

SNM and SNMTS Award 2007 Fellowships and Scholarships

A number of SNM student fellows and technologist scholarships for 2007 were awarded at the SNM Mid-Winter Educational Symposium, held in San Antonio, TX, February 15–18. The Education and Research Foundation (ERF) for SNM funds the student fellowships and the Paul Cole Scholarships. The SNMTS Professional Development and Education Fund (PDEF) funds the Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarships.

Mathew L. Thakur, PhD, chair of SNM's Awards Committee said, "By funding scholars so they may pursue independent research projects, SNM continues its long-time tradition of promoting the discovery of new science and the creation of new techniques and technologies."

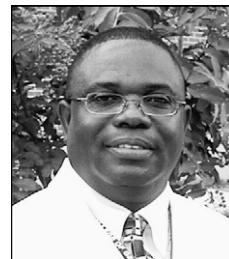
SNM Student Fellowships

The SNM student fellowships provide \$3,000 to support students' full-time participation in clinical and basic research activities in molecular imaging/nuclear medicine. The top 3 candidates are designated as Bradley–Alavi Fellows in honor of the late Stanley E. Bradley, MD, a professor of medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (New York, NY) and a prominent researcher in the fields of renal physiology and liver disease, and Abass Alavi, MD, of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center (Philadelphia), a long-time SNM member and supporter of the ERF.

The 2007 recipients and their proposed research topics are:

- Ricky Tong, PhD, Stanford University (California); Bradley–Alavi Fellow: "The Mighty Mouse: ubiquitous expression of tri-fusion imaging multimodality (bioluminescence, fluorescence, PET) reporter gene in transgenic mouse";
- Andrew Hsu, Stanford University; Bradley–Alavi Fellow: "Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR) targeted imaging and therapy of glioblastoma multiforme using anti-angiogenic fusion protein VEGF₁₂₁/rGEL";
- Christopher Kim, Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia, PA); Bradley–Alavi Fellow: "Noninvasive molecular imaging of IGF1R expression in experimental human breast cancer";
- Nathan Basken, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN): "Species dependence of ⁶⁴Cu-bis (thiosemicarbazone) copper (II) radiopharmaceuticals to serum albumin"; and
- Kitch Wilson, MD, Stanford University: "Correlating proteomic biomarkers with PET imaging for early diagnosis of inflammatory atherosclerotic disease in diabetic patients."

"It was encouraging to see that this year the research topics addressed a wide array of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging modalities," said Kathleen Bates, SNM director of development.



Alfred Mensah

SNMTS Technologist Scholarships

The 4 \$5,000 PDEF Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarships included a 2-year award, and 3 awards for 1 academic year each. These scholarships support minority students pursuing a 2- or 4-year degree in nuclear medicine technology and honor the memory of Mickey Williams, a past SNMTS president who immigrated to the United States from Jamaica. The 2007 Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarship recipients are:

- Alfred Mensah, Medical College of Georgia (Augusta), 2-year recipient;
- Theresah Semana, Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI);
- Derrick Turner, University of Cincinnati (OH); and
- John Williams, Triton College (River Grove, IL).

The Mickey Williams Minority Student Scholarships are made possible by contributions from corporate supporters of the PDEF, including Biogen Idec, Capintec Inc., GE Healthcare, Mallinckrodt, and MDS Nordion.

A total of 30 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, a statement of goals, academic performance, and program director recommendations. The 2007 recipients are:

Baccalaureate Program

- Emily Bindl, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center (Milwaukee, WI);
- Dennis Flood, Mayo School of Health Sciences (Rochester, MN), award funded by SNM Central Chapter;
- Vana Hansch, University of Wisconsin La Crosse (La Crosse);
- Bayley Hicks, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Health Related Professions (Little Rock);
- Melanie Lee, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Health Related Professions;
- Kathleen Linehan, Indiana University (Indianapolis);

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- Jared Martarano, University of Buffalo, State University of New York;
- Andrea Mason, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Health Related Professions;
- Lisa Meyer, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (Iowa City);
- Jaykumar Patel, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Health Related Professions (Scotch Plains);
- Sarah Pyatt, Indiana University;
- Tracy Rebscher, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Health Related Professions;
- Danielle Rill, The Johns Hopkins School of Medical Imaging (Baltimore, MD);
- Jessica Sharp, University of Nebraska Medical Center (Omaha); and
- Brooke Whitcher, Mayo School of Health Sciences.

Associate Degree Program

- Andrea Cyphers, Delaware Technical and Community College (Stanton);
- Morgan Creason, Jefferson Community College (Louisville, KY);
- Lindsay Ferguson, The University of Findlay (OH);
- Erin Obsniuk, British Columbia Institute of Technology (Burnaby, Canada);
- Connie Roberts, Gateway Community College (Phoenix, AZ);
- Derrick Turner, University of Cincinnati (OH); and
- John Williams, Triton College (River Grove, IL), funded by SNM Central Chapter.

Certificate Program

- Bryce Bakkedahl, Mayo School of Health Sciences;
- Kathy Carpenter, College of Dupage (Glen Ellyn, IL);



Students from the Mayo School of Health Sciences celebrated their scholarships. From left: Brooke Whitcher, Ashley Munson, Bryce Bakkedahl, and Dennis Flood.

- Nino Gotsiridze, Institute of Allied Medical Professions, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (New York, NY);
- Jason Hendershot, Johns Hopkins School of Medical Imaging;
- Ashley Munson, Mayo School of Health Sciences;
- Sheela Shivraman, William Beaumont Nuclear Medicine Program (Royal Oak, MI);
- Melissa Stump, Research Medical Center (Kansas City, MO); and
- Beth Tichelar, College of Dupage.

According to Bates, the quality of the applications received this year was outstanding and the numbers of applicants for each award program either equaled or exceeded those in previous years.

For more information about these awards or to learn more about the ERF or PDEF, contact Renee Bergen, SNM Grants and Awards program manager, at 703-708-9000 ext. 1255 or rbergen@snm.org. Information on SNM and SNMTS grants and awards is also posted at www.snm.org/grants. ✨

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also must spend significant portions of their time fundraising and writing grants rather than conducting research. Others are following research dollars to European and Asian countries that are investing in biomedical sciences as high national priorities and actively recruiting accomplished U.S. scientists. Nobel Laureate Eric Kandel, PhD, from Columbia University Medical Center, who contributed to the report, noted: "The scientific community is one of the driving forces of the economy. In biology, it helps drive the pharmaceutical industry and helps people live longer in a productive way. Now, the rug has been pulled from under science in this country. We'll lose scientific manpower to

European countries, and to India, China and Japan." The funding problem is so urgent that the NIH 2007 "Fiscal Policy for Grant Awards," urges decisionmakers to consider "the goal of not losing outstanding laboratories" as they allocate limited funds.

The new report concludes that addressing the funding crisis now is imperative, given the demographics of the population. "Medical treatments take decades to develop," said Brugge. "If we wait until the baby boomers retire to find the most effective means for prevention and treatment for diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer, we will break the bank." A complete copy of the report is available at: http://hms.harvard.edu/public/news/nih_funding.pdf. ✨