

Education and Research Foundation for the SNM, Inc.: A Strategic Alliance

The Society of Nuclear Medicine Education and Research Foundation (ERF) celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2003 by looking forward to the formation of a new strategic alliance of its goals with those of the Society. “The Society as a whole was reshaping its strategic plan to fulfill its mission to be ‘the recognized world leader in providing knowledge that advances and promotes the use of nuclear medicine,’” said Ken McKusick, MD, who served as president of the ERF. “The ERF had already made substantial commitments of time and resources in advancing this cause since its founding in 1973, through the creation of a number of awards, fellowships, grants, and other funding mechanisms to encourage innovation and commitment to nuclear medicine endeavors. Working with the SNM and the SNMTS, however, we identified specific strengths on which the ERF can build and with which we can work together in new ways to enhance these efforts.”

One of the results of the alliance is that the ERF changed its official name to the Education and Research Foundation for the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. The new name indicates a new organizational status, with the ERF now solely focused on development and fundraising. The SNM has assumed responsibility for the grants and awards introduced and previously administered by the ERF.

“With the recent unprecedented restructuring and strategic planning process, the SNM, SNMTS, and ERF are now well synchronized and jointly committed to an entirely new level of fundraising in support of nuclear medicine research and education,” said Michael Devous, MD, current ERF president. “With rapid developments in molecular imaging, PET, and SPECT instrumentation and in small animal imaging, our discipline is poised to experience tremendous growth. Moreover, seamless integration with the most exciting developments in medicine—including genomic and proteomic science—is not only an important goal for the SNM but is both essential and completely achievable. However, this range of extraordinary opportunities will be missed if we do not invest in our field to support the highest level of research; educate our scientists, practitioners and technologists; and attract new, young talent into our discipline.” The strategic alliance formed by the ERF, SNM, and SNMTS has resulted in a joint development office that will focus on providing the funding and infrastructure to support the 3 areas of



Drs. Michael Gelfand and Michael Devous at the signing of the strategic alliance between the SNM and ERF.

investment cited by Devous. The office is headed by Kathleen Bates, SNM Director of Development.

The ERF elected an 11-member board of directors earlier this year. Members of the board will include a president, president-elect, treasurer/secretary, 4 members-at-large elected from a nominated slate, 2 members appointed by the SNM president, and 2 members appointed by the SNMTS president. A special orientation for board members was held in May and helped to refine and define the role the ERF will play in its new relationship with the SNM and SNMTS. “We will invest both corporately and personally in the necessary human and fiscal resources to accomplish these goals and work hand in hand to achieve them,” said Devous. “It is an honor to be among the leadership engaged in this exciting enterprise, and I look forward to the new era of cooperation and progress.”

Building on Past Successes

The ERF continues to build on its past successes. In the first half of 2004, the SNM awarded \$57,350 to 49 physicians, scientists, technologists, and students in support of their education, research, and accomplishments in nuclear medicine. In addition, the ERF also funded a total of \$50,000 for the 2 Cassen awards (see p. 20N). Development efforts in 2003 and 2004 have exceeded expectations. One example is the campaign for donors to the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Society. To date, more than 209 donors have given \$56,450 in support of the campaign. “One part of our new development effort is to make sure that donors are recognized for their generous efforts on behalf of the Society,” said Bates. “Donors who gave \$500 or more to the 50th Anniversary Campaign

will be listed on a plaque at SNM headquarters in Reston. At the SNM meeting in Philadelphia in June, we highlighted an Honor Wall of Donors.” Bates also distributed the first edition of *Contributor*, a newsletter for and about donors to the nuclear medicine community.

New SNM President Mathew Thakur, PhD, notes elsewhere in this month’s Newsline (p. 36N) the importance of spreading the word about the various awards and honors that the ERF efforts make possible. “Through the SNM/ERF coalition, we will attempt to enhance the visibility and prestige of these fellowships and those who receive them, so that every young scholar will be aware of and encouraged to compete,” he said. In support of this initiative, Newsline this month includes both a list of awardees and a list of donors to the work of the new strategic alliance. Congratulations to all—both recipients and contributors—for being vital parts of the work that will lead nuclear medicine to explore new and expanding horizons in the coming years.

Grants, Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

The Cassen Prize. This major award was made possible by funds from the estate of Mary Wylie Cassen in honor of her husband, Benedict Cassen. His invention of the rectilinear radioisotope scanner, the first instrument in nuclear medicine to make an image of an organ in a patient, was seminal to the development of the field. The first honoree was Hal O. Anger, DSc (1994), for his invention of the scintillation camera. The 2004 Cassen award was given to Michael Welch, PhD, at the SNM annual meeting in June. A profile of Welch and his contributions will appear in the August issue of Newsline.

The Cassen Postdoctoral Fellowship. Also made possible by funds from the Cassen estate, this award enables recent doctoral degree recipients to participate in research activities at an institution other than their degree-granting institution. The 2004 Cassen Fellow is Deborah Pareto-Onghena.

Mark Tetalman Memorial Award. Established by the family and friends of Mark Tetalman, MD, whose promising career was cut short, this annual award recognizes the work of young investigators pursuing research in nuclear medicine. The 2004 Mark Tetalman Award recipient is Habib Zaidi, PhD, head of the PET Instrumentation and Neuroscience Laboratory, Division of Nuclear Medicine, Geneva University Hospital, Switzerland.

