

SNM and SNMTS Honor Outstanding Contributors

At the SNM (now SNMMI) Annual Meeting in Miami Beach, FL, in June, the society recognized contributions to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging with awards to members who have played valuable roles in advancing the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, cancer, and neurologic conditions. The awardees included physicians and scientists who have contributed directly through service to the society and/or through achievements in basic, translational, and clinical science.

SNM Annual Awards

Presidential Distinguished Service Award

The Presidential Distinguished Service Award, which is given in recognition of continual dedication to the society, was awarded to 2 recipients—Henry Royal, MD, and the SNM staff. Royal is a professor of radiology at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO) and the associate director of nuclear medicine at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology. He completed his internal medicine training at Brown University (Providence, RI) and his nuclear medicine training at Harvard University (Boston, MA). He was a member of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine from 1993 to 1999 and now serves as its executive director. He was president of SNM from 2003 to 2004. Royal was the coteam leader of the health effects section of the International Atomic Energy Association International Chernobyl Project and a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments. He has been a member of several National Academy of Sciences committees.

The SNM staff also was recognized with the award for their continued commitment to the society. The staff includes more than 40 individuals in 12 departments. Virginia Pappas, CAE, CEO of the society, accepted the award on behalf of staff members.

Presidential Distinguished Educator Award

Simin Dadparvar, MD, and Lalitha Ramanna, MD, were selected for the Presidential Distinguished Educator Award for their roles in the development of the CT Case Review and MR Case Review workshops. Through these workshops, more than 3,000 nuclear medicine physicians have been trained and certified to independently interpret CT studies.

Dadparvar currently conducts clinical research in hematology and oncology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). In addition to several positions there, she has also held many academic appointments and served as director of nuclear medicine at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia. A graduate from the Pahlavi University School of Medicine (Shiraz, Iran), Dadparvar has been an active member of SNM for more than 3 decades and has served the society in many capacities. She is immediate past president of the SNM Correlative Imaging

Council and sits on the board of directors for the SNMMI Nuclear Oncology Council.

Ramanna serves as director of nuclear medicine at Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital (Torrance, CA) and is clinical associate professor at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She received her medical degree from the University of Bombay (India). Ramanna is the president of SNMMI's Correlative Imaging Council and sits on the board of directors for the SNMMI PET Center of Excellence.

Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Lectureship

Kirk Frey, MD, PhD, delivered the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Lectureship on June 10. His lecture, "Molecular Imaging of Neurodegenerative Disease," highlighted translational molecular approaches to imaging vulnerable neurons, protein depositions, and glucose metabolism as biomarkers of neurodegenerative conditions. Frey received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA) and his medical and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). He completed residency training in neurology with fellowships in nuclear medicine and neurology. Frey currently serves as professor in the departments of radiology and neurology and is director of the PET Center at the University of Michigan Hospitals (Ann Arbor).

Michael J. Welch Award

Carolyn J. Anderson, PhD, professor of radiology and pharmacology & chemical biology and director of the Molecular Imaging Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh (PA), received the Michael J. Welch Award, which is presented annually by the SNMMI Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to radiopharmaceutical sciences.

Anderson received her bachelor of science in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin–Superior and her doctoral degree in inorganic chemistry from Florida State University (Tallahassee). She was a research associate in the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO), where she remained until 2011 and became a professor in the departments of radiology, biochemistry and molecular biophysics, and chemistry. Anderson's research interests include the development and evaluation of novel radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic imaging and targeted radiotherapy of cancer and other diseases.

Berson–Yalow Award

Hao Hong, PhD, received the 2012 Berson–Yalow Award, named for Rosalyn S. Yalow, PhD, and Solomon A. Berson, MD, who together developed radioimmunoassay technique in the 1950s. SNM established the award in 1977, the year that Yalow received the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine. Judges for the award choose the investigator who submits the most original abstract

for presentation at the society's annual meeting and who has made significant contributions to basic or clinical radioimmunoassay research or any area of research using the indicator-dilution method.

Hong received his bachelor and doctoral degrees in biochemistry and molecular biology from Nanjing University (P.R. China). He is currently a research associate under the supervision of Weibo Cai, PhD, in the Department of Radiology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Hong's research is focused on development of multimodality molecular imaging agents (in particular those for PET and near-infrared fluorescence), biomedical applications of various nanomaterials, and molecular therapy of cancer.

Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award

Paul Kinahan, PhD, professor of radiology, bioengineering, electrical engineering, and physics and director of PET/CT physics at the University of Washington (Seattle) was the 2012 recipient of the Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award, which is presented annually by the SNMMI Computer and Instrumentation Council. The award recognizes scientists in nuclear medicine for their service and devotion to research and development of instrumentation and to educating and training the next generation of scientists.

Kinahan received his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering physics from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver) and his doctorate in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). He became an assistant professor of radiology and bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh (PA), where he was a member of the group that developed the first PET/CT scanner. Kinahan has served SNM in several roles, including leadership positions in the Computer and Instrumentation Council and the Pacific Northwest Chapter, as well as the Committee on Chapters.

Kuhl-Lassen Lecture Award

On June 11, Adriaan Lammertsma, PhD, accepted the Kuhl-Lassen Lecture Award for Research in Brain Imaging, an annual award presented by the Brain Imaging Council to honor a scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of functional brain imaging using SPECT and PET. Lammertsma's lecture was titled "Quantitative PET: A Must in the Past, A Must in the Future."

