

SNMMI Annual Meeting Awards in Brief

At its annual meeting in Baltimore, MD, in June, SNMMI recognized the valuable role of its members and other contributors in advancing nuclear and molecular medicine. Special lectures and awards for outstanding achievement were part of each day's program at the meeting. A few of these are highlighted here.

SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Award

The SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Award, given in recognition of continual dedication to the society, was awarded to Josh Mailman. He is an executive with more than 20 years of success in the technology field. His work with the Global Health Research Foundation has taken him to Uganda and Bhutan, where he has used his information technology knowledge to decrease the time and effort required to track diseases. Mailman is president of the NorCal CarciNET Community and chair of the SNMMI Patient Advocate Advisory Board, as well as a member of the SNMMI Radioisotope Therapy Outreach Working Group.



SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Educator Award

Janis O'Malley, MD, was selected for the SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Educator Award for her substantial contributions to SNMMI educational content and leadership. O'Malley is director of the Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics and professor of radiology at the University of Alabama–Birmingham. She has a long record of interest and service in physician education as well as clinical interests centered on the use of PET/CT in oncology and neurology. She is past chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and has served as an oral board examiner in nuclear medicine for the American Board of Radiology. She has served on multiple SNMMI committees and councils.



Henry J. Wagner, Jr., Lecture

François Bénard, MD, delivered the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Lecture on June 7. His presentation, "Accelerating nuclear medicine with cyclotron-produced ^{99m}Tc ," addressed the critical need for a reliable domestic source of the radionuclide. Bénard is the leadership chair in functional cancer imaging at The University of British Columbia/British Columbia



Cancer Agency (Vancouver, Canada) and was the recipient of the 2014 National Sciences and Engineering Research Sciences of Canada Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering. His research focuses on development of novel radiopharmaceuticals for cancer diagnosis and therapy and of noninvasive methods to predict and monitor the response of primary and metastatic tumors to chemotherapy.

Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Best Paper Award

Christine Sandiego, PhD, post-doctoral associate at the Yale University School of Medicine (New Haven, CT), received the Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, Best Paper Award for "Systemic endotoxin induces a robust increase in microglial activation measured with ^{11}C -PBR28 and PET in humans."



Michael J. Welch Award

Martin W. Brechbiel, PhD, head of the Radioimmune Chemistry Section at the National Cancer Institute (Bethesda, MD), received the Michael J. Welch Award, which is presented annually by the SNMMI Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council. Brechbiel is a leading authority on the chemistry required for effective targeted radiation therapy and imaging. His studies have led to initiation of multiple clinical trials, including those employing ^{213}Bi and ^{212}Pb .



Berson–Yalow Award

Matthias Eder, PhD, received the Berson–Yalow Award. The award commemorates Solomon A. Berson, MD, and Rosalyn S. Yalow, PhD, who developed the radioimmunoassay technique in the 1950s. SNMMI established the award in 1977, the year that Yalow received the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine. Judges for the Berson–Yalow award choose the investigator who submits the most original abstract at the SNMMI Annual Meeting and who has made significant contributions to related basic or clinical research. Eder is head of the Research Group Radiopharmaceutical Sciences in the Division of Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry at the German Cancer Research Center (Heidelberg, Germany). His projects involve biotechnological methods for development of



new radiopharmaceuticals targeting receptors overexpressed in several cancers, with a current focus on prostate cancer.

Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award

Benjamin M.W. Tsui, PhD, was presented with the Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award by the SNMMI Computer and Instrumentation Council. The award honors the memory of Edward J. Hoffman, PhD, and recognizes scientists in the field of nuclear medicine for service to research and development in nuclear medicine instrumentation and to educating and training the next generation of scientists. Tsui is a professor in the Johns Hopkins Medicine Division of Medical Imaging Physics within the Department of Radiology and Radiological Science. He specializes in SPECT, PET, and MR imaging. Tsui has published ~200 scientific articles, contributed nearly 30 chapters to engineering and physics textbooks, and served as an editor and reviewer for many academic journals.



Kuhl–Lassen Lecture Award

On Sunday, June 7, John Seibyl, MD, accepted the Kuhl–Lassen Lecture Award, presented by the SNMMI Brain Imaging Council. The award recognizes a scientist who has made outstanding contributions and whose research in and service to the discipline of functional brain imaging are of the highest caliber. Seibyl lectured on “Molecular phenotyping individuals at-risk for neurodegenerative disorders—imaging preclinical Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, and Huntington’s disease.” Seibyl’s training in psychiatry led to an interest in brain imaging and a fellowship in nuclear imaging. He has served as chief of the Section of Nuclear Medicine and director of the Yale–Veterans Affairs PET Center (New Haven, CT). He is currently executive director and senior scientist at the Institute for Neurodegenerative Disorders at Yale. Recent projects include development of a web-based normal brain image database and ongoing work applying brain imaging techniques to improve diagnosis and assessment of status in patients with neurodegenerative diseases.



Notification of Proposed SNMMI Bylaws Change

James M. Woolfenden, MD, Chair, SNMMI Committee on Bylaws

The current version of Article III, Section 1, Paragraph G, of the SNMMI Bylaws is included below in its entirety. Proposed deletions are struck through. Proposed additions are underlined. The proposed amendments represent changes to the “Emeritus” membership category, as approved in January 2015 and revised on November 12, 2015.

Article III, Section 1, Paragraph G

Individuals at age 65 and retired from practice or at the age of 70 regardless of practice ~~upon their retirement~~ and with ~~after at least ten (10) years of consecutive membership in the Society, or any member who, by reason of permanent disability or undue hardship, has been rendered unable to continue active membership,~~ may apply for an ~~be granted~~ Emeritus Membership classification to the Membership Committee of the Society. Emeritus members have the full privileges of the membership category from which they entered the emeritus status except the right to be elected an Officer of the Society. An Emeritus Member, however, may be elected to the office of Historian of the Society.