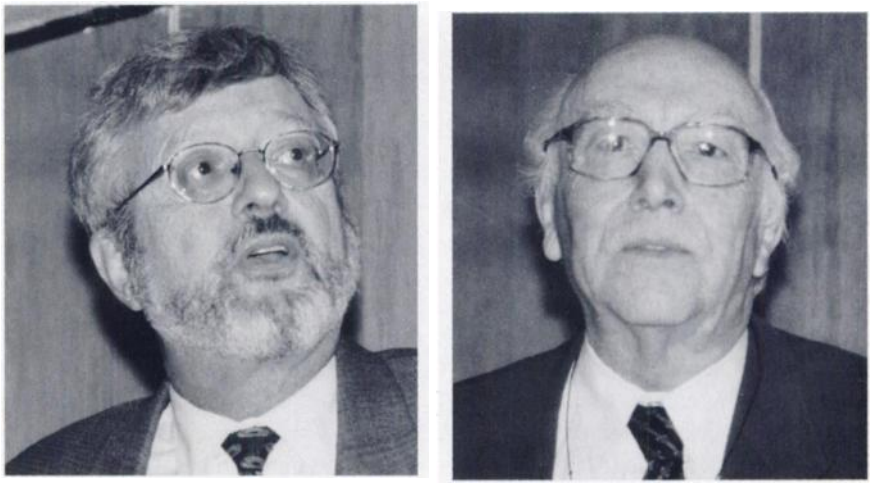
First Spanish PET Symposium Held in Madrid, Spain

An international symposium on PET in diagnosis and follow-up of oncologic patients was held in Madrid, Spain, June 22–23, 1998. This symposium was organized by the Centro PET Complutense of Madrid and the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD). The meeting focused on the experiences of the Spanish and other international PET groups. The PET technique was introduced in Spain in 1995, bringing about a revolution in the management of oncology patients. Since that time, three PET centers have become operational.



(Left) P.E. Valk, MD, and (right) L. Feinendegen, MD, address attendees at the first Spanish PET Symposium, Madrid, Spain, June 22–23, 1998.

The symposium's scientific program included invited lecturers from Europe and the U.S.: L. Feinendegen, MD, and J.J. Vaquero, PhD (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD); J.R. Barrio, MD (UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA); P.E. Valk, MD (Northern California PET Imaging Center, Sacramento, CA); R. Nuñez, MD (Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY); and N. Avril, MD (Teknische Universitat, Munich, Germany). Topics discussed included lung cancer, solitary pulmonary nodule, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, melanoma, brain tumor and overall cost-effectiveness of PET in clinical oncology. At a roundtable discussion addressing reimbursement and cost-effectiveness, Valk and Barrio described conditions in the U.S., which were compared with the state of clinical PET funding in Spain. The role of PET as an important contribution to molecular research in the Human Genome Project was described by Feinendegen. The Munich experience with breast cancer was presented by Avril, while the management of melanoma at a major center like Memorial-Sloan Kettering was discussed by Nuñez.

1998 Symposium on Isotope and Radiation Applications Held in Lungtan, Taiwan

The 1998 Symposium on Isotope and Radiation Applications was held at the Institute of Nuclear Energy Research (INER) in Lungtan, Taiwan, Republic of China, May 7–9, 1998. INER is the sole government research institute in Taiwan that develops civil nuclear energy applications to ensure nuclear power plant safety and advance nuclear science and technology for industrial and medical applications.

The theme of the symposium, which was attended by more than 300 nuclear medicine physicians, scientists and industrialists as well as representatives of the Taiwan Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency, was "Perspectives of Isotope and Radioisotope Application for the 21st Century." Major topics included development and application of isotopes and radiation in medical diagnosis and therapy, medical and nonmedical applications of cyclotrons and research reactors and development and application of radiation technology. The symposium had four plenary, eight concurrent and five poster sessions, with presenters from Canada, England, Japan, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan and the U.S. Additionally, there were three special workshops that provided opportunities for attendees to discuss

Invited speakers of the 1998 Symposium on Isotope and Radiation Applications, Lungtan, Taiwan, Republic of China, May 7–9, 1998.

the following issues: (1) perspectives and challenges of isotope and radiation applications for the 21st century, (2) present status and future prospects of cyclotron- and reactor-produced radioisotopes and (3) radiopharmaceutical development and review process in Taiwan.

Award Established in Recognition of Robert Loevinger and Mones Berman

The Awards Committee of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) has established an award in honor of Robert Loevinger and Mones Berman, who formulated the medical internal radiation dose (MIRD) schema for internal dose calculations. The objective of this award is to recognize excellence in the field of internal dosimetry as it relates to nuclear medicine through (a) research or development; (b) significant contributions through single or multiple publications or (c) advancement of understanding of internal dosimetry as it relates to risk and therapeutic efficacy. Any scientist or physician who has contributed to the science of internal dosimetry is eligible for this award.

The award will consist of a plaque or suitably mounted certificate and a monetary prize of $1000. The first Loevinger-Berman Award will be presented at the 1999 SNM Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA.

Nominations may be made by any member or group of members of SNM. Each nomination should include a short biographical resume of the candidate's career and reasons for nominating the candidate. Publications, references and other relevant information may be submitted in support of the candidate's nomination. The SNM MIRD Committee will select one award recipient from among the nominees.

Nominations for the 1999 award should be submitted by October 15, 1998, to Evelyn E. Watson, MIRD Committee Chair, 104 New Bedford Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Endocrine Surgeon's Perspective

(Continued from page 15N)

mation (e.g., adenoma size, shape and depth) can be obtained from these simple planar scans.

The recent development of radioguided surgery has changed the way surgeons and nuclear medicine physicians/radiologists interact. Sentinel lymph node mapping for melanoma and breast cancer is rapidly becoming the standard of care. Radioguided parathyroidectomy is also becoming widespread and embraced by surgeons, patients, referring physicians and even health care payers. This new era of surgery dictates that the nuclear medicine physician/radiologist play a more active role in patient therapy in addition to the diagnostic role maintained in the past. This may require some changes in long-standing techniques and even an occasional compromise in image acquisition. The benefits of radioguided surgery to patients, however, are unquestionable.

—James G. Norman, MD, is associate professor of surgery, associate professor of internal medicine and director of endocrine surgery at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.