STEPHEN BUNKER SELECTED FOR FIFTH TETALMAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Stephen R. Bunker, MD, assistant clinical professor of radiology at the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF), will receive the Fifth Tetalman Memorial Award this month at The Society of Nuclear Medicine's 32nd Annual Meeting in Houston Texas.

"Steve has the will, the drive, the originality, the intellect, and the honesty to continue to make substantial contributions to the nuclear medicine literature," said Martin Nusynowitz, MD, director of nuclear medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals in Galveston.

Dr. Bunker, who is also a nuclear medicine physician at Children's Hospital of San Francisco, has published 27 scientific journal papers.

"His numerous publications in nuclear medicine are not only original in concept, but useful in application," said Gary F. Gates, MD, director of nuclear medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland, OR.

**Classic publication**

Two of Dr. Bunker's works have attained distinction within his realm: a comparison of technetium-99m red blood cells and technetium-99m sulfur colloid for scintigraphy of gastrointestinal hemorrhage (1), and a single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) determination of left ventricular volume (2).

The paper on scintigraphy of gastrointestinal hemorrhage is a "modern classic, and solved beyond a shadow of doubt the long-standing controversy regarding the use of these two radiopharmaceuticals in a very important clinical application," said Robert S. Hattner, MD, chief of nuclear medicine at UCSF.

Born in San Francisco in 1949, Dr. Bunker earned his AB in medical physics from the Donner Laboratory at the University of California in Berkeley, where he worked under Nobel laureate Melvin Calvin, PhD, investigating the metabolic cycle of high plants using radiochromatographic techniques.

Dr. Bunker established the MS program in applied biophysics at that institution, and then withdrew from the PhD program there to attend the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE.

He completed his internship, residency (diagnostic radiology), and fellowship (nuclear medicine) at the Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco.

"His meteoric rise from a fellow in 1981 to chief of nuclear medicine from 1982-84, in one of the Army's largest hospitals, is testimony to his outstanding abilities as a physician and leader," said Dr. Gates. During those two years, Dr. Bunker also directed the nuclear medicine residency training program.

"I was extremely impressed with his energy and enthusiasm as a resident. He has an exceptional knowledge of the basic sciences of nuclear medicine, particularly in physics and instrumentation. I can think of no young nuclear physician more deserving of the Tetalman Memorial Award," said Dr. Hattner.

"I personally knew Dr. Marc Tetalman and was appalled and grief-stricken at this premature loss to our field," said Dr. Hattner.

"Dr. Bunker is similar to Dr. Tetalman in many ways. They share in common an unbridled enthusiasm and deep respect for academic pursuits—instantly likable persons with keen senses of humor," he added.

The Tetalman Memorial Award is given annually to an investigator, 35 years of age or younger, pursuing a career in nuclear medicine. The recipient is chosen by the Society's Education and Research Foundation through a fund established by friends of the late Marc Tetalman, MD.

Dr. Tetalman, a promising investigator, was murdered at age 35 during a robbery attempt in 1979 at the Society's Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

**References**