Lammertsma is head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine & PET Research of the VU University Medical Center (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). He has been active in PET research since 1979, when he joined the MRC Cyclotron Unit at Hammersmith Hospital (London, UK). His research has focused on development and application of tracer kinetic models for quantitative PET studies. Lammertsma is coauthor of more than 300 peer-reviewed articles.

Hermann-Blumgart Award

Mehran Sadeghi, MD, associate professor of medicine at Yale University School of Medicine and staff physician at the Veteran's Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System (New Haven, CT), was selected by the SNM Cardiovascular Council

to receive the Hermann Blumgart Award. The award recognizes key contributors to the science of nuclear cardiology who are also advocates for the field through involvement with the society's research and educational activities.

Sadeghi received his medical degree from Necker-Enfants Malades Faculty of Medicine (Paris, France) in 1991. After a period of training in vascular biology at Yale University (New Haven, CT), he joined the Yale-New Haven Hospital's residency program in internal medicine and went on to pursue fellowships in cardiology, nuclear cardiology, and vascular biology at Yale. In 2000 he joined the cardiology faculty at Yale, where he is currently the director of the Cardiovascular Molecular Imaging Laboratory. He has been an active member of several professional societies and is the immediate past president of the SNM Cardiovascular Council.

SNM Technologist Section Annual Awards

The SNM Technologist Section (SNM-TS, now SNMMI-TS) recognized contributions to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging and work in support of the society during its 2012 Annual Meeting in Miami Beach, FL, in June. Several awards ceremonies were held to recognize the value of SNMMI-TS members in advancing the discipline of nuclear medicine technology.

Outstanding Technologist Award

Elizabeth Hackett, RT(N), PET, RT(CT), research manager for the Division of Translational Imaging at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University Medical Center (New York, NY), was awarded the 2012 Outstanding Technologist Award. A Leadership Academy alumnus, she currently serves on the SNMMI-TS Executive Board and the National Council of Representatives, is chair of the Professional Development Task Force, and sits on the Continuing Education Committee, Membership Committee, Committee on Chapters, and New Professionals Working Group. She is also the president-elect for the Greater New York Chapter-Technologist Section.

Hackett received her associate degree in applied science in nuclear medicine technology at Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI). She then earned an undergraduate degree in business administration from Baker College (MI). She was a staff technologist at St. Mary's Hospital (Grand Rapids, MI) and at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY), as well as a research technologist at the Research Foundation for Mental Health/Columbia University.

Outstanding Educator Award

David Gilmore, MS, CNMT, RT(N), director of quality management and education at Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, MA), was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a society member who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to the field of nuclear medicine technology.

Gilmore received his bachelor of science in health sciences from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA) and his master of science in education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Blacksburg, VA). His experience includes program development and administration, evaluation and counseling, and curriculum development. An SNM-TS member since 1994, Gilmore has served the society in many capacities: as president, president-elect, and chair of the Transition Task Force, as well as on several other committees. He also has participated in the New England and Mid-Atlantic chapters of the society.

Distinguished Service Award

Teresa Ellmer-Buckley, nuclear medicine technologist at Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC) was recognized with the 2012 Distinguished Service Award. She attended the George Washington University Certified Nuclear Medicine Program (Washington, DC) and is currently enrolled at the University of Arkansas in the Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate Program. She has served as a nuclear medicine technologist in several Washington, DC, area hospitals and private clinical settings.

Ellmer-Buckley currently serves on the board of directors of the Advanced Associates Council, on the Executive Committee of the Professional Development and Education Fund, as chair of the New Professionals Task Force, and as a member of the Advocacy Committee and the Professional Development Task Force. She is also secretary for the Mid-Eastern Chapter of SNMMI-TS.

Fellowship Awards

The following individuals were inducted as fellows of the society. These are members who have demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to the profession of nuclear medicine technology at the national level in participation in professional activities, education, professional experience, professional contributions, and/or

civic activities. Each fellowship awardee receives a memorial plaque and pin at the society's annual business meeting.

This year's fellows included: Norman E. Bolus, CNMT, MPH, director of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program and assistant professor in the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Health Professions; Jo Kathryn E. Hunt, MS, CNMT, assistant professor and program chair of nuclear medicine technology in the Division of Allied Health at Baptist College of Health Sciences (Memphis, TN); Sara G. Johnson, MBA, CNMT, RT(N), NCT, research coordinator for nuclear medicine and staff nuclear medicine technologist with the Veterans Affairs (VA) San Diego Healthcare System; Eleanor S. Mantel, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), manager of nuclear medicine and clinical molecular imaging at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia); Michele A. Panichi-Egberts, CNMT, a radiation safety officer for Nuclear Diagnostic Products of Philadelphia (PA); and Nancy M. Swanston, CNMT, RT(N), PET, manager of PET and PET/CT operations at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (Houston).

President's Plaque

Ann Marie Alessi, BS, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), was awarded the society's president's plaque and gavel for her service as 2011–2012 SNM-TS president. Alessi currently serves as product sales manager of nuclear medicine at Biodex Medical Systems, Inc. (Shirley, NY). She has served on numerous councils and committees for the society and has been involved with the organization on many levels throughout her career. She belongs to the Greater New York Chapter of SNMMI-TS and the Long Island Society of Nuclear Medicine Technology. Alessi has received many honors and awards for excellence in the field of nuclear medicine. She graduated as valedictorian of the nuclear medicine technology program at the VA Medical Center (Northport, NY) and is a retired first sergeant for the U.S. Army Reserves Medical Corp.