Di Carli Receives de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award

Marcelo F. Di Carli, MD, executive director of the Cardiovascular Imaging Program and the Joint Program in Nuclear Medicine, Founders' Chair of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and a professor of radiology and medicine at Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA), was the 2019 recipient of the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award for his contributions to cardiovascular radionuclide imaging and services. "From Dr. Di Carli we have learned how we can practice nuclear cardiology, how we can use new instrumentation, and how we can elucidate the pathophysiology of cardiac diseases using new tracers," said Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD, 2018–2019 president of SNMMI. "He relentlessly advances the value of nuclear cardiology for better patient care." The award was presented on June 23 at the SNMMI Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

After receiving his MD degree from the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), DiCarli completed clinical training in internal medicine and cardiology at the Favaloro Institute of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery (Buenos Aires) and in nuclear medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles. He joined the faculty at Wayne State University in Detroit (MI) in 1994, where he served as a staff physician in the Cardiovascular Division and the Department of Radiology and associate director of the university's PET center. In 2001 he moved to Brigham and Women's Hospital as director of nuclear cardiology.

Di Carli is recognized as an outstanding clinician/scientist, teacher, and mentor and noted for his research interests in the study of cardiovascular pathophysiology, with an emphasis on coronary heart disease, heart failure, myocardial ischemia, and cardiac function. His work has contributed to understanding of the pathophysiology of ischemic cardiac dysfunction and the use of PET for guiding management of patients with end-stage heart failure. He pioneered the application of quantitative PET for assessing risk and guiding management of patients with ischemic heart disease. His work demonstrated that the presence of coronary vascular dysfunction is a key marker of risk, independent of clinical and other traditional risk markers, and provided a link between coronary epicardial and microcirculatory dysfunction and increased clinical risk. This work continues to open new opportunities for improved diagnosis and targeted management of patients with coronary artery disease. His most recent research centers on the use of PET to improve diagnosis and management of patients with cardiac inflammation.

Di Carli established and directs the first integrated multidisciplinary cardiovascular imaging program in the United States. He also directs one of only a few National Institutes of Health–funded T32 training programs in cardiovascular imaging. This program has been instrumental in training academic cardiovascular imaging clinician/scientists who have gone on to develop their own independent successful careers as investigators and academic leaders.

Marcelo F. Di Carli, MD

Di Carli was the founding editor-in-chief of *Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging* and serves on the editorial boards of multiple journals, including the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology, JACC Imaging, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine,* and the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology.* He served as a member and chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, is past president of the SNMMI Cardiovascular Council, and is chair-elect of the American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Imaging Leadership Council. He received the Laverna Titus Award from the American Heart Association and the Hermann Blumgart Award from SNMMI. He has been named a Distinguished Investigator of the Academy of Radiology Research and has authored or coauthored more than 300 scientific peer-reviewed and other publications and edited 2 books on advanced cardiovascular imaging.

SNMMI presents the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award to an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. de Hevesy received the 1943 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in determining the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of radioactive compounds in the human body. SNMMI has presented the de Hevesy Award every year since 1960 to honor groundbreaking discoveries and inventions. The list of previous recipients of this award features numerous Nobel laureates—including Ernest Lawrence, PhD, who introduced the world's first cyclotron for production of radionuclides, and Glenn Seaborg, PhD, who discovered or codiscovered 10 new elements. "I am deeply honored and humbled by this important distinction from the SNMMI," Di Carli said. "I would like to share this award with my great teachers and mentors, colleagues and collaborators, my talented trainees throughout the last 25 years, and my family for their unconditional support and encouragement. I believe that this is also a tribute to the innovation and research efforts from the broad cardiovascular nuclear medicine community that have and continue to play such an important role in advancing imaging science to improve our understanding of mechanisms underlying cardiovascular diseases, patient care, and clinical outcomes."