

Siegel Receives 2014 Benedict Cassen Prize

Barry A. Siegel, MD, known for his pioneering work in nuclear medicine and clinical PET imaging, was awarded the Benedict Cassen Prize during the 2014 Annual Meeting of the SNMMI in St. Louis, MO. Siegel is professor of radiology and medicine and chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. The Cassen award is presented every 2 years by the Education and Research Foundation (ERF) for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging to scientists or physician/scientists whose work has led to a major advance in basic or clinical nuclear medicine science.

“We honor Dr. Barry Siegel with the 2014 Benedict Cassen Prize for his sustained contributions to clinical translation of nuclear medicine science and, in particular, his visionary leadership in developing scientific methodology for evidence-based clinical trials that resulted in widespread acceptance of imaging studies using PET,” said ERF president Peter S. Conti, MD, PhD.

During a special SNMMI plenary session on June 9, Siegel presented the Cassen lecture, titled “What Have We Learned from the National Oncologic PET Registry [NOPR]?” He reviewed the history of PET reimbursement, including the accomplishments of NOPR and the limitations of observational registries in generating evidence that a technology leads to improved patient outcomes. He has served as cochair of NOPR for the last decade, and his efforts and those of his colleagues have helped to expand coverage for PET by the Medicare program and achieve wider recognition and consensus on the benefits of PET and PET/CT technologies.

Siegel earned his medical degree in 1969 from Washington University School of Medicine, where he completed a residency in diagnostic radiology and fellowship in nuclear medicine. Siegel has now been with Washington University Medical School for more than 45 years. Throughout his career, he has been active in nuclear medicine research and has made contributions to the diagnosis of pulmonary embolism, detection of thrombosis, and oncologic applications of radionuclide tracers. He has been a leader in the development and conduct of multicenter clinical trials in cancer imaging with PET. His current research focuses on

applications of PET for monitoring and predicting tumor response to treatment, as well as incorporation of imaging biomarkers into multicenter clinical trials.

A prolific writer and editor, Siegel has authored more than 370 journal articles, book chapters, and texts. He served as an associate editor for *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* for many years and serves on the editorial boards of the *European*



Barry A. Siegel, MD

Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, *RSNA News*, and *Clinical and Translational Imaging*. He was awarded the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nuclear Medicine by SNM in 2003, the Peter Valk Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award from the Academy of Molecular Imaging in 2008, and the Distinguished Clinician Award from Washington University School of Medicine in 2013. He has served on numerous SNMMI committees and councils, lending his expertise in clinical and technical PET to advances that affect the national and international molecular imaging communities.

The Cassen Prize honors Benedict Cassen, whose invention of the rectilinear radioisotope scanner—the first instrument capable of making images of radiotracer distribution in body organs of living patients—was seminal to the development of clinical nuclear medicine. Siegel is the 13th individual since 1994 to have been presented the prize, which carries a \$25,000 award. “Dr. Siegel has been a pioneer in clinical PET, proving its effectiveness and ensuring adequate reimbursement,” said SNMMI 2013–2014 President Gary Dillehay, MD. “In receiving the Cassen Prize, he takes his place among the most influential people in nuclear medicine imaging.”

Siegel said, “I am truly honored to have received this award and am gratified that my efforts, in collaboration with so many colleagues at Washington University and other institutions, have helped to achieve broader recognition of the utility of PET in clinical practice.”

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