Coleman Presented with de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award

The 2007 Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award was presented to R. Edward Coleman, MD, director of the nuclear medicine division and professor of radiology at Duke University Medical Center (DUMC; Durham, NC), on June 3 at the 54th Annual Meeting of SNM in Washington, DC. Coleman was recognized for his efforts in advancing molecular imaging and clinical applications of PET, PET/CT, and radionuclide therapy.

"With this award, SNM recognizes that Dr. Coleman's work has had a meaningful and significant impact on molecular imaging and nuclear medicine practice," said SNM President Martin P. Sandler, MD. "The list of previous recipients of this award is impressive and includes Nobel laureates, such as Ernest Lawrence, who built the world's first cyclotron for the production of radionuclides, and Glenn Seaborg, who discovered more than half a dozen new elements. Dr. Coleman joins a select group of scientists whose research is deemed to have had a significant impact on medicine."

Each year, SNM presents the de Hevesy Award to an individual or individuals for outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. de Hevesy, widely recognized as one of the originators of the discipline, was the author of seminal books and papers on radiochemistry and the recipient of the 1943 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his investigation of the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of radioactive compounds in the human body. This research laid the foundation for nuclear medicine in diagnosis and therapy.

"I have been fortunate to have worked with many of the best scientists and clinicians in nuclear medicine," said Coleman in accepting the award. "My journey has been exciting and fun because of my colleagues, and I would not have received this recognition without their support." He received his medical degree in 1968 from the Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO), where he completed an internship in internal medicine. At the Royal Victoria Hospital (Montreal, Canada), he finished his residency in internal medicine in 1970. From 1972 to 1974, he completed a fellowship in nuclear medicine at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology (St. Louis). He is board certified in both internal medicine and nuclear medicine and has held academic appointments at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO) and the University of Utah Medical Center (Salt Lake City, UT).

Coleman's internationally recognized research has focused on the role of PET in lung cancer, prostate cancer, and brain tumors. He has demonstrated the utility of PET in several indications and contributed significantly to efforts to secure reimbursement for a number of clinical PET procedures. He has studied the use of a broad range of radiopharmaceuticals, including U.S. Food and Drug Administration–approved agents, investigational new drug agents (monoclonal antibodies for diagnosis and therapy, ^{131}I-MIBG for therapy of neuroendocrine tumors), Radioactive Drug Research Committee–approved agents (^{15}0 water for tumor blood flow, ^{18}F-labeled agents, and others), and ^{18}F-FDG.

Sandler (left) congratulates Coleman on the 2007 de Hevesy Award which was presented by Timothy Turkington, PhD (center left), and scientific program chair Frederic H. Fahey, DSc.

His many and diverse research projects include the quantification of pulmonary perfusion by SPECT imaging of patients with pulmonary cancer—before and after radiation therapy—and determination of kinetics and radiation dosimetry of radionuclide-labeled monoclonal antibodies administered for therapeutic purposes. He also investigates radionuclide therapy of neuroendocrine tumors, the metabolic characterization of brain tumors before and after therapy, and development of new methods for characterizing neuroendocrine tumors, as well as the effects of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery on tumor and normal tissue metabolism.

Coleman is an active member of SNM, having contributed to numerous initiatives advancing both the profession and practice of nuclear medicine. A past chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, he has published more than 400 scientific papers, 80 book chapters, and 7 textbooks on topics related to nuclear medicine and served on the editorial boards of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, *Radiology*, and *Academic Radiology*.

SNM