Outstanding Contributors Honored

In several award ceremonies held in Salt Lake City, UT, at the SNM Annual Meeting in June, SNM and SNMTS recognized advances in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging as well as contributions to organizational efforts.

SNM Presidential Distinguished Service Awards, in recognition of dedication to the society, were presented to Henry VanBrocklin, PhD, and Wil B. Nelp, MD. VanBrocklin is a professor of radiology at the University of California San Francisco and director of Radiopharmaceutical Research in the Center for Functional and Molecular Imaging. Nelp is professor emeritus at the University of Washington Medical Center (Seattle). The SNM Presidential Distinguished Educator Award was given to George Segall, MD, chief of nuclear medicine at the Department of Veterans' Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System (CA) and professor of radiology at Stanford University (CA).

Among others recognized with SNM awards or presenting named lectureships were: Larry Kessler, ScD, with the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Lectureship; Thomas Budinger, MD, PhD, with the Hal Anger Lecture; Kirk Frey, MD, PhD, with the Kuhl–Lassen Lecture Award; Rory Hachamovitch, MD, MSc, with the Herrmann Blumgart Award; Grant T. Gullberg, PhD, with the Ed Hoffman Memorial Award; Shawn Hillier, PhD, with the Berson–Yalow Award; N. Reed Dunnick, MD, with the Robert Lull Memorial Lectureship; Armin I. Kassis, PhD, with the Loevinger–Berman Award; Missy Fleming, PhD, and Darlene F. Metter, MD, with the Tom Miller Memorial Award; and Mark M. Goodman, PhD, with the Michael J. Welch Award.

The SNMTS Presidential Distinguished Service Award went to Danny A. Basso, CNMT, NCT, manager at Cardiac Imaging of Augusta (GA). The SNMTS Outstanding Educator Award was presented to Norman E. Bolus, CNMT, MPH, director of the nuclear medicine technology program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the School of Health Professions and assistant professor in the department of clinical and diagnostic sciences.

Five individuals were inducted as SNMTS fellows: Royal T. Davis, CNMT, RT(N), Boston, MA; Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), Little Rock, AR; Leo A. Nalivaika, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), Worcester, MA; Rebecca A. Sajdak, CNMT, RT(N), Maywood, IL; and LisaAnn Trembath, MSM, CNMT, CCRA, NCT, Madison, WI.

MOLECULAR IMAGING UPDATE

A New Vision for the MICoE

Four years ago, SNM's Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence (MICoE) was charged with helping guide SNM through the transition from a nuclear medicine society to an organization that welcomed all disciplines involved in the many facets of molecular imaging. The successful results of these changes are reflected in new SNM membership categories, meeting programming, publications, and many other offerings. As SNM continues to focus on integrating all molecular imaging modalities, the MICoE will begin to focus its attention on the translation of innovative new technologies and agents. Our recently completed strategic planning process resulted in a new vision and mission as well as a proposal to emphasize the new mission by changing our name to the Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation (CMIIT).

Vision: Molecular imaging will be an integral part of the medical standard of care by providing specific information that will be used for diagnosis and to guide therapeutic decisions that improve health and well-being.

Mission: To engage the molecular imaging community and leverage the SNM infrastructure to advance the adoption of emerging molecular imaging technologies and probes in preclinical and clinical applications.

Carolyn J. Anderson, PhD

Our strategic plan goals focus on:

- Providing resources for education and training in molecular imaging for (1) molecular imaging scientists, translational researchers, and preclinical imagers; and (2) nuclear medicine residency programs to ensure residents are prepared for future molecular imaging clinical applications.

(Continued on page 24N)

consciousness and higher order cortical brain function."

