Schelbert Receives ACC Award

At the annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) in late March in Chicago, IL, Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD, was presented with the ACC 2012 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement award. The ACC recognized Schelbert as "a giant in the field of cardiology," adding that "with a plethora of seminal achievements as a pioneer in the development and application of PET and other nuclear cardiovascular technologies, he is a rare researcher who can truly claim the honor of witnessing the direct application of his experimental research to clinical care and improved patient outcomes during his lifetime." Schelbert is the George V. Taplin Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and recently completed distinguished service as editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. The ACC award is among the most prestigious in the cardiovascular field.

In 1970, Schelbert started one of the first cardiovascular PET programs in the United States. Together with colleagues including Michael Phelps, PhD, David E. Kuhl, MD, Henry Huang, ScD, and Jorge R. Barrio, PhD, at UCLA, he built a lab that remains a leader in clinical and translational imaging. He pioneered basic research and validation studies of cardiac PET tracers for metabolism (^{18}F-FDG, ^{11}C-palmitate, and ^{11}C-acetate) and perfusion (^{13}N-ammonia and ^{82}Rb) and subsequently applied them in clinical cardiology. In just one example, he and his coworkers identified FDG as a specific marker of myocardial tissue viability. Today FDG PET viability, combined with perfusion imaging, has become a gold standard for identification of hibernating myocardium in patients with ischemic cardiomyopathy. Using ^{13}N-ammonia PET imaging Schelbert succeeded in developing quantitative measurements that allowed regional assessment of coronary flow reserve in patients with subclinical and clinically manifest coronary artery disease (CAD). The ability to noninvasively assess coronary flow reserve with ^{13}N-ammonia PET in asymptomatic patients with cardiovascular risk factors offered mechanistic insights into abnormalities of coronary function as precursors of CAD. His research has provided a framework for widely used treatment strategies to modify and reduce coronary risk.

Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD

Schelbert has received numerous awards from the nuclear medicine, cardiovascular, and imaging communities. At a personal level, he is a kind, caring, and compassionate colleague. His groundbreaking clinical and research work in the cardiovascular field, his outstanding publications, and his brilliance as an organizer, thought leader, and teacher continue to garner respect and recognition.

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Second World Congress on ^{68}Ga Molecular Imaging

The organizers of the 2nd World Congress on ^{68}Ga Molecular Imaging (PET/CT), Targeted Radionuclide Therapy and Dosimetry (SWC-2013), have issued the first formal announcement for the meeting, which will be held at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, India, from February 28 to March 2, 2013. With the theme "On the Way to Personalized Medicine," the congress will be hosted by the Department of Nuclear Medicine and PET at PGIMER and cohosted by the University of Iowa (Iowa City). Interest in the conference reflects the rapid worldwide growth in clinical use of ^{68}Ga-labeled peptides and preclinical research in targeted molecular imaging and radiation therapy.

Over the 3-day congress, the organizers have planned for plenary lectures, invited talks, and roundtable conferences by internationally recognized experts in radionuclide generator technologies, ^{68}Ga molecular imaging, and peptide receptor radionuclide therapy, with special sessions planned to highlight advances in targeted α-particle tumor therapy and integration of molecular imaging, radionuclide therapy, and surgery for theranostic development. Presentations will include novel approaches to molecular targeting and use of preclinical molecular imaging for drug development. Abstracts submission for presentations at the meeting will remain open throughout 2012.

The congress follows the success of the 1st World Congress on Gallium-68 Molecular Imaging, held in Bad Berka, Germany, in June 2010, with more than 400 participants from 50 countries and more than 80 scientific presentations. SWC-2013 conference president Baljinder Singh, PhD, a professor of nuclear medicine at PGIMER, anticipates a similar level of attendance for the conference in India. "Interest has been enthusiastic from speakers, participants, and industry sponsors from around the world, and we are expecting an excellent turnout," he said. Congress organizers can be reached by e-mail at secondworldcongressga68prrnt@yahoo.com or through the congress Web site at www.2ndworldcongress-ga-68.de.

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