

China and a master's degree in analytical chemistry in 1993 from the China Institute of Atomic Energy. Yu has been involved with PET tracer development for more than 10 years and has experience in PET data processing, including modeling calculation.

Ashburn Pilot Research Grant

The ERF also funded the William L. Ashburn, MD, Pilot Research Grant, which is supported by Digirad Corporation in memory of the cofounder of the company, a physician researcher whose career in molecular and nuclear imaging spanned almost 40 years. Steven Burrell, MD, assistant professor at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Center (Halifax, Nova Scotia), received \$10,000. His research project is "Cardiac ^{123}I -Metaiodobenzylguanidine Imaging as a Means of Predicting Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Events."

Blahd Pilot Research Grant

In addition, the ERF funded the Mitzi and William Blahd, MD, Pilot Research Grant, which honors the couple's dedication to philanthropic support for education and research in nuclear medicine. Jun Zhao, PhD, a research scientist at the Research Foundation of Mental Hygiene Inc., New York State Psychiatric Institute, at Columbia University (New York City), received \$8,000 for his project, "Development of NMDA/Glycine Site PET Radioligands."

Pilot Research Grants

Recipients of 2006 pilot research grants have also been named. These grants, each totaling \$8,000, support clinical and basic research by young investigators who are interested in testing innovative ideas while other major grant support is being sought. Recipients include: Datta E. Ponde, PhD, research assistant professor, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), for "Comparison of Radiolabeled Choline and Ethanolamine as a Probe for Cancer Detection and for Measuring Cell Proliferation"; Jinsong Ouyang, PhD, physicist at Brigham & Women's Hospital and instructor at Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA), for "Fast and Accurate Iterative Reconstruction for Simultaneous Dual-Isotope SPECT Using Parallel Computing"; Feng Quing, MD, PhD, PET fellow, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, PET Center (Iowa City), for "Perfusion and Oxygenation in Mouse Tumors Using ^{133}Xe Gamma Imaging and Oxygen Electrodes"; and Mike F. Georgiou, PhD, research assistant professor, University of Miami Hospital and Clinics/Sylvester Cancer Comprehensive Center (FL), for "A PET Gating System for Respiratory Motion Compensation of Lung Lesions."

The ERF has supported the molecular imaging/nuclear medicine community for more than 35 years. The foundation's mission is to advance excellence in health care through education and research in molecular imaging/nuclear medicine by provision of grants and awards. For more information about these awards or the ERF, contact Kathy Bates, SNM director of development, at 703-708-9000, ext. 1028, or kbates@snm.org. Information is also posted on the SNM Web site at www.snm.org/grants. ✧

SNMTS Announces 2006 Scholarship and Grant Recipients

At the SNM Mid-Winter Educational Symposium in Tempe, AZ, on February 11, the SNMTS released the names of 37 molecular and nuclear medicine technologist students and researchers who will be awarded a total of \$58,000 in scholarships and grants in 2006. "Through its scholarship and grants program, SNMTS invests in the future of the nuclear medicine technology profession by supporting both the development of future practitioners and research," said SNMTS President Valerie R. Cronin, CNMT, in announcing these awards. "SNMTS remains committed to encouraging individuals to pursue careers in molecular and nuclear imaging."

Professional Development Education Fund Research Grant

The awards include the Professional Development Education Fund (PDEF) Research Grant, which provides

\$10,000 to encourage technologists to initiate innovative research projects that advance knowledge of the profession in either clinical practice, education, or professional development. Gregory G. Passmore, PhD, CNMT, associate professor of biomedical and radiological technologies with the School of Allied Health Sciences and the School of Graduate Studies at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, is the recipient of this award. Passmore's research project, "Testing of DU Collimator for Removal of Tl/Tc Dual-Isotope Cross-Talk," applies basic physics principals to a clinical nuclear medicine technology problem.

Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarships

Two Mickey Williams Minority Student scholarships, which each provide \$5,000 to a minority student entering or enrolled in a 2- or 4-year molecular imaging/nuclear medicine technologist program, were awarded. One recipient is

Christina Araujo of Omaha, NE, an undergraduate student in the nuclear medicine program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. The other is Starr White of Easton, PA, an undergraduate student with the nuclear medicine technology program at Cedar Crest College (Allentown, PA).

