

SNMMI Honors Contributors at 2017 Annual Meeting

SNMMI recognized contributions to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging at its 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, many of which have been highlighted in Newsline in previous months. Additional awards highlighted here recognized early achievement, service, and scientific contributions.

Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award

Raiyan Tripti Zaman, PhD, instructor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA), received this year's Walter Wolf Young Investigator Award for her abstract titled "Harnessing radioluminescence and sound to reveal molecular pathology of atherosclerotic plaques." In postdoctoral work at Stanford University School of Medicine, Zaman developed a novel flexible fiber-optic catheter including both a radioluminescence and a fluorescence imaging system to detect vulnerable plaques. Working as a principal investigator under the mentorship of Michael V. McConnell, MD, MSEE, and Lei Xing, PhD, she also conducted independent research on an intravascular molecular imaging system to characterize plaque and developed a scintillating balloon-enabled fiber-optic radionuclide imaging system to improve plaque imaging with ^{18}F -FDG. Zaman is currently developing a circumferential intravascular radioluminescence-photoacoustic imaging system to detect and characterize vulnerable plaques in humans and in mouse and porcine models.

Majd-Gilday Young Investigator Award

Jingjing Zhang, MD, PhD, received the SNMMI Pediatric Imaging Council Majd-Gilday Young Investigator Award, named for 2 pioneers in the pediatric imaging field: Massoud Majd, MD, and David Gilday, MD. The award is given to young scientists for outstanding research contributions to the field of pediatric nuclear medicine. Zhang's winning abstract was titled " ^{68}Ga -NOTA-Aca-BBN (7-14) PET imaging of GRPR in children with optic pathway gliomas." Zhang is a physician and nuclear medicine scientist at the PET Center of Peking Union Medical College Hospital (China). She was a predoctoral visiting fellow at the Laboratory of Molecular Imaging and Nanomedicine at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (Bethesda, MD) and received her MD and PhD in 2015. She has successfully implemented a number of first-in-human PET probe studies and early-phase clinical trials. Her research focuses on cancer molecular imaging, especially ^{68}Ga -labeled peptides, and she has a long-standing interest in clinical, translational, and theranostic applications of targeted molecular probes. She has received numerous awards, including the Women in Molecular Imaging Scholar Award, the SNMMI Alavi-Mandell Award, and the Young Scientist Award from the Chinese American Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.

Hermann Blumgart Award

Sharmila Dorbala, MD, director of nuclear cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and associate professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA), was selected by the SNMMI Cardiovascular Council to receive the Hermann Blumgart Award. The award recognizes a key contributor to the science of nuclear cardiology who is also an advocate for the field through involvement with the society's research and educational activities. Dorbala lectured on "Expanding the frontiers of nuclear cardiology: Infiltrative cardiomyopathy." She is a cardiovascular imaging specialist with clinical expertise in nuclear cardiology, echocardiography, and cardiac CT and has a successful track record of funded research in cardiac PET and cardiac amyloidosis. Her PET research has provided insights into management of ischemic heart diseases, and her research in cardiac amyloidosis uses advanced imaging to define mechanisms of cardiac dysfunction and identify early response to anti-amyloid therapy. Dorbala serves as an associate editor of *Circulation Cardiovascular Imaging* and the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology*. She is an active member of SNMMI and the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology.

Peter E. Valk, MD, Memorial Award

George Segall, MD, professor of radiology at Stanford University School of Medicine and Chief of the Nuclear Medicine Service at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System (CA) received the Peter E. Valk, MD, Memorial Award, honoring a pioneer in the establishment of PET as an important clinical modality. Segall has held several SNMMI leadership positions, including serving as SNMMI president (2011–2012). In addition, he served as a director of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) from 2009 to 2014 and as the ABNM executive director since 2014.

Tracy Lynn Faber Memorial Award

Sepideh Shokouhi, PhD, received the Tracy Lynn Faber Memorial Award, given each year to support advancement of women in medical imaging sciences. Shokouhi is a graduate of Graz University of Technology (Austria) and earned her PhD in biomedical engineering from Stony Brook University (NY). After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science (Nashville, TN), she joined the Vanderbilt faculty as a research instructor and was appointed as an assistant professor in 2015. Shokouhi's research focuses on the development and application of computational methods in imaging with different modalities, including PET, SPECT, and MR. She is especially interested in in vivo imaging of Alzheimer disease in humans and in transgenic mouse models.