

Cherry Recognized with 2018 Paul C. Aebersold Award

Simon R. Cherry, PhD, Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Davis, was named as the 2018 recipient of the Paul C. Aebersold Award for outstanding achievement in basic nuclear medicine sciences at the June SNMMI Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. “Dr. Cherry has made significant contributions to imaging instrumentation,” said Hossein Jadvar, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, chair of the SNMMI Committee on Awards and past president of the society. “His innovative and extensive work has spanned from design and development of preclinical to clinical imaging systems, with major impact on molecular imaging.”

Cherry’s research interests center around biomedical imaging and the development and application of in vivo molecular imaging systems. Some of his original accomplishments have been in developing and applying high-resolution systems for PET, particularly the invention of microPET technology, and coleading the EXPLORER project, which is at work on the world’s highest sensitivity total-body PET scanner. He has also contributed to the development of high-performance detectors for PET, the application of Cerenkov luminescence in molecular imaging, and development of the first proof-of-concept hybrid PET/MR imaging systems. The technologies developed by his laboratory have been broadly applied in biomedical science to study disease processes and measure the effects of therapeutic interventions.

“I am greatly honored to receive this award from the society where I made my first major presentation in 1989 and which represents our profession and our field so passionately,” Cherry said. “I accept this award not as an individual, but on behalf of the many outstanding students, postdocs, research scientists, and collaborators with whom I have had the pleasure of working over the past 30 years and who have made these accomplishments possible.”

Cherry is a founding member of the Society for Molecular Imaging and an elected fellow of 6 professional societies. He is editor-in-chief of the journal *Physics in Medicine and Biology*. He received the Academy of Molecular Imaging Distinguished Basic Scientist Award (2007), the Society for Molecular Imaging Achievement Award (2011), and the IEEE Marie Skłodowska-Curie Award (2016). In

2016, he was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and in 2017 he was elected to the National Academy of Inventors. Cherry has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, review articles, and book chapters in the field of biomedical imaging. He is also lead author of the widely used textbook *Physics in Nuclear Medicine*.

Cherry received his BSc (Hons) in physics with astronomy from University College London (UK) in 1986 and his PhD in medical physics from the Institute of Cancer Research, University of London, in 1989. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), he joined the faculty in the UCLA Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology in 1993. In 2001, Cherry joined UC Davis as a professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and established the Center for Molecular and Genomic Imaging, which he directed from 2004 to 2016. He also served as chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at UC Davis from 2007 to 2009.

The Aebersold Award, first presented in 1973, is named for Paul C. Aebersold—a pioneer in the biologic and medical application of radioactive materials and the first director of the Atomic Energy Commission’s Division of Isotope Development.



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