PDEF Professional Development Scholarship

In addition, a \$5,000 PDEF Professional Development Scholarship, which supports a nuclear medicine technologist who is pursuing a master's or doctoral degree, was awarded to Said Diabes Figueroa, MS, CNMT, RT(N), of Columbia, MO, a doctoral student in the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He received an extension on a 2-year PDEF Professional Development Scholarship to pursue doctoral research on imaging and dosimetry related to new radiation-based therapeutic agents.

Paul Cole Scholarships

A total of 33 Paul Cole scholarships were announced at the Mid-Winter meeting. These \$1,000 awards provide support for students enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in associate, baccalaureate, or certificate programs in nuclear medicine technology. Awards are based on financial need, statements of goals, academic performance, and program director recommendations. The recipients and their academic affiliations include: Travis Fogelman, Delaware Technical and Community College (Wilmington); Katherine Weigel, College of Health Sciences, Florida Hospital (Orlando); Michelle Kraus, Medical Sciences Education Department, St. Vincent's Medical Center (Jacksonville, FL); Susie Zumbahlen, St. Louis University (MO) (funded by SNM's Central Chapter); Georgiena Stefanatos, Elmhurst College/Northwestern Memorial Hospital (Chicago, IL) (funded by SNM's Central Chapter); Marjan Muvceski, School of Medicine, Indiana University (Indianapolis); Brittni Jackson, School of Health Sciences, Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MD); Karly Sopic, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (Iowa City); Brandi Huber, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (Iowa City); Jami Hogan, Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI); Michelle Benaske, Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI); Louis Mbibi, College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MD); Flint

Ansden, School of Nuclear Medicine, Central Maine Medical Center (Lewiston); Garrett Holzum, University of Missouri (Columbia); Jaykumar Patel, School of Health Related Professions, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (Scotch Plains); Deanna Saldana, Nuclear Medicine Institute, University of Findlay (OH); Charity Harris, Kent State University/Salem (OH); Jenny Duval, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (Little Rock); Audrey Willett, Health Science Center, Department of Radiologic Technology, University of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City); Lindsay Wilson, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center (Oklahoma City); Stacey Trone, Lancaster General College of Nursing and Health Sciences (PA); Shelly States, Nuclear Medicine Institute, University of Findlay (OH); Jonathan Crites, Kent State University/Salem (OH); Megan Berkstresser, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Indiana, PA; joint program with the University of Findlay); Laura Dee Trimmal, Medical College of Georgia (Augusta); Nealy Cook, Midlands Technical College (Columbia, SC); Melissa Dutton, Midlands Technical College (Columbia, SC); Ryan Raml, Southeast Technical Institute (Sioux Falls, SD); Jaime Reid, Nuclear Medicine Institute, University of Findlay (OH); Amanda Wanta, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, University of Wisconsin (La Crosse); Ashley Mroczenski, College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN); Robert McPherson, University of Toronto (Ontario; joint program with Michener Institute, Toronto, Ontario); Lindsey Doble, University of Toronto (Ontario; joint program with Michener Institute, Toronto, Ontario); and Joshua Clayton, Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation, New Brunswick Community College/University of New Brunswick (Saint John).

The PDEF Research Grant, the PDEF Mickey Williams Minority Student scholarships, and the PDEF Professional Development Scholarship are funded by the Corporate Friends of PDEF: Biogen Idec, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Capintec Inc., GE Healthcare, Mallinckrodt Inc., and MDS Nordion. The Education and Research Foundation (ERF) for the SNM works to advance excellence in health care through education and research in molecular imaging/nuclear medicine by provision of grants and awards. For more information about these awards or to learn more about the PDEF or the ERF, contact Kathy Bates, SNM director of development, at 703-708-9000, ext. 1028, or at kbates@snm.org. Information is also posted on the SNM Web site at www.snm.org/grants. ✨