2014 Aebersold Award Presented to Barrett

Harrison H. Barrett, PhD, received the 2014 Aebersold Award on June 8 in a plenary session at the SNMMI Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. Barrett is a Regents Professor in Optical Sciences, Radiology, and Applied Mathematics at the University of Arizona (Tucson), where he is also a professor in the Program in Biomedical Engineering at the Arizona Cancer Center and director of the Center for Gamma Ray Imaging. Barrett was introduced at the session by Todd Peterson, PhD, Associate Professor of Radiology, Physics, and Chemical and Physical Biology at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN). "Throughout Dr. Barrett's career, he has been an innovative leader in designing new approaches to image acquisition, intraoperative nuclear medicine, gamma ray detection and imaging, and semiconductor detector applications in nuclear medicine and image reconstruction," said Peterson. "His Center for Gamma Ray Imaging has introduced a number of innovative imaging systems, including those designed for SPECT, CT, SPECT/CT, and PET." Peterson added that the area in which Barrett is best known is task-based assessment of image quality. In addition to authoring definitive texts in his areas of expertise, Barrett has mentored and supervised 59 PhD candidates at the University of Arizona.

Barrett is a fellow of the American Physical Society, American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the Optical Society of America. His work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the IEEE Medal for Innovations in Healthcare Technology, IEEE Medical Imaging Scientist Award, SPIE Gold Medal, C.E.K. Mees Medal of the Optical Society of America, Humboldt Foundation Senior Distinguished U.S. Scientist Award, and the Science Foundation of Ireland E.T.S Walton Fellowship.

Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, Gary Dillehay, MD, Harrison H. Barrett, PhD, and Todd Peterson, PhD, at the opening plenary session of the SNMMI Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO.

"My first SNM meeting was in 1972, 42 years ago, and in the intervening time this society and the people in it have been a centerpiece of my research," said Barrett on accepting the award. "More than half of the 59 PhD students I have mentored did dissertations in nuclear medicine and some aspect of gamma ray imaging. I'm very grateful to those students and to my colleagues in the Center for Gamma Ray Imaging for all they have accomplished in the field."

The Aebersold Award is named for Paul C. Aebersold, a pioneer in the biologic and medical application of radioactive materials and the first director of the Atomic Energy Commission Division of Isotopes Development at Oak Ridge, TN. It was first awarded in 1973 and honors outstanding achievement in basic science applied to nuclear medicine.

Charkes Receives 2014 de Hevesy Award

At the SNMMI Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO, N. David Charkes, MD, emeritus professor of radiology at the Temple University School of Medicine (Philadelphia, PA), was formally honored with the 2013 Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award for his contributions to nuclear medicine. The award had been presented in May in a small ceremony in Philadelphia, PA, and a video of the event was shown at the SNMMI plenary session on June 8. The award was presented to Charkes by Leon Malmud, MD, Herbert M. Stauffer Professor of Radiology and Dean Emeritus of the Temple University School of Medicine and a past president of SNMMI. "N. David Charkes, MD, represents a deserved addition to a most distinguished list of nuclear medicine pioneers who have been the recipients of the de Hevesy award," said Malmud. "Dr. Charkes's seminal work in demonstrating the scientific basis and validity of bone scintigraphy and

Leon Malamud, MD (left), and N. David Charkes, MD, at the presentation of the de Hevesy Award in Philadelphia, PA.

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NRC Seeks Public Comment on 2 Sets of Regulations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced on July 25 that it is seeking public comment as staff begins to consider possible changes to radiation protection standards. The agency's radiation protection regulations traditionally have aligned closely with those used internationally, as issued by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The ICRP has made changes since the last NRC update in 1991. NRC staff has identified 6 policy and technical issues to be addressed as it begins to develop the technical basis for proposed changes. The request for comment, published in the July 25 *Federal Register*, asked for input on these issues. The lengthy *Federal Register* article noted that differences between federal 10 CFR part 20 requirements and the ICRP recommendations "have created challenges for the NRC and its licensees." The 6 protection regulation issues identified for potential harmonization include: an update of 10 CFR Part 20 to align with ICRP methodology and terminology; occupational dose limits for the lens of the eye; dose limits for embryo/fetus of a declared pregnant occupational worker; as-low-as-reasonably-achievable (ALARA) planning in individual protection; "metrication" of units of radiation exposure and dose; and reporting of occupational exposure. Each issue was accompanied by a series of key defining questions to be considered in changing current regulations.

The agency expects to hold a series of public meetings to discuss the issues during the comment period, which will be open for 120 days from the date of the *Federal Register* notice. Notices of those meetings and any material related to the proposed rulemaking will be posted on the federal rulemaking website. The full text of the request for comment is available at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-07-25/pdf/2014-17252.pdf.

Earlier in the same week, on July 21, the NRC also announced that it would be seeking public comments on proposed revisions to requirements for medical uses of radioactive materials. While implementing current regulations, NRC staff, stakeholders, and NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes identified the need for these proposed revisions, which were published in the July 21 *Federal Register.*

The NRC proposes to amend 10 CFR Part 35 and make some conforming changes to Parts 30 and 32. The changes would amend the definition of medical events associated with permanent implant brachytherapy; update training and experience requirements for authorized users, medical physicists, radiation safety officers, and nuclear pharmacists; address a petition the NRC received seeking to recognize the qualifications of board-certified physicists and radiation safety officers not specifically named on a license; change requirements for measuring molybdenum contamination and reporting generator tests that exceed allowed contamination levels; allow associate radiation safety officers to be named on a medical license; and make several minor clarifications.

The full text of the request for comments is available at: www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/07/21/2014-16752/medical-use-of-byproduct-material-medical-event-definitions-and-training-and-experience. Public comments on the proposed revisions will be accepted through November 18 and may be submitted through the Federal e-Rulemaking portal as described in the *Federal Register* article.

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proselytizing its usefulness to medical specialists began more than 50 years ago. His scholarly efforts with his colleagues in radiation oncology and pathology resulted in a technique that remains one of the most frequently performed and clinically useful contemporary nuclear medicine procedures." Malmud added that Charkes had originally introduced him early on to the new specialty of nuclear medicine and had served as "a cherished colleague and one of the finest teachers that I have experienced in my career." Other significant contributions have included Charkes' work with thyroidology, compartmental analysis, and thrombosis. He taught a popular thyroid scintingraphy course at the SNMMI Annual Meeting for almost 20 years.

"Thank you to the SNMMI and its award committee for bestowing on me this prestigious award. I'm humbled by reading the list of prior recipients, many of whom made outstanding contributions to human welfare," said Charkes. "In all of my work, my aim has been to apply experimental findings to the patient, in order to better understand what we see on the bone scan and to increase our accuracy in bone interpretation."

Each year since 1960, SNMMI has presented the de Hevesy award to an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. de Hevesy received the 1943 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work exploring the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of radioactive compounds in the human body.