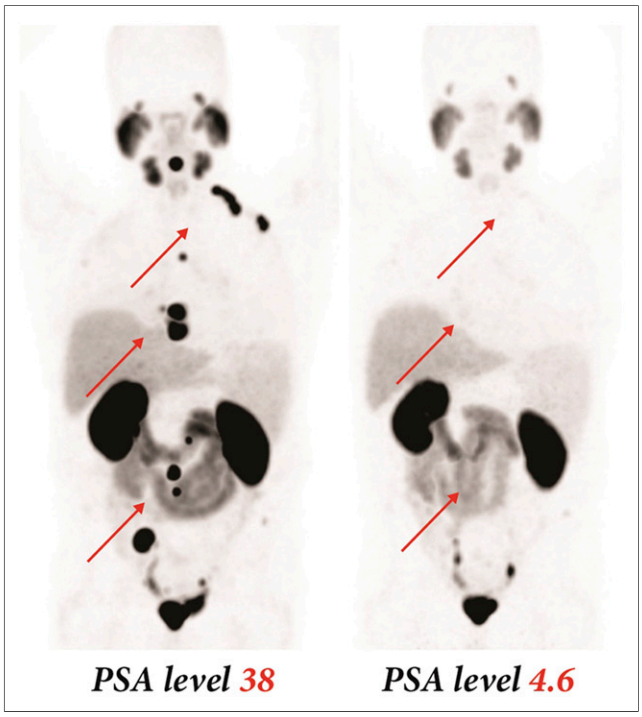
SNMMI 2015 Image of the Year

At the final session of the SNMMI Annual Meeting on June 8, society leaders announced the award of the 2015 Image of the Year to a group working under Matthias Eder, PhD, from the German Cancer Research Center (Heidelberg, Germany) for images acquired with an agent that can be labeled with ^{68}Ga for imaging for treatment stratification and with ^{177}Lu for therapy in prostate cancer. PSMA-617 is a prostate-specific membrane antigen inhibitor that targets prostate cancer cell surfaces at both local and metastatic sites. Their podium presentation was titled "PSMA-617—a novel theranostic PSMA inhibitor for both diagnosis and endoradiotherapy of prostate cancer."

"We feel very honored to receive this prestigious award as it is the result of the excellent work of many people," said Eder. "I would like to thank all the team members who contributed to this work." This team included the first author of the presentation, Martina Benesova, PhD.

The same group, in partnership with researchers at Heidelberg University Hospital under Uwe Haberkorn, MD, have already used ^{177}Lu-PSMA-617 to treat patients with advanced prostate cancer. After treatment, >50% of patients experienced sharp drops in prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels. In addition, PET/CT imaging confirmed that metastases had shrunk and were no longer detectable. "The results were so promising that we plan to go ahead with a clinical trial as soon as possible to examine whether PSMA-617 is superior to other therapy methods," said Haberkorn in a press release from the researchers' institutions.

"Prostate cancer remains one of the main causes of cancer-related death among men worldwide," said Peter Herscovitch, 2014–2015 SNMMI president. "This new molecular imaging technology not only detects metastatic prostate cancer, but also can treat metastases noninvasively. It is the combined capability of diagnosis and therapy that makes this molecular theranostic so powerful."



Left: Baseline image of patient with widely metastasized prostate cancer before ^{177}Lu-PSMA-617 treatment (PSA = 38). Right: After treatment (PSA = 4.6).

JNM Impact Factor Rises

SNMMI announced on June 25 that its flagship publication, *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (*JNM*), had again been ranked among the top 5 medical imaging journals worldwide, according to new data released in the *2014 Journal Citation Reports*, published by Thomson Reuters (New York, NY). *JNM* earned an impact factor of 6.160—an increase of more than half a point. *JNM* ranked fourth in impact factor of the 125 journals included in the medical imaging category.

The Thomson Reuters Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) measures a journal's impact—or influence—based on the number of article citations compared to the total number of articles published. The impact factor, a quantitative measure of the frequency with which an article in a journal is cited, is used to gauge the overall influence of a journal within scientific, professional, and academic communities.

Journal Citation Reports also publishes an immediacy index for journals as an indicator of the speed with which citations to a specific journal appear in published literature. *JNM*'s immediacy index for 2014 is 1.208—a 14% increase over the previous year. The total number of *JNM* citations (22,620) also increased, up more than 6% over the previous year.

"*JNM*'s increasing impact factor is a testament to its influential role in molecular imaging," said editor-in-chief Dominique Delbeke, MD, PhD, professor of radiology and radiological sciences at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, TN). "We are pleased that *JNM* continues to be the journal of choice for many distinguished researchers."