Dirk J. Kwekkeboom, MD, PhD 1958–2017

Dirk (Dik) J. Kwekkeboom, MD, PhD, an internationally recognized expert on peptide receptor radiotherapy (PRRT) and neuroendocrine tumor imaging, died on March 8, 2017. He was a professor of nuclear medicine at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Kwekkeboom received his medical degree from the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) in 1985 and began his career at Erasmus Medical Center in endocrinology. In 1989 his PhD was awarded, with a research focus on clinically nonfunctioning and gonadotropin-secreting pituitary adenomas. He joined the group under Eric Krenning, MD, PhD, in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at Erasmus Medical Center in 1990. He continued as a valued faculty member in the department for more than a quarter of a century, until his death.

In the 1990s, his department was involved in development of somatostatin receptor scintigraphy (SRS) for somatostatin receptor–bearing tumors. In 1991, ^{111}In-pentetreotide was introduced for SRS, and Kwekkeboom was responsible for associated cost-benefit analyses. Throughout the 1990s, he worked on the introduction of ^{111}In-pentetreotide PRRT, then PRRT with ^{90}Y-labeled somatostatin analogs, and later with ^{177}Lu-DOTA-octreotate. As head of the Lu-PRRT team at Erasmus, he was involved in ^{177}Lu-DOTA-octreotate PRRT of more than 1,500 patients, many of whom came to The Netherlands from other countries for the effective but difficult-to-obtain treatment. He was the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed articles on PRRT, somatostatin-analog imaging, neuroendocrine tumors, and related topics and was a sought-after scientific speaker at national and international scientific and educational venues. He was a key contributor to the majority of guideline-setting efforts in PRRT. He also served on the advisory boards of the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society and the North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society. He was a longstanding member of SNMMI. He was among the group of researchers supporting the Neuroendocrine Tumors Therapy (NETTER-1) trial, with phase III results published in January 2017 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (2017;376:125–135).

Kwekkeboom was popular among his colleagues and among the hundreds of trainees who passed under his tutelage in the clinic and laboratory. His interests extended to classical music, Russian literature, and good food and wine. His colleagues, in a posted obituary, said "We will miss Dik. Not only because of his scientific and professional qualities, but also because of the atmosphere he brought to the department. His dry and sometimes razor-sharp humor often elevated the general mood."

New Grants for TBI Research Previewed

At the June 11 opening plenary session of the 2017 SNMMI Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, Julian E. Bailes, MD, delivered the annual Henry N. Wagner Lecture. Bailes is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the NorthShore University Health System (Evanston, IL) and codirector of the NorthShore Neurological Institute (Glenview, IL). As part of his presentation, he announced the launch of new grant funding initiatives targeted at providing up to $25 million for research on traumatic brain injury (TBI) and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

Bailes has been instrumental in expanding scientific and clinical understanding of CTE, particularly in individuals who have sustained multiple concussions. The new research initiative is part of Brain Scanning to Assess for Traumatic Injury and Encephalopathy (Brain SAFTIE), a coalition that is bringing together experts to identify gaps in knowledge and discuss ways to address these gaps through both basic and clinical research. M1 Capital (Vancouver, Canada) and Nucleus Bio (Vancouver, Canada) are working with SNMMI to secure funding for the grants. The Brain SAFTIE group gathered for the first time in May for a TBI and CTE Neuroscience Symposium in Dallas, TX, that was organized by SNMMI's Clinical Trials Network and supported by Nucleus Bio.

The grant programs will cover areas including development of new diagnostic imaging agents, clinical trials on the safety and efficacy of therapies, population-based studies, outcomes measures, and networks to facilitate collaboration. More information will be announced in the coming months and will be available at the SNMMI website (www.snmmi.org).