

Gropler Receives 2015 Blumgart Award

The SNMMI Cardiovascular Council (CVC) presented its highest honor, the Hermann Blumgart Award, to Robert J. Gropler, MD, on June 7 at the society's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. Selection of each year's awardee by the directors of the CVC is based on criteria of scientific contributions to the field of cardiovascular nuclear medicine and service to the council. Gropler, a professor of Radiology, Medicine, and Biomedical Engineering at the Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO), presented a lecture on "Cardiovascular nuclear medicine at the vanguard of precision medicine in cardiovascular disease."

At Washington University Gropler has served as director of both the Division of Radiological Sciences and the Cardiovascular Imaging Laboratory at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology (MIR). He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati (OH) College of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), where he was chief medical resident. He then completed a cardiology fellowship at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine (Chicago), followed by a 2-year research fellowship at MIR.

Gropler has been recognized for his work in developing new PET radiopharmaceuticals that permit noninvasive assessment of key myocardial cellular processes and for related advances in PET and MR imaging. His research



Left to right: Mehran M. Sadeghi, MD, Cardiovascular Council (CVC) past president; Prem Soman, MD, PhD, CVC immediate past president; Robert J. Gropler, MD, 2015 Blumgart Awardee; Vasken Dilsizian, MD, CVC past president.

interest is in the study of alterations in the myocardial metabolic–functional relation in both normal and abnormal cardiac states. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in nuclear cardiology and related topics.

2015–2017 Wagner–Torizuka Fellows

SNMMI announced on September 1 the recipients of the 2015–2017 SNMMI Wagner–Torizuka Fellowships. This 2-year award, founded in 2008 by Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, and Kanji Torizuka, MD, PhD, is designed to provide extensive training and experience in the fields of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging for Japanese physicians in the early stages of their careers. "SNMMI is proud to sponsor the Wagner–Torizuka Fellowship. This program honors 2 international pioneers and helps to promote continued research in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging," said Gary L. Dillehay, MD, SNMMI past president and chair of the SNMMI Awards Committee. The new fellows, each receiving an annual stipend of \$24,000 (U.S.), are:

- **Kanae Kawai Miyake, MD, PhD**, Kyoto University Hospital (Japan), whose research interests include the potential utility of high-resolution dedicated breast PET scanners in detailed functional/molecular distribution within tumors. She is studying in the Department of Radiology, Stanford University School of Medicine (CA) under advisor Debra M. Ikeda, MD.
- **Yoshiro Itatani, MD, PhD**, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine (Japan), whose research focuses on

several imaging modalities, including molecular-targeted therapy and angiogenesis in the tumor microenvironment using fluorescent conjugated antibodies and radiopharmaceuticals. He is conducting research at the Moores Cancer Center, University of California at San Diego, under advisor Napoleon Ferrara, MD, PhD.

- **Takehiro Nakahara, MD, PhD**, Gunma University Hospital (Gunma, Japan), who is researching the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, especially vascular calcification in vulnerable plaque using multiple imaging modalities. He is studying at the Cardiovascular Imaging Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (New York, NY) under advisors H. William Strauss, MD, and Jagat Narula, MD, PhD.

The SNMMI Wagner–Torizuka Fellowship program, sponsored by Nihon Medi-Physics Co., Ltd., has successfully graduated 20 fellows since its inauguration in 2008. Six fellows are currently studying at host institutions across the United States. Applications and additional information about requirements for the 2016–2018 SNMMI Wagner–Torizuka Fellowship are available at www.snmmi.org/grants. Applications are due February 1, 2016.