

## Pomper Recognized with 2017 Aebersold Award

**M**artin G. Pomper, MD, PhD, a professor and director of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in the Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Science at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Baltimore, MD), was presented with the 2017 Paul C. Aebersold Award at the opening plenary session of the SNMMI Annual Meeting on June 11 in Denver, CO. The award honors the memory and achievements of Aebersold, a pioneer in the biologic and medical application of radioactive materials and the first director of the Atomic Energy Commission Division of Isotope Development. It recognizes outstanding achievement in basic science applied to nuclear medicine and was first presented in 1973. “Dr. Pomper is an internationally recognized leader in molecular imaging research,” said Peter Herscovitch, MD, chair of the SNMMI Committee on Awards and past president of the society. “His impressive body of work has focused on the development of new imaging agents that target cancer and central nervous system processes.”

Pomper received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry and doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he also received his medical degree. His postgraduate medical training was at Johns Hopkins and included an internship on the Osler Medical Service, residencies in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine, and a fellowship in neuroradiology. He is board certified in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine and has been on the faculty at Johns Hopkins since 1995.

Upon assuming leadership of the division of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in 2015, Pomper became the Henry N. Wagner, Jr. Professor of Radiology. Previously he held the inaugural William R. Brody professorship, a position designated for a radiologist physician–scientist

who excels in translational innovation in imaging. He oversees a coalition of molecular imaging researchers at Johns Hopkins through several federally funded programs and codirects the Kimmel Cancer Center’s Cancer Molecular and Functional Imaging Program and the Cancer Functional Imaging Core. His team has performed pioneering work in discovery and translation of low-molecular-weight imaging agents targeting the prostate-specific membrane antigen.

Other projects focus on development of radiopharmaceuticals for PET and SPECT for a variety of indications, including cancers, inflammation, and central nervous system disorders. His team has also developed a general technique for molecular–genetic imaging and therapy of cancer. He has contributed to several start-up companies translating academic discoveries to commercial applications.

Pomper is a past president of the SNMMI Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation and former editor-in-chief of the journal *Molecular Imaging*. He is the author of more than 300 peer-reviewed articles across a broad spectrum of preclinical and clinical molecular and functional imaging.

On notification of the award, Pomper said, “This is a tremendous honor for our team and for me personally—particularly when I consider the iconic figures who have previously received this award and what they have done to shape nuclear medicine. I thank the SNMMI, my mentors, and my colleagues over the years who have continually supported us in molecular imaging research.”



**Martin G. Pomper, MD, PhD**