson, CNMT, MBA), ABNM (Munir Ghesani, MD), ACNM (Patrick Colletti, MD, Rathan Subramaniam, MD, PhD, MPH), ACNM Nuclear Medicine

Resident Organization (Shana Elman, MD), Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education–Nuclear Medicine Residency Review Committee (Jon Baldwin, DO), and the Nuclear Medicine Program Directors (Daniel Lee, MD).

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Department of Radiology, and director of the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO). His research played an important role in development of radioimmunotherapy for non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He has been a leader in expanding applications of PET to diagnose a broad array of human cancers and other diseases. He has been at the forefront of efforts to combine quantitative data from PET imaging with that from other modalities to more precisely diagnose and characterize cancers.

## Berson–Yalow Award

Dongzhi Yang, PhD, received the Berson–Yalow Award. The award was created in honor of Rosalyn Sussman Yalow, PhD, and Solomon A. Berson, MD, who together developed the radioimmunoassay technique in the 1950s. SNMMI established the award in 1977, the year that Yalow received the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine. Judges for the Berson–Yalow award choose the investigator who submits the most original abstract presentation at SNMMI's Annual Meeting and who has made significant contributions to basic or clinical radioimmunoassay research or any area of research using the indicator–dilution method. Yang is a postdoctoral research fellow in molecular imaging at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). He received his PhD in analytical chemistry from Northeastern University (Shenyang, China) in 2008 and teaches at Xuzhou Medical University (China). His projects involve PET imaging with novel agents and antibodies for targeted

radiotherapy and cancer detection. His winning abstract was titled “ImmunoPET of urokinase plasminogen activator (uPA) system: broad applicability in cancer imaging.”

## Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Best Paper Award

Mark T. Madsen, PhD, professor of radiology in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, and colleagues received the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Best Paper Award for “Personalized kidney dosimetry for Y-90 DOTATOC radionuclide therapy” (abstract 582). This award, honoring the best abstract and accompanying presentation at the Annual Meeting, celebrates the many contributions of nuclear medicine pioneer Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD.

## Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award

Yong-Il Kim, MD, PhD, Seoul National University Hospital (South Korea) received this year's Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award for the abstract titled “Prognostic value of pre-treatment Ga-68-RGD PET-CT in predicting disease free survival in patients with breast cancer: a comparison study with dynamic contrast enhanced MRI” (abstract 548). This annual award recognizes a young investigator for originality, scientific methodology, and overall contributions to molecular imaging or therapy through original research showing the importance and value of correlative imaging in all fields of medicine.