Neuroimage
BMC Neurology

THERAPY

HIFU in Bone Tumor Treatment

Li et al. from Sun Yat-Sen University (Guangzhou, China) reported on May 28 ahead of print in *Cancer* on the safety and efficacy of high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) as a technique for ablation and inactivation of malignant bone tumors. The study included 25 patients who were evaluated with MR or PET/CT imaging for serum biochemical markers before and after HIFU treatment for previously diagnosed malignant bone tumors. HIFU resulted in significant improvement in biochemical markers, with no severe complications reported. Twenty-one (87.5%) patients were completely relieved of pain after HIFU, and 24 (100%) experienced significant relief. MR or PET/CT showed an overall response rate of 84.6%, with a complete response in 6 (46.2%) patients with primary bone tumors, a partial response in 5 (38.4%), moderate response in 1 (7.8%), and progressive disease in 1 (7.8%). Among patients with metastatic bone tumors, the overall response rate was 75%, with 5 (41.7%) showing a complete response, 4 (33.3%) a partial response, 1 (8.3%) a moderate response, 1 (8.3%) stable disease, and 1 (8.3%) progressive disease. The 1-, 2-, 3-, and 5-y survival rates were 100.0%, 84.6%, 69.2%, and 38.5%, respectively, for patients with primary bone tumors and 83.3%, 16.7%, 0%, and 0%, respectively, for patients with metastatic bone tumors. The authors concluded that "HIFU ablation should be further investigated, as it appears to be successful in the treatment of primary malignant bone tumors."

Cancer

Sunitinib in Metastatic Thymic Carcinomas

In an article e-published on June 22 ahead of print in the *British Journal of Cancer*, Ströbel et al. from the University of Heidelberg (Germany) reported on the efficacy of sunitinib, a multitargeted tyrosine kinase inhibitor, in thymic carcinoma. The researchers accessed snap-frozen tumor tissues from patients with metastatic thymic carcinomas refractory to conventional therapies to perform molecular analyses showing activation and genetic mutations of receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs). Four patients, whose tumors showed activation of multiple RTKs, underwent sunitinib treatment according to standard protocols. Administration of sunitinib yielded a partial remission (2–18+ mo) according to the Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors in 3 patients and stable disease with excellent metabolic response on ^{18}F-FDG PET in another. Overall survival with sunitinib treatment ranged from 4–40+ mo, compared with average survival of 24 mo for all patients who do and do not respond to standard therapies. In 1 patient, cessation of the drug resulted in rapid tumor progression that was found to be controlled by resumption of administration. The authors concluded that "sunitinib is an active treatment for metastatic thyroid carcinomas" and that "a panel of molecular analyses may be warranted for optimal patient selection."

British Journal of Cancer

REVIEWS

Review articles provide an important way to stay up to date on the latest topics and approaches by providing valuable summaries of pertinent literature. The Newsline editor recommends several reviews accessioned into the PubMed database in late May and June. In an article e-published on May 29 ahead of print in *International Orthopaedics,* Hirschmann et al. from the Kantonsspital Bruderholz (Switzerland) provided a clinical overview of "Combined single photon emission computerised tomography and conventional computerised tomography (SPECT/CT) in patellofemoral disorders." On June 9, ahead of print in the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*, Gibson et al. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (New York, NY) summarized "Neuroimaging, gut peptides and obesity: novel studies of the neurobiology of appetite." Ma et al. from the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD) on June 11 ahead of print in *Current Drug Metabolism* reviewed "Applications of LC-MS in PET radioligand development and metabolic elucidation."

(Continued from page 19N)

- Facilitating translation of emerging molecular imaging technologies (such as nanotechnology) by increasing knowledge and support for molecular imaging in the biomedical community and encouraging public policies and regulations that facilitate the approval and adoption of new molecular imaging agents/technologies as the standard of care.
- Ensuring a membership that includes diversity in work roles and imaging modalities and provides appropriate resources for this diverse membership.

These continuing efforts will make SNM and our center an effective advocate, a comprehensive educational resource, and a welcoming organizational home for all molecular imaging professionals.

Carolyn J. Anderson, PhD
President, MICoE