

Schelbert Completes Service as *JNM* Editor-in-Chief

With the publication of the December issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)*, Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the University of California at Los Angeles and George V. Taplin professor at the university's David Geffen School of Medicine, stepped down as editor in chief, completing 8 years of service and compiling a distinguished record of innovation and achievement. Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD, professor and director of nuclear medicine and PET in the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN), is the new editor in chief.

Schelbert became editor in 2004, after a 6-mo transition period with the previous editor, Martin Sandler, MD. "It has been an honor to serve as editor in chief of *JNM*," said Schelbert. "We have made continual strides in bringing valuable scientific research to the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community. The studies published monthly in the journal represent cutting-edge research that is truly some of the best in the field."

Under Schelbert's leadership, *JNM* has grown in scope and influence. In 2011 *JNM* was ranked as the top medical imaging journal worldwide by *Journal Citation Reports*. *JNM* earned an impact factor of 7.022—almost a full point higher than any other medical imaging journal. The journal has held this position for 3 consecutive years. "We take great pride in bringing the cutting-edge scientific research to our readers and strive to ensure that every article published is comprehensive, relevant, and meaningful," said Schelbert. "The entire *JNM* editorial team is committed to maintaining the level of quality the journal is known for and works diligently to compile the latest in nuclear and molecular imaging research."

Schelbert modernized the journal at the same time that he continued long traditions of wide inclusiveness and high editorial standards. During his first year as editor in chief, the journal's manuscript submission and review transitioned from a paper-based process to an entirely electronic system. This resulted in acceleration of review and publication, improvements that Schelbert also credited to the many referees who provided "thoughtful and insightful" evaluations throughout his editorship. He oversaw the redesign of the journal's cover, to include selected key images from each issue, as well as a redesign of journal pages and a novel

approach to a "summary" table of contents. Online republication of manuscripts and the availability of complete past issues in an improved online database also occurred during his tenure.

Schelbert received his medical and doctoral degrees from the Würzburg (Germany) School of Medicine. His major research interests have been in the development and validation of noninvasive radionuclide imaging techniques for investigation of cardiovascular function and the application of these novel techniques to the study of functional and metabolic consequences of coronary artery disease. He was awarded the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award for his distinguished contributions to nuclear medicine by SNM and delivered the Hal O. Anger lectureship. He is also a 2-time recipient of the Georg von Hevesy Prize from the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology. He is an elected fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association and serves on the editorial boards of several journals. He is also an honorary member of the German and the Swiss Society of Nuclear Medicine and has served the Chinese Medical Association as senior advisor to the *Chinese Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

This issue of *JNM* marks the first for Delbeke as editor in chief after the traditional 6-mo transition period with Schelbert. She has published more than 120 peer-reviewed journal articles and is the author of 5 books and 70 book chapters. "*JNM* is the educational flagship of SNM, disseminating research to members of SNM and the medical community at large to advance the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging," said Delbeke. She is committed to maintaining the quality and timeliness of the review process and conducting outreach for national and international visibility of *JNM*. "Dominique has a passion for the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and has contributed greatly to the community over the years," said Schelbert. "Her expertise and leadership will undoubtedly benefit *JNM* and its readers."



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