

# SNMMI Honors Contributors at 2017 Annual Meeting

At its June 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, SNMMI recognized contributions to the field of nuclear medicine, some of which have been highlighted in Newsline in previous months. Several award ceremonies were held to recognize service, scientific contributions, and the valuable roles SNMMI members play in advancing the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, cancer, and neurologic conditions.

## SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Award

Two SNMMI Presidential Distinguished Service Awards were given in recognition of long-time dedication to the society. The awardees were Robert E. Henkin, MD, and John M. Hoffman, MD.

Henkin is a professor emeritus of radiology at Loyola University Medical Center (Maywood, IL) and president of UNM, Ltd. (Chicago, IL), which provides consulting services to medical imaging companies and professional societies. He served as director of nuclear medicine at Loyola University Medical Center for 30 years and has been an SNMMI member since 1970. He represented the society on the Council of Medical Specialty Societies for many years and has been a leader in SNMMI on issues related to quality in health care. He also participated in development of the Physician Quality Reporting System in collaboration with the American Medical Association. In addition, he has served on the SNMMI Board of Directors and House of Delegates, as well as on numerous committees and task forces. A proponent of evidence-based guidance documents, he has been a member of the SNMMI Guidance Oversight Committee for several years, as well as a member of the Appropriate Use Criteria Working Group for Bone Scintigraphy. His dedication to mentoring young professionals and emerging leaders in the field has helped SNMMI develop strong leaders for the future. The SNMMI Robert E. Henkin, MD, Government Relations Fellowship, funded by the Education and Research Foundation for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, is named in his honor and provides young professionals in the field with direct personal exposure to government relations activities of the society and to the state and federal legislative and regulatory process.

John M. Hoffman, MD, is the Willard Snow Hansen Presidential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, professor of radiology and neurology, director of nuclear medicine, and codirector of the Center for Quantitative Cancer Imaging at the Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah (Salt Lake City). He is the author of more than 140 peer-reviewed publications, 19 book chapters, and more than 200 abstracts. He has served on the editorial board of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* since 2000 and the editorial board of *Molecular Imaging* since 2002. He is also a consultant to the editor of *Radiology*. Hoffman was previously

chief of the Molecular Imaging Branch of the Cancer Imaging Program at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). He is an expert in molecular imaging, with a special focus on PET. His research interests include applications in personalized medicine and as a biomarker in therapeutic drug trials, as well in assessment of brain tumor response to therapy. He has been a member of SNMMI since 1985 and is a member of the Pacific Northwest Chapter. In addition, he is a longstanding member of the society's Brain Imaging Council, Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation, and PET Center of Excellence. He has also been a member of the Coalition for PET Drug Approval since its creation. Hoffman has played an especially significant role in the SNMMI Clinical Trials Network (CTN), serving as cochair from 2009 to 2017. He was instrumental in developing CTN's companion organization, the Nuclear Medicine Clinical Trial Group, LLC, which assists sponsors in effectively incorporating molecular imaging agents in multicenter trials. His vision also informed the CTN curriculum and live events. A regulatory expert, he has also assisted in maintenance of SNMMI's centralized Investigational New Drug Database, which is available to all CTN partners.

## Saul Hertz, MD, Award

George M. Sgouros, PhD, received the Saul Hertz, MD, Award, which recognizes the lifetime achievements of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to radionuclide therapy. Sgouros is professor of radiology, oncology, and radiation oncology, as well as director of the Radiopharmaceutical Dosimetry Section of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Baltimore, MD). The award is named for Saul Hertz, MD, who in 1941 was the first to administer a cyclotron-produced  $^{130}\text{I}/^{131}\text{I}$  mixture as a therapeutic dose in a patient with Graves hyperthyroidism. Sgouros, who chairs the SNMMI Medical Internal Radionuclide Dose Committee, gave a presentation on "Radiopharmaceutical therapy: Current status and future prospects" at the SNMMI Annual Meeting. The focus of his research is on modeling and dosimetry of internally administered radionuclides, with specific emphasis on patient-specific dosimetry,  $\alpha$ -particle dosimetry, and mathematical modeling of radionuclide therapy. His lab is currently engaged in preclinical research investigating targeted  $\alpha$ -emitter therapy of metastatic cancer and clinical research examining the effects of patient-specific treatment planning on treatment outcome. Sgouros has authored more than 140 peer-reviewed articles. He has served as chair of the Dosimetry & Radiobiology Panel at a Department of Energy Workshop on  $\alpha$  emitters in medical therapy and, in the early 1990s, provided physics/dosimetry support for the first U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved human trial of targeted  $\alpha$ -emitter therapy. He is a member of the International Commission on Radiation Units and

