Alazraki Named as AFIP Distinguished Scientist

NaomiAlazraki, MD, professor of radiology at the Emory University School of Medicine and chief of nuclear medicine at the Atlanta (GA) Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) Radiologic Pathology section. This is the first time that the prestigious award has been given to a nuclear medicine physician. The American Registry of Pathology administers funding for the award through contributions from the American College of Radiology, the American Roentgen Ray Society, the Radiological Society of North America, the Association of University Radiologists, and the American Osteopathic College of Radiology. Representatives from these organizations and from the Association of Program Directors in Radiology form the Conjoint Committee for Radiologic Pathology at the AFIP and are responsible for selecting each year's distinguished scientist.

Alazraki, a past president of the SNM and current SNM historian, begins her tenure at AFIP on the campus of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Washington, DC) this month. The Distinguished Scientist Program allows academic radiologists to study imaging–pathologic correlation and integrate understanding of the pathologic basis of disease with teaching and research interests. Needs for specific types of expertise in the radiologic pathology section are considered each year by the conjoint committee in selecting the awardee, and the growing importance of molecular imaging techniques was emphasized by the choice of a nuclear medicine physician. Alazraki will also participate in the lecture schedule for the resident courses at the AFIP, through which imaging trainees from across the country rotate as part of their educational programs.

The award recognizes Alazraki's distinguished service in professional societies and government activities focused on imaging. She has served on the Diagnostic Radiology Study Section at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She served as chair of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Radiological Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Medical Imaging Radiopharmaceuticals and Contrast Agents. At the Nuclear Regulatory Commission she served on the Advisory Committee for the Medical Uses of Isotopes. She is a past president of the National Association of VA Chiefs of Nuclear Medicine and was on the Chief

Naomi Alazraki, MD

Medical Directors' clinical and programs advisory council. She served as a member of the board of directors of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, on the American College of Radiology Commission on Nuclear Medicine, and on the board of the Academy for Radiology Research, which led efforts to found the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

Alazraki has published more than 165 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 43 chapters, and 3 books. Her latest volume, *A Clinician's Guide to Nuclear Oncology*, was released earlier this year by SNM. She received her medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (New York, NY) and completed a residency in radiology and nuclear medicine at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), and an internship in pediatrics at Bronx–Lebanon Medical Center (New York, NY). Before joining the Emory staff in 1986, she held faculty positions at the University of Utah (Salt Lake City) and the VA Salt Lake City, as well as at UCSD and the VA San Diego.

"I think that the selection of a nuclear medicine physician for this award likely reflects recognition of the importance of PET/CT to radiology," said Alazraki. "I am very pleased to represent nuclear medicine in this capacity to radiology and to have the opportunity to teach and interact with radiology residents from more than 310 programs nationwide who participate in the didactic courses for which the AFIP is so well known. In addition, I look forward to being a part of the AFIP's activities as our nation's premier clinical pathology expert consultant entity." ✧