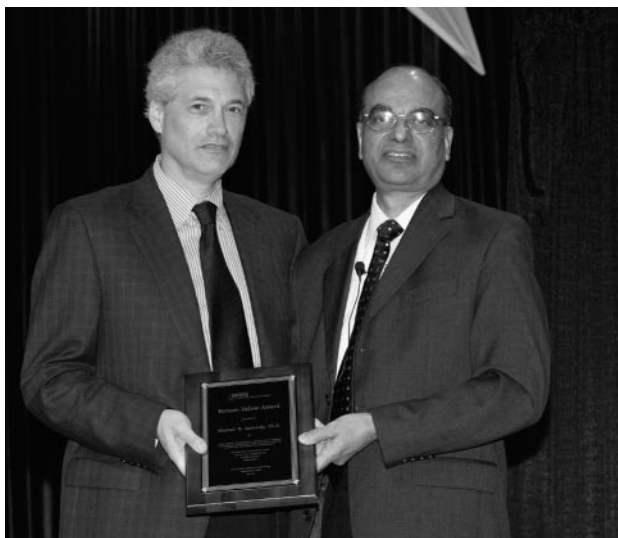


Zalutsky Presented with 2005 Berson–Yalow Award

Michael R. Zalutsky, PhD, a professor of radiology and biomedical engineering at Duke University (Durham, NC) was the recipient of the 2005 SNM Berson–Yalow Award. This honor is given to an investigator who has submitted significant original scientific abstracts and made significant contributions to basic or clinical radioassay sciences. SNM President Mathew L. Thakur, PhD, presented the award on June 21 at the Society's 52nd Annual Meeting in Toronto.

The award is named for Rosalyn S. Yalow, PhD, and the late Solomon A. Berson, MD, who together in the 1950s developed methods of using radioactive isotopes to investigate physiologic systems that allow detection of minute concentrations of biologic or pharmacologic substances in blood or other fluid samples. The award was established by SNM in 1977, the same year that Yalow received the Nobel Prize for physiology/medicine. In 1987, SNM's Scientific Program Committee expanded its criteria to include all research that made use of the indicator-dilution method in the categories of neurology, oncology, cardiology, radiopharmaceuticals, and radioassay.



Michael Zalutsky (left) accepts the 2005 Berson–Yalow Award from Mathew Thakur.

In presenting the award, Thakur commended Zalutsky and his colleagues for their research, "Cytotoxicity of ^{211}A -Labeled Trastuzumab in Human Breast Cancer Cell Lines: Effects of Specific Activity and HER2 Receptor Heterogeneity." "It's quite an honor to be named the recipient of the Berson–Yalow Award," said Zalutsky. "Researchers are still using the basic principles developed by Berson and Yalow every day. My work is part of an interdisciplinary collaboration, and all of us are trying to apply the concepts developed by Berson and Yalow to optimize the clinical potential of targeted radionuclide therapy."

Zalutsky, who is also director of radiolabeling shared resources and coprogram leader of the cancer immunobiology program in the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center, is a recipient of a MERIT Award from the National Cancer Institute for his research in targeted radiotherapy. His primary research interests are the development of molecularly targeted radiodiagnostics and radiotherapeutics for oncologic applications. A long-term focus of his laboratory has been on the development of targeted radiopharmaceuticals labeled with the α -emitting radionuclide ^{211}At . This work includes basic radiochemistry, evaluation of therapeutic efficacy, microdosimetry, and initiation of the first clinical trial with a ^{211}At -labeled targeted radiotherapeutic. His research has been supported by a grant from Genentech as well as multiple grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Energy.

A nuclear chemist, Zalutsky worked with such pioneers as Arnold M. Friedman, PhD, and Paul V. Harper, MD, during his postdoctoral experience at Argonne National Laboratory. He received his master's degree and doctorate in chemistry from Washington University. Before joining the faculty at Duke in 1985, he held academic appointments at the University of Chicago and Harvard Medical School. He has authored or coauthored more than 260 journal articles and reviews and edited 2 books. He serves on the editorial boards of 4 journals and has been a member of the medical imaging study section of the NIH. ✨