

SNMMI Recognizes Outstanding Contributions at 2018 Annual Meeting

At its 2018 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, June 23–26, SNMMI recognized extraordinary contributions to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Some of these awards, as well as information on new SNMMI and SNMMI–Technologist Section (SNMMI-TS) officers, have appeared in previous issues of Newsline. These additional awards were presented to honor the contributions of SNMMI members and others in advancing the field of nuclear and molecular medicine and in service to the society's many activities and ongoing initiatives.

Presidential Distinguished Service Award

Three SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Awards were given in recognition of continued dedication to the society. The awardees included:

Arnold M. Strashun, MD: At Kings County Hospital and University Hospital (Brooklyn, NY), Strashun is director of nuclear medicine, director of the Radiology Residency Program, and director of radiology research, as well as the Radiology Quality Assurance Program. His contributions include numerous scientific papers in nuclear cardiology and the neurosciences. At SNMMI, he has served on the Board of Directors, chaired the Continuing Education Committee, and been a member of other committees, including Ethics and Publications. Strashun has also served on the SNMMI Commission on Education and is a consulting editor for *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. He has served as president of the New York Academy of Medicine Nuclear Medicine Section and was chair of the State University of New York Downstate Centerwide Committee of the Faculty.

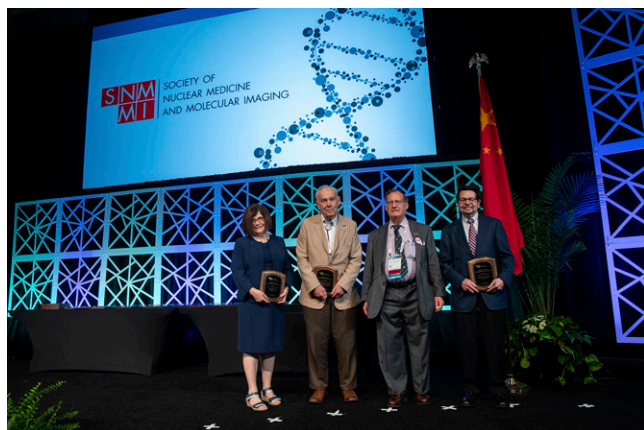
A. Bertrand Brill, MD, PhD: A research professor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, TN), Brill has focused his research on radiation leukemogenesis,

the effects of radiation on thyroid function, and the effects of diagnostic radioisotopes, particularly exposure to ^{131}I . He has served as a member of the National Cancer Institute task group studying the Chernobyl accident and thyroid-cancer in children. He was previously medical director in the Division of Radiological Health of the U.S. Public Health Service and a professor of radiology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Brill also served in the U.S. Public Health Service in Japan on the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission. He is now an emeritus member of SNMMI, as well as a member of its PET Center of Excellence and Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation. He has served on numerous SNMMI councils, including Clinical Trials, Computer and Instrumentation, Nuclear Cardiology, Radiopharmaceutical Sciences, and Therapy. He was also a member of the Committee on Medical Internal Radiation Dose and chaired the society's Radiation Effects Committee for 10 years.

Leonie L. Gordon, MD: At the Medical University of South Carolina (Charleston), Gordon is a professor of radiology and radiological sciences, vice chair of education, program director, and associate dean of faculty affairs. Her academic focus is on nuclear medicine therapy and nuclear endocrinology. She is also the associate executive director of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. At SNMMI, Gordon has led the Women in Nuclear Medicine Committee and various associated working groups. She has also served as a member of the Board of Directors, House of Delegates, Academic Council, Cardiovascular Council, Commission on Education, Quality Assurance Taskforce, and Pathways to the Future of Nuclear Medicine group, plus numerous committees, including Bylaws, Coding and Reimbursement, Continuing Education, Finance, Practice Standards, Quality and Evidence, and Scientific Program.