Measurements Report Committee on Bioeffect Modeling And Equieffective Dose Concepts in Radiation Therapy and chair of Report Committee 31 on Treatment Planning for Radiopharmaceutical Therapy. Sgouros is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Atomic Energy Agency/World Health Organization Network of Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratories. He is the current chair of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Study Section on Radiation Therapeutics and Biology.

#### **Michael J. Welch Award**

Jason Lewis, PhD, the Emily Tow Jackson Chair in Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC; New York, NY), received the Michael J. Welch Award, which is presented annually by the SNMMI Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to radiopharmaceutical sciences. His lecture was titled “Antibody theranostics: the past, the present and (maybe) the future?” Lewis also serves as MSKCC vice chair for research, chief of the Radiochemistry & Imaging Sciences Service, director of the Radiochemistry and Molecular Imaging Probe Core Facility, and director of the Center for Molecular Imaging & Nanotechnology at MSKCC. In addition, he is a professor at the Gerstner Sloan Kettering Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and at Weill Cornell Medical College (both in New York, NY). Lewis is widely published in the field of cancer imaging and serves on grant review panels for NIH/NCI and on a number of editorial boards. His research interests are focused on development of new molecular imaging agents and radiopharmaceuticals for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

#### **Berson–Yalow Award**

Hongjun Jin, PhD, received the Berson–Yalow Award. The award honors Rosalyn S. Yalow, PhD, and Solomon A. Berson, MD, who together developed the radioimmunoassay (RIA) 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 SNMMI award choose the investigator who submits the most original abstract presentation at the society’s Annual Meeting and who has made significant contributions to basic or clinical RIA research or any area of research using the indicator-dilution method. Jin is an instructor in radiology at the Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO). His research focuses on biochemical characterization of radiotracers for oncology molecular imaging, and his winning abstract was titled “A promising  $^{123}\text{I}$ -labeled radioligand for imaging neuroinflammation response by assessment of P2X7 receptor expression.”

#### **Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award**

Frederik Beekman, PhD, head of radiation, detection, and medical imaging at TU Delft University (The Netherlands), was this year’s recipient of the Edward J. Hoffman Memorial Award, which is presented annually by the SNMMI Computer and Instrumentation Council. The award was established to honor Hoffman, an early PET innovator, and recognizes scientists in the field of nuclear medicine for their service and devotion to research and development of nuclear medicine instrumentation and to educating and training the next generation of scientists. Beekman’s lecture at the SNMMI Annual Meeting was on “Advancing the state-of-the-art of PET, SPECT, and autoradiography with multipinhole imaging.” He is the recipient of several awards for his contributions to SPECT and PET technologies and their applications in biomedical research. His research interests include radiation technology applied to medicine and biomedical science and image reconstruction from projections. Beekman has coauthored 135 peer-reviewed articles and is the inventor on 31 patents. He is an associate editor of several journals and serves on the editorial board of *Physics in Medicine & Biology*. He is also the founder and CEO/CSO of MILabs (Utrecht, The Netherlands), which develops and markets high-performance molecular imaging systems.

#### **Kuhl–Lassen Lecture Award**

Karl Herholz, MD, professor of clinical neuroscience at the University of Manchester (UK), received 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. His lecture was titled, “Towards theranostic neuroPET.” Herholz leads neuroscience research at the Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre in Manchester, with major foci on the use of PET for early diagnosis and prevention of dementia, imaging of specific transmitter systems, deposition of pathologic proteins, and imaging of gliomas. He is also an honorary consultant at Salford Royal Hospital and the Nuclear Medicine Department, Central Manchester Foundation Trust. Before joining Manchester University, he worked as a clinical neurologist and professor of neurology at University Hospital and the Max Planck Institute for Neurological Research (Cologne, Germany). He has had leading roles in several international multicenter PET studies on neurodegenerative diseases. His research has been published in more than 400 peer-reviewed articles and several books.

Additional awards from the 2017 SNMMI Annual Meeting will appear in Newsline in November.