Alavi-Mandell Awards. These awards recognize nuclear medicine resident or PhD trainees who have served as senior authors of scientific articles published in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. Awards are given to honor the memory of the fathers of Drs. Abass Alavi and Gerald Mandell and are intended to encourage young physicians and scientists to pursue a career in academic and research nuclear medicine. 2004 awardees and their articles are: Gerald Antoch, MD (Focal tracer uptake: a potential artifact in contrast-enhanced dual-modality PET/CT scans); Adey Ayalew, PhD (^{201}Tl and $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MIBI retention in an isolated heart model of low flow ischemia and stunning: evidence of negligible impacts of myocyte me-

tabolism on the tracers kinetics); Viviane Boullieret, MD, PhD (Correlation between PET and siscom in temporal lobe epilepsy); Nicolas Bousson, PhD (Automated detection of local normalization areas for ictal-interictal subtraction brain SPECT imaging); Vincent Frouin, MD (Correction of partial-volume effect for PET striatal imaging: fast implementation and study of robustness); Bernard Gerber, MD (Myocardial blood flow, metabolism, and inotropic reserve in dogs with dysfunctional noninfarcted collateral-dependent myocardium); Steffen Hofst, MD (Fine-needle aspiration cytology of the sentinel lymph node in head and neck cancer); Sam Kim, MD (Natural history and distribution of bone and bone marrow infarctions in children with sickle hemoglobinopathies); Adam Kirton, MD, MSc (Evaluation of pediatric CNS malignancies with $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MIBI SPECT); Takashi Kurizaki, MD, PhD (Potentiation of radioimmunotherapy with response-selective peptide agonist of human C5a); Lori McDonald, MD (Deposition of cigar smoke particles in the lung: evolution with ventilation scan using technetium-99m-labeled sulfur colloid particles); Alexander Matthies, MD (Dual time point FDG-PET scanning for the evolution of pulmonary nodules); Jean-Christophe Richard, MD (Comparison of PET with radioactive microspheres to assess pulmonary blood flow); Sharlini Sankaran, MS (optimum compensation method combination and filter cutoff choice in myocardial SPECT: a human observer study); Lalitha Shanker, MD, PhD (Comparison of ^{123}I scintigraphy at 5 and 24 hours in patients with differentiated thyroid cancer); Sakari Simula, MD (Cardiac adrenergic innervation is affected in asymptomatic subjects with very early stage of coronary artery disease); Katarina Sjogreen, PhD (An activity quantification method based on registration of CT and whole-body scintillation-camera images, with application to ^{131}I); Tuula Tovanen, MSc (Fluorine-18-fluoroerythronitroimidazole radiation dosimetry in cancer studies); and Koenrad Van Laere, MD, PhD, DSc (Analysis of clinical brain SPECT data based on anatomical standardization and reference to normal data: a ROC-based comparison of visual, semiquantitative, and voxel-based methods).

Student Fellowship Awards. These fellowships support students’ full-time participation in clinical and basic research activities in nuclear medicine, with the expectation that this exposure will serve as an incentive to consider a career in the field. The program is open to students enrolled in medical school, pharmacy school, or graduate school, and undergraduates who demonstrate outstanding competence in the physical and/or biological aspects of radioactive tracers. The top 2 candidates each year are named as Bradley Fellows, in honor of Dr. Stanley E. Bradley, a professor of Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons until 1978 and a prominent researcher in the fields of renal physiology and liver disease. The 2004 fellowship recipients and their topics include: Kaylund Chan (Studies of molecular biologic mechanisms underlying lymphoma radioimmunotherapy [^{90}Y -Zevalin and ^{90}Y -LYM-1] and immunotherapy (rituxan and LYM-1) as a basis for enhancing

radioimmunotherapy); April Eryou (Development of ^{111}In -labeled immunoconjugates of trastuzumab [herceptin]); Megumi Ito (Imaging apoptosis using $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -labeled annexin V); Matthew Loe (Biokinetics of DTPA-adenosylcobalamin, ^{18}F -deoxyglucose, and ^{18}F -thymidine in multiple transplanted human tumors), and Trevor Peterson (Development of modular tumor targeting molecules: motifs for both pretargeted therapy and PET imaging).

Pilot Research Grants. These grants support clinical and basic research by young investigators who are interested in testing innovative ideas while other major grant support is being sought. The funding supports essential materials outside the areas of salaries, major equipment purchases, and institutional overhead or travel. Two of these grants have been awarded in 2004. The awardees and their topics are Terri Edwards-Lee, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harbor-University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center (Imaging muscarinic receptors in Alzheimer's disease: Prediction of therapy response and identification of post therapy changes); and

Fang Lui, MD, Assistant Professor of Physics, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (Surgical proof-of-principle of prototype 64-pixel positron-sensitive imaging device).

Paul Cole Scholarships. These scholarships provide support for nuclear medicine technology students and honor the memory of a champion of student education, Paul Cole, who died in 1986 when he was serving as president of the SNMTS.

2004 Paul Cole Scholarship recipients include Sara Ahmedi, Tiffany Barber, Blaine Beining, Ashley Bucher, Kimberly Clifton, Donna Clapp, Alexandra Govea, Peter Granovetter, Jacqueline Gray, Miles Herndon, Dawn Hill, Karen Johnson, Suzanne Karzoun, Lawrence Kuch, Kathryn Morris, Jillian Pellow, Anthony Silvio, Danielle Sproch, Cindy Sun, and Jerri Walters.

Technologist Award. Two awards recognize technologists' contributions to nuclear medicine research and practice: the SNMTS Scientific Paper Award and the SNMTS Best Paper Award. ❀

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