Saul Hertz, MD, Award

Richard L. Wahl, MD, received the Saul Hertz, MD, Award, which recognizes the lifetime achievement of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to radionuclide therapy. The award is named in honor of Saul Hertz, MD, who in 1941 was the first to administer a cyclotron-produced $^{130}\text{I}/^{131}\text{I}$ mixture as a therapeutic dose to a patient with Graves hyperthyroidism. Wahl is the Elizabeth E. Mallinckrodt Professor and head of radiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis (MO), director of the university's Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, and a professor of radiation oncology. His research played an important role in the development of radioimmunotherapy for non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He has also been a pioneer in the use of PET imaging to diagnose and assess treatment of a broad array of human cancers and other diseases. Wahl and colleagues developed the PERCIST criteria for assessing



Presidential Distinguished Service Award presentations (left to right): Leonie L. Gordon, MD, awardee; A. Bertrand Brill, MD, PhD, awardee; Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, MS, 2017–2018 SNMMI president; and Arnold Strashun, MD, awardee.



Richard L. Wahl, MD

treatment response in cancer. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and has received honors from multiple organizations. He holds 18 patents and has published more than 400 peer-reviewed scientific articles. He is the primary author of several textbooks, including *Principles and Practice of PET and PET/CT*. He has a strong interest in quantitative imaging, is on the coordinating committee of the Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers Alliance efforts of the Radiological Society of North America, and has been a lead investigator in the Quantitative Imaging Network of the National Institutes of Health. Wahl also received the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award at the SNMMI 2018 Annual Meeting.

Michael J. Welch Award

Robert H. Mach, PhD, Britton Chance professor of radiology and director of the PET Radiochemistry Program at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine (Philadelphia), 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 the radiopharmaceutical sciences. Mach has published more than 225 peer-reviewed articles and 12 book chapters and holds 20 patents on the



Robert H. Mach, PhD

development of PET-based radiopharmaceuticals. His research interests include development of radiotracers for imaging central nervous system receptors, oxidative stress, aggregated α -synuclein, and mechanisms of cellular death. Before his current appointment, Mach was at Washington University in St. Louis (MO), where he served as director of the cyclotron facility and chief of the Radiological Chemistry Lab of the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology. Mach is a member of the SNMMI Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation and a past president of the SNMMI Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council. He has also served on the society's Brain Imaging Council and the Awards, Radiopharmaceuticals, and Scientific Program committees. In addition, Mach has served on the Board of Directors of the Society of Radiopharmaceutical Sciences.

Berson–Yalow Award

Jason Cai, PhD, an assistant professor at Yale University (New Haven, CT), received the Berson–Yalow Award. The award commemorates the work of Rosalyn S. Yalow, PhD, and Solomon A. Berson, MD, who together developed the radioimmunoassay (RIA) 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 at the SNMMI Annual Meeting and who has made significant contributions to basic or clinical RIA research or any area of research using the indicator-dilution method. Cai's winning abstract was titled "In vivo imaging evaluation of a novel F-labeled SV2A PET tracer in nonhuman primates." He and his colleagues at the Yale PET Center were able to successfully synthesize and evaluate a number of novel SV2A tracers with attractive imaging properties, including high brain uptake, fast tissue kinetics, high specific binding signals in the brain, and longer half-life.

Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award

Eric C. Frey, PhD, was this year's 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 instrumentation and to educating and training the next generation of scientists. Frey's lecture at the SNMMI Annual Meeting was on "Quantitative SPECT: From impossibility to practice." Frey is professor of radiology and radiological science and professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins Medicine (Baltimore, MD). He specializes in medical imaging physics and is a member of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. His research focuses on techniques and uses for SPECT and PET imaging and reconstruction to resolve challenges in cardiology, oncology, and neurology. Frey has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles and several book chapters

on aspects of medical imaging and tomography. At SNMMI, he has served on the Computer and Instrumentation Council and the Brain Imaging Council.

