

Outstanding *JNM* Articles for 2004

Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD, and the associate editors and editorial board of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* announced in May the articles chosen as the most outstanding contributions to the literature appearing in *JNM* in 2004. The authors of these articles will be honored at the annual meeting of the SNM in Toronto later this month. First authors or their representatives will be presented with certificates and plaques recognizing their achievements. "These articles indicate not only the broad international representation of authors and institutions seen regularly in the pages of *JNM*, but the wide range of investigations that promise to expand our understanding of disease, particularly malignant and neurologic disease, through innovations in diagnosis, predictive abilities, radiopharmaceuticals, and both basic and clinical techniques," said Schelbert. "I congratulate these authors for their contributions. The continuing high quality of articles submitted for publication in the journal is encouraging and rewarding for those of us involved in the editorial process."



Mikako Ogawa, MS

In the Basic Sciences Investigations category, the first place award will go to Mikako Ogawa, MS; Seigo Ishino, BS; Takahiro Mukai, PhD; Daigo Asano, BS; Noboru Teramoto, BS; Hiroshi Watabe, PhD; Nobuyuki Kudomi, PhD; Masashi Shiomi, PhD; Yasuhiro Magata, PhD; Hidehiro Iida, PhD; and Hideo Saji, PhD, for "¹⁸F-FDG Accumulation in Atherosclerotic Plaques: Immunohistochemical and PET Imaging Study" (*J Nucl Med.* 2004;45:1245–1250). The second-place award in this category will be presented to Anne Roivainen, PhD; Tuula Tolvanen, MSc; Satu Salomäki, MSc; Gabor Lendvai, MSc; Irina Velikyan, MSc; Petri Numminen, MSc; Maria Vätilä, MSc; Hannu Sipilä, MSc; Mats Bergström, PhD; Pirkko Härkönen, MD, PhD; Harri Lönnberg, PhD; and Bengt Långström, PhD, for "⁶⁸Ga-Labeled Oligonucleotides for In Vivo Imaging with

PET" (*J Nucl Med.* 2004;45:347–355). Toyofumi Suzuki, PhD; Dafang Wu, MD, PhD; Felix Schlachetzki, MD; Jian Yi Li, MD, PhD; Ruben J. Boado, PhD; and William M. Pardridge, MD, will receive the third-place award for "Imaging Endogenous Gene Expression in Brain Cancer In Vivo with ¹¹¹In-Peptide Nucleic Acid Antisense Radiopharmaceuticals and Brain Drug-Targeting Technology" (*J Nucl Med.* 2004;45:1766–1775).



Steven M. Larson, MD

The first-place award in the Clinical Investigations category will be given to Steven M. Larson, MD; Michael Morris, MD; Ilonka Gunther, PhD; Brad Beattie, BA; John L. Humm, PhD; Timothy A. Akhurst, MD; Ronald D. Finn, PhD; Yusuf Erdi, PhD; Keith Pentlow, MS; Jon Dyke, PhD; Olivia Squire, RN; William Bornmann, PhD; Timothy McCarthy; Michael Welch, PhD; and Howard Scher, MD, for "Tumor Localization of 16β-¹⁸F-Fluoro-5α-Dihydrotestosterone Versus ¹⁸F-FDG in Patients with Progressive, Metastatic Prostate Cancer" (*J Nucl Med.* 2004;45:366–373). Einat Even-Sapir, MD, PhD; Ur Metser, MD; Gideon Flusser, MD; Limor Zuriel, MSc; Yehuda Kollender, MD; Hedva Lerman, MD; Gennady Lievshitz, MD; Ilan Ron, MD; and Eyal Mishani, PhD, will receive the second-place award in this category for "Assessment of Malignant Skeletal Disease: Initial Experience with ¹⁸F-Fluoride PET/CT and Comparison Between ¹⁸F-Fluoride PET and ¹⁸F-Fluoride PET/CT" (*J Nucl Med.* 2004;45:272–278). The third-place award will be presented to Tracy L. Faber, PhD; Cesar A. Santana, MD, PhD; Ernest V. Garcia, PhD; Jaume Candell-Riera, MD; Russell D. Folks, BS; John W. Peifer, MS; Andrew Hopper, BS; Santiago Aguade, MD; Joan Angel, MD; and J. Larry Klein, MD, for "Three-Dimensional Fusion of Coronary Arteries with Myocardial Perfusion Distributions: Clinical Validation" (*J Nucl Med.* 2004;45:745–753). ❄

Outstanding *JNMT* Articles for 2004

Beth A. Harkness, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, will present awards to the authors of 3 articles chosen as outstanding contributions to *JNMT* in 2004 at the SNM annual meeting in Toronto later this month.

