

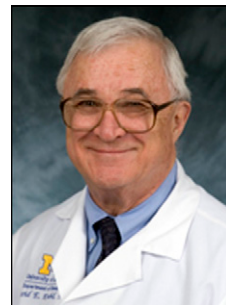
Kuhl Named Japan Prize Awardee

The Science and Technology Foundation of Japan announced on January 16 the names of the co-awardees of the prestigious 2009 Japan Prize for “original and outstanding achievements in science and technology” that have “advanced the frontiers of knowledge and served the cause of peace and prosperity for mankind.” Each year the foundation designates 2 fields for consideration. For 2009, David Kuhl, MD, a professor of radiology and nuclear medicine at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), was the awardee in the category of “technological integration of medical science and engineering” for his contributions to the development of emission tomography. For achievements toward “a sustainable society in harmony with nature,” the foundation awarded a second prize to Dennis L. Meadows, PhD, author of *The Limits of Growth*.

Among Kuhl’s accomplishments cited by the awarding committee were his leadership in development of a series of SPECT devices (the Mark II, III, and IV) in the 1960s and 1970s and advances in tomographic image reconstruction and transaxial section tomography. The contributions were cited as having “an enormous impact on the development and evolution of various methods of computer tomography, including PET.” Kuhl and his coworkers were also recognized for early SPECT measurement of regional cerebral blood volumes, as well as for collaborative work with researchers from the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD) and the Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY) on early investigations with ^{18}F -FDG. This body of work was cited as contributing to the currently transformative and accelerating development of PET and other molecular imaging techniques. In a statement released through the University of Michigan, Kuhl said that he was grateful that the Japan Prize honored not only his contributions but the field of molecular

imaging as a whole. “In molecular imaging there’s a hope and expectation that these new noninvasive ways of determining how things work in small internal parts of the body will be key methods for developing new drugs and for managing patients with more individualized, personalized treatment,” he said. Kuhl is an SNM member and past recipient of the society’s Benedict Cassen Award and George Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award. The SNM Brain Imaging Council created the Kuhl–Lassen Award to honor the accomplishments of Kuhl and the late Nils Lassen, MD. Among other honors, he has been recognized with the Ernst Jung Prize for Medicine and the Charles F. Kettering Prize for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

At a presentation ceremony in Tokyo in April, Kuhl and Meadows will each receive a certificate of merit and commemorative medal. A cash award of 50 million yen is also presented to each laureate. The event is attended by the Japanese prime minister, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the House of Councillors, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, foreign ambassadors to Japan, and about 1,000 other guests. During Japan Prize Week, the laureates are featured at commemorative lectures, attend academic discussion meetings, and take part in other activities.



David Kuhl, MD

Science and Technology Foundation of Japan

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combines Covidien’s expertise in radiopharmaceutical production and global regulatory approvals with B&W’s patented liquid phase nuclear technology. This reactor technology uses low enriched uranium and generates only about 1% of the radioactive waste produced by current highly enriched uranium reactor production of ^{99}Mo .

In addition to providing a reliable domestic supply of the medical isotope, the program will support the U.S. NNSA’s nonproliferation efforts. “This is a significant advancement in technology that B&W is proud to lead. Working in concert

with Covidien, we believe this achievement will have a great impact on the medical and nuclear industries,” said S. Robert Cochran, president of B&W TSG.

*Missouri University Research Reactor
Columbia, MO*

*Advanced Medical Isotope Corporation
Kennewick, WA*

*Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group, Inc.
Lynchburg, VA*