

## Iagaru Receives First Sam Gambhir Trailblazer Award

**A**ndrei Iagaru, MD, a professor of radiology and chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging at Stanford University (CA), was presented with the inaugural Sam Gambhir Trailblazer Award on June 14 at the SNMMI Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada. Intended for midcareer professionals, the award recognizes outstanding achievement and excellence in transformative research (basic, translational, or clinical science) and exceptional mentorship. The prestigious annual award, announced in 2021 and sponsored by the Education and Research Foundation, honors the memory of Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD, who died at 57 in 2020. Gambhir was an internationally recognized pioneer in molecular imaging and the Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professor for Clinical Investigations in Cancer Research and chair of the Department of Radiology at Stanford University, where he was also director of the Canary Center at Stanford for Cancer Early Detection, the Precision Health and Integrated Diagnostics Center, and the Molecular Imaging Program. He dedicated his career to developing methods of early disease detection, ushering in a new era of molecular imaging to identify signs of disease in its earliest stages. Within radiology, he was known for development of PET reporter genes and other paradigm-changing discoveries and applications. He was a vocal and highly effective advocate for clinical integration and approval of new molecular imaging techniques and was among the pioneers of the concept of precision medicine.

Iagaru, a colleague of Gambhir at Stanford, completed medical school at Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy (Bucharest, Romania) and an internship in medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine (Philadelphia, PA). He completed his residency in radiology and a PET/CT fellowship at Stanford. His research interests include PET/MRI and PET/CT for early cancer detection, clinical translation of novel PET radiopharmaceuticals, and targeted radionuclide therapy. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and been recognized with numerous other honors, including the SNM 2009 Image of the Year Award; the 2009, 2014, and 2015 Western Regional Society of Nuclear Medicine Scientist Award and 2021 Sanjiv Sam Gambhir Distinguished Scientist Award; a 2015 Department of Defense Impact Award; and numerous distinctions at Stanford.



Andrei Iagaru, MD

Iagaru coauthored *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* in memoriam for Gambhir, writing “We lost a beloved colleague, a mentor and friend, a wonderful human being, and an incredible scientist. Humanity lost a giant who had so much more to contribute toward a better world. For so many of us, Sam was the reason we chose this field.”

## SNMMI Honors New Fellows for 2022

**F**ourteen new SNMMI fellows were recognized on June 13 as part of a special plenary session during the society’s 2022 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada. SNMMI fellowship was established in 2016 to recognize distinguished service to the society as well as exceptional achievement in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. It is among the most prestigious formal recognitions available to longtime SNMMI members. Recognized as new fellows were: Abass Alavi, MD (Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania/University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia); Johannes Czernin, MD (David Geffen School of Medicine/University of California at Los Angeles); Farrokh Dehdashti, MD (Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology/Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; MO); Yuni Dewaraja, PhD (University of Michigan Medical School; Ann Arbor); Cameron Foster, MD (University of California Davis Health; Sacramento); Warren Janowitz, MD, JD (Radiology Associates of South Florida/Baptist Health; Miami, FL); Neeta Pandit-Taskar, MD (Memorial Sloan

Kettering Cancer Center/Weill Cornell Medical College; New York, NY); Daniel Pryma, MD (Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania/University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia); Lalitha Shankar, MD, PhD (National Cancer Institute; Bethesda, MD); John Sunderland, PhD (University of Iowa/University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine; Iowa City); Jerold Wallis, MD (Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology/Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; MO); Dean Wong, MD, PhD (Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology/Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; MO); Anna Wu, PhD (Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope, Duarte, California); and Katherine Zukotynski, MD, PhD, PEng (McMaster University; Hamilton, Canada).

Selection of SNMMI Fellows is based on documented excellence in both volunteer service to the society and at least 1 of 3 areas: scientific discovery and innovation, educational efforts in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, or clinical practice of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Fellows are entitled to use the FSNMMI designation.