

Tetalman Award Presented to Kupinski

Matthew Kupinski, PhD, assistant professor of optical science and radiology at the University of Arizona (Tucson) is the recipient of the 2007 Mark Tetalman Award funded by the Education and Research Foundation (ERF) for SNM. The award recognizes outstanding achievement among young investigators in molecular imaging and nuclear medicine and is named after a young nuclear medicine physician whose death ended a promising career. The award, which was presented on June 4 at the SNM Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, includes a plaque, certificate, and \$5,000.

Kupinski received his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago and joined the University of Arizona as a research associate in 2000. He is an established leader in the methodology of objective or task-based assessment of image quality and specific applications of these techniques in nuclear medicine. He has also developed and implemented new mathematical approaches in practical computer algorithms that assess the performance of nuclear imaging systems in clinical tasks. In addition to a number of research applications, he has built 2 pinhole-based, small-animal SPECT systems to test these concepts.

In another research study, he developed a method to assess the accuracy of different SPECT systems in left-ventricular ejection fraction estimations by using software algorithms independent of a “gold standard” from another modality. The mathematics behind this approach have been



Outgoing SNM President Martin Sandler, MD (left), with Kupinski and SNM past president Mathew Thakur, PhD, who presented Kupinski with the 2007 Mark Tetalman award.

verified through extensive analysis, simulation studies, and clinical SPECT data. In addition to his contributions in imaging theory, algorithms, objective assessment of image quality, and construction of innovative SPECT systems, Kupinski has made significant contributions in teaching and through dissemination of information in peer-reviewed articles, scientific presentations, and technical exhibits. These contributions have been recognized with awards and with federal and other grant support for ongoing research efforts. ✨

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to colleagues whose areas of expertise “represent the breadth of the field,” including Darrel Bigner, MD, PhD, a long-time collaborator who has been “essential to the development of my career not only because of his complementary expertise in immunobiology but also because of his sage advice over the years”; Ganesan Vaidyanathan, PhD, “for his wonderful ability to translate concept into chemical reality”; and R. Ed Coleman, MD, “for creating an environment where I could independently pursue research interests that at the time were beyond the traditional domain of nuclear medicine.”

Zalutsky is a member of the board of directors of the SNM Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence. He has

authored or co-authored more than 280 journal articles and reviews and has 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 National Institutes of Health (NIH). In 2005, he received the SNM Berson–Yalow Award for his work, “Cytotoxicity of ^{211}At -Labeled Trastuzumab in Human Breast Cancer Cell Lines: Effects of Specific Activity and HER2 Receptor Heterogeneity.” He is the recipient of a MERIT Award from the National Cancer Institute for his research in targeted radiotherapy. His research has been supported by multiple grants from NIH and the Department of Energy, as well as by a grant from Genentech.

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