

Richard L. Wahl, MD, Receives de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award

Richard L. Wahl, MD, the Elizabeth E. Mallinckrodt Professor and head of radiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, director of the university's Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, and a professor of radiation oncology, was named as the 2018 recipient of the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award. The award, presented in Philadelphia, PA, at the June 2018 SNMMI Annual Meeting, cited Wahl's original and ongoing contributions to nuclear medicine. "Dr. Wahl is a true pioneer in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging," said outgoing SNMMI President Bennett S. Greenspan, MD. "He performed many of the initial studies demonstrating the fundamental relationship between FDG uptake and glucose transporter expression in malignancy. This work contributed significantly to understanding the importance of using metabolic activity to determine prognosis and to predict response to therapy. He made important contributions to hybrid imaging and standardizing quantitative imaging. He also made significant contributions to the success of radioimmunotherapy. These contributions are foundational to the future growth of our field."

Wahl's 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 to diagnose and assess treatment of a broad array of human cancers and other diseases. He was at the forefront of efforts to combine quantitative data from PET scans with CT to more precisely diagnose and characterize cancers. Wahl and colleagues developed the PERCIST 1.0 (PET response criteria in solid tumors) for assessing treatment response in cancer.

Wahl 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 manuscripts. He is the primary author of several textbooks, including *Principles and Prac-*

tice of PET and PET/CT. He 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.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this important award from the SNMMI," Wahl said. "I have been fortunate to have great mentors, collaborators, and energetic and motivated trainees with whom I must share this honor. As a physician scientist, it is most gratifying to see some of my contributions to nuclear medicine positively impacting patients with cancer. The SNMMI and *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* have been important partners in moving this work from bench to bedside. There remain great opportunities for nuclear medicine."

Each year, SNMMI presents the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award to an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. De Hevesy received the 1943 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in determining the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of radioactive compounds in the human body. His work led to the foundation of nuclear medicine as a tool for diagnosis and therapy. SNMMI has given the de Hevesy Award every year since 1960 to honor groundbreaking discoveries and inventions in the field. The list of previous recipients of this award includes numerous Nobel laureates—such as Ernest Lawrence, PhD, who invented the world's first cyclotron for the production of radionuclides, and Glenn Seaborg, PhD, who discovered more than a half dozen new elements.



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