Janelle M. Wheat, BAppSc, MmedRadSc, and Geoffrey M. Currie, MMedRadSc, MAppMngt, CNMT, will receive the first-place award for "Impact of Patient Motion on Myocardial Perfusion SPECT Diagnostic In-

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CMS Details PET Coverage; Claims Processing Begins for New Indications

On April 4, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a set of memoranda outlining revisions to the National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) on PET imaging for brain, cervical, ovarian, pancreatic, small cell lung, testicular, and other cancers. The original expansion of coverage for PET to a broader range of cancers was announced in November 2004. In that announcement, CMS said that ¹⁸F-FDG PET imaging would be “reasonable and necessary” in the newly expanded indications only when the provider is participating in, and patients are offered enrollment in, 1 of 3 types of prospective clinical studies: (1) a clinical trial of ¹⁸F-FDG PET that meets the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration category B investigational device exemption; (2) a clinical trial consistent with the evidentiary requirements for National Coverage Analyses and meeting specific quality standards; or (3) an ¹⁸F-FDG PET registry that is designed to provide additional information on the diagnostic accuracy and clinical utility of PET for diagnosis, staging, restaging, and/or monitoring of 1 or more cancers.

In the April 4 memoranda, CMS clarified the types of cancers covered with and without the clinical trials or registry requirement. With this clarification and Medicare carrier claims processing systems readied, billing for the new indications could begin on April 18. Claims for any of the NCD-specified PET examinations performed between January 28 and April 17 may be submitted retroactively.

CMS also announced that it will notify Medicare providers and beneficiaries through the *Federal Register* and the CMS Coverage Web site (www.cms.gov/coverage) as more information on this evidence-based coverage develops. CMS also plans later this year to incorporate into its Web site data on the location and availability of PET centers participating in approved clinical trials or registries.

The following revisions were included in NCDs issued by CMS between April 1 and 5:

- NCD for PET (FDG) for All Other Cancer Indications Not Previously Specified (220.6.15)
Covered only when providers are participating in, and patients are enrolled in, an approved FDG PET clinical study, or an FDG PET clinical trial meeting FDA category B IDE exemption status. Effective date: 1/28/05. Implementation date: 4/18/05.
- NCD for PET (FDG) for Brain, Cervical, Ovarian, Pancreatic, Small Cell Lung, and Testicular Cancers (220.6.14)
Covered as an adjunct test for detection of pre-treatment metastases (i.e., staging) in newly diagnosed cervical cancer subsequent to conventional imaging that is negative for extra-pelvic metastasis. For all remaining indications, covered only when providers are participating in, and patients are enrolled in, an approved FDG PET clinical study, or an FDG PET clinical trial meeting FDA category B IDE exemption status. Effective date: 1/28/05. Implementation date: 4/18/05.
- NCD for PET (FDG) for Refractory Seizures (220.6.9)
Removed text from PET Scans NCD (220.6) and created a separate NCD. Effective date: 1/28/05. Implementation date: 4/18/05.
- NCD for PET (FDG) for Esophageal Cancer (220.6.3)
Only covered for monitoring response to treatment for esophageal cancer as “coverage with evidence development”. Effective date: 1/28/2005. Implementation date: 04/18/2005.
- NCD for PET for Perfusion of the Heart (220.6.1)
Removed text from PET Scans NCD (220.6) and created a separate NCD. Effective date: 1/28/05. Implementation date: 4/18/05.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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tegrity: Part 2” (*J Nucl Med Technol.* 2004;32:158–163). The second-place award will go to Stacey A. Ross, CNMT, RT(N), and John P. Seibyl, MD, for “Research Application of Selected ¹²³I-Labeled Neuroreceptor SPECT Imaging Ligands” (*J Nucl Med Technol.* 2004;32:209–214). The third-

place award will be given to A. Robert Schleipman, MA, RT, CNMT; Victor H. Gerbaudo, PhD; and Frank P. Castonovo, Jr., PhD, for “Radiation Disaster Response: Preparation and Simulation Experience at an Academic Medical Center” (*J Nucl Med Technol.* 2004;32:22–27). ❀