Peter E. Valk, MD, Memorial Award

Peter S. Conti, MD, PhD, received the Peter E. Valk, MD, Memorial Award, named for a pioneer in the establishment of PET as an important clinical resource. At the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine (Los Angeles), Conti is a professor of radiology and director of the Molecular Imaging Center. His lecture at the meeting was on “PET—The final frontier or a stepping stone?” Conti’s research focuses on development of novel diagnostic imaging agents for oncology applications. He was among the pioneers of the use of PET imaging in the understanding and characterization of cancer metabolism and gene expression. He has focused on the discovery and clinical translation of novel PET imaging agents for cancer diagnosis, evaluation of metastatic disease potential, and assessment of response to therapy. Conti has published more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific articles and abstracts in the field of molecular imaging and has given hundreds of scientific presentations. He is a past president of SNMMI and has held many leadership positions within the society.

Kuhl-Lassen Lecture Award

Victor Villemagne, MD, associate professor, Department of Molecular Imaging and Therapy, at Austin Health (Heidelberg, Australia), 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. His lecture was titled “The ART of loss.” Villemagne’s research has focused on using PET to evaluate neurochemical and disease-specific biomarkers to improve diagnosis, prognosis, and therapeutic monitoring in neurodegenerative and psychiatric conditions. He has authored or coauthored 10 book chapters, several reviews on dementia imaging, and more than 250 original research publications in the field of molecular imaging. His work assessing the A β -amyloid protein in Alzheimer disease and neurodegeneration has been published in leading journals, including *Lancet Neurology*, *Brain*, and *Annals of Neurology*. He is also a pioneer in the field of selective tau imaging. Villemagne is president of the SNMMI Brain Imaging Council and chair of the Alzheimer’s Association’s Neuroimaging Professional Interest Area.

Hermann Blumgart Award

Thomas Schindler, MD, associate professor of radiology and medicine at Washington University in Saint Louis (MO), was selected by the SNMMI Cardiovascular Council to receive the Hermann Blumgart Award. The award each

year recognizes a key contributor to the science of nuclear cardiology who is also an advocate for the field through involvement with the society’s research and educational activities. Schindler’s lecture at the SNMMI Annual Meeting was on “FDG PET assessment of viability and inflammation.” His work focuses on nuclear cardiology and cardiac PET/CT imaging. Schindler is board certified in internal medicine, cardiology, and nuclear cardiology. He was previously director of cardiovascular nuclear medicine and associate professor at Johns Hopkins University Medical School (Baltimore, MD) and earlier was deputy head physician of cardiology at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. Schindler has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, as well as the textbook *Molecular and Multimodality Imaging in Cardiovascular Disease*. He has served on the SNMMI Cardiovascular Council, Academic Council, House of Delegates, and Membership and Outreach committees. In addition, he has served on the Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, the Cardiovascular Section of the European Society of Nuclear Medicine, and is a member of the European Society of Cardiology.

Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award

Sungwook Jung, PhD, a researcher at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, received this year’s Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award for her abstract titled “Natural killer cell labeled by gold-coated iron oxide nanoparticles: PET/MRI/PA monitoring and immuno-photothermal cancer therapy.”

Majd-Gilday Young Investigator Award

Jeffrey P. Schmall, PhD, a research associate in the Department of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), received the Pediatric Imaging Council Majd-Gilday Young Investigator Award, named to honor 2 pioneers in the pediatric imaging field: Massoud Majd, MD, and David Gilday, MD. The award is given to young scientists for outstanding research contributions to the field of pediatric nuclear medicine. Schmall’s winning abstract was titled “Investigating low-dose image quality in pediatric TOF PET/MRI.”

Tracy Lynn Faber Memorial Award

Greta Mok, PhD, associate professor, Faculty of Health Science and Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Macau, received the Tracy Lynn Faber Memorial Award, given each year to support advancement of women in the medical imaging sciences. Her research interests are in molecular imaging, multimodal imaging, and internal dosimetry. She is an author of more than 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 2 book chapters, and has presented papers at more than 50 conferences.