

## Annual Meeting Awards:

# Fellowships Given to Women's Health Researchers



Esther H. Lim, MD

Two investigators in applications of nuclear medicine to women's health were recognized during the Society's recent Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. The Dupont Fellowship for Research in Women's Health was awarded to Scott M. Munro, MD, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, for work on "The Relationship between Regional Myocardial Perfusion Reserve and Peak Oxygen Consumption in Postmenopausal Females with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus." Esther H. Lim, MD, of the University of California San Diego, was named the 1999-2000 Mallinckrodt Fellow for Research in Nuclear Medicine. Her investigation will compare sentinel

node detection in a new lymph-node-specific radiopharmaceutical with detection by filtered Tc-99m-labeled sulfur colloid.

Lim and Munro each received a \$30,000 grant.

Begun this year, the Dupont Fellowship in Women's Health is aimed at supporting clinical research in the improvement of evaluation and care in postmenopausal women; extending research opportunities for nuclear medicine and nuclear cardiology into the allied research efforts of other specialties; and encouraging physicians to enter the fields of nuclear medicine and nuclear

cardiology. As the first winner of the fellowship, Munro will undertake research in one of the key areas cited by Dupont, "known or suspected coronary artery disease." Other crucial research areas for future awards will include elevated serum cholesterol, breast cancer and osteoporosis.

Noting the increased risk of cardiovascular disease in women with Type 2 diabetes mellitus, Munro's study concentrates on the effects of the disease on cardiovascular function during exercise.

"Interestingly, persons with diabetes without longstanding disease," Murno said, "and without angiographic CAD still have markedly reduced exercise capabilities." Is this exercise abnormality a marker of early CAD in these patients? "The explanations are unclear," he said, "but endothelial dysfunction both peripherally and centrally are thought to be contributors. This is a particularly important question for postmenopausal women with diabetes because their risk of CAD is much higher than that for diabetic males."

Munro hopes his research will help to better understand the role of exercise dysfunction in diabetes with and without CAD, as well as aid in "developing an accurate, noninvasive model to identify coronary vascular disease earlier in this high-risk patient population."

During the coming year, Mallinckrodt Fellow Esther Lim will be studying a new radiotracer with potential in lymphoscintigraphy—Tc-99m-labeled MAG3-mannosyl-dextran, which was developed by David R. Vera, PhD, of UCSD. This agent holds promise because of its smaller size, compared to the commonly used Tc-99m-labeled sulfur colloid, and because it rapidly clears the injection site and binds to the sentinel lymph node.

Lim points out that "the ideal sentinel node imaging agent would have a smaller size that would allow entry into lymphatic channels more readily and would clear from the injection site more rapidly and completely."

Her main area of research interest up till now has been in the fields of hematology and oncology, having worked with AIDS patients with hematologic malignancies. During the second year of her residency, however, she had the opportunity of doing research in Vera's laboratory, where she tested the receptor-binding properties of a new platelet-specific radiopharmaceutical, Tc-99m-DTPA-mannosaminyI-HAS.

"Since most successful nuclear medicine projects are the result of nuclear physicians work-

## SNM 1999 Annual Awards

### Georg de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award

S. James Adelstein, MD

### Paul C. Aebersold Award

Walter P. Wolf, PhD

### Presentation of the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Lecture

Michael E. Phelps, PhD

### 1999 Distinguished Service Award

Carol S. Marcus, PhD, MD

### 1999 Presidential Distinguished Service Awards

Kenneth A. McKusick, MD

Mark H. Rotman, PhD

### 1999 Loevinger-Berman Award

Roger J. Cloutier

ing closely with basic scientists and clinicians," Lim said, "dedicating a year to this fellowship will prepare me for the teamwork skills needed for a career in academic medicine."

The longstanding Annual Mallinckrodt Fellowship Program was established to facilitate original research in nuclear medicine. The award is aimed at furthering research involving the development of single photon radiopharmaceuticals or beta emitters to be used in nuclear medicine oncology.

Both the Mallinckrodt and Dupont fellowships were announced at the Society's Annual Business Meeting. Other award recipients at the meeting

included Carol Marcus, PhD, MD, who received the 1999 SNM Distinguished Service Award, and Mark Rotman, PhD, National Institutes of Health, and Kenneth McKusick, MD, who received SNM Presidential Distinguished Service Awards.

Rotman and McKusick were recognized for their contributions to coding and reimbursement issues and government relations, respectively. Similarly, Marcus received the Distinguished Service Award, said SNM President James Fletcher, for her "continuous support of the SNM Government Relations Committee in its efforts to deal with regulations promulgated by numerous government agencies."

## Education & Research Foundation of Society of Nuclear Medicine

For the second time in four years, Abass Alavi, MD, chair, Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and past president of the Education and Research Foundation of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, has made a large donation to the Education and Research Foundation (ERF). At the recent Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Alavi presented Conrad Nagle, MD, president of ERF, with a check for \$30,000 to additionally fund the Alavi/Mandell Fund. Income generated by the Fund will provide future awards within the Education and Research Foundation.

Kenneth McKusick, MD, treasurer of the ERF has been elected by its board as president-elect, to assume

office following the Society's Annual Meeting in the year 2000.

Other actions by the Education and Research Foundation include the creation of the Joseph Ross, MD, Trainee Award. Currently, a \$25,000 fund created by the Board is expected to generate income of \$500-\$1,000 which the ERF will then donate to the Society of Nuclear Medicine to allow the Awards Committee of SNM to select trainees to receive the award for presentations at the Annual Scientific Meeting. These awards will likely begin at the Annual Scientific Meeting of 2001 and will be announced by the Society at the time the awards are instituted.

### SNM 1999

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and atoms, circulating, bumping into each other, fitting and sticking, controlling processes at the local level rather than at some master control center in the brain. For example, if herpes simplex virus, aflatoxin, arsenic, and iron all happen to meet in one's liver, one is likely to develop liver cancer.

This Annual Meeting provides evidence that people are now integrating and collaborating rather than competing with others in different fields of medicine. But we still have problems. The number of approved NDAs by the FDA is too low. Perhaps we can piggyback radionuclide studies that are being used in Phase I, II, and III studies of stable drugs in order to obtain information relative to the radionuclide as well as to the stable drug. It is permissible under FDA regulations to use radio-

tracers that have INDs in studies of stable drugs. For example, beta CIT is being used as part of drug trials designed to measure the effectiveness of stable drugs in Parkinson's disease.

Another problem that has been around for half a century and is getting worse is that the phrase "nuclear medicine" conjures up horrific science-fiction-inspired images of grave, dangerous procedures. The time has come to bring hormesis to the attention of the public. Progress is made only when purposeful and determined persons are relentlessly guiding it. At every crossing on the road to the future, every leader is opposed by thousands of persons who relentlessly guard the past. Always remember, as Dag Hammarskjöld said, "Only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find his right road."