

International Conference on Molecular Imaging – interdisciplinary research for the visualization of the dynamics of disease-specific molecular and cellular alterations to improve patient's care

The 5th European Molecular Imaging Meeting –EMIM took place from May 26 to 29 in Warsaw, Poland.

The European Society for Molecular Imaging – ESMI invited scientists working in various fields of Molecular Imaging to come together and share their knowledge. About 300 scientists from European countries, Asia, as well as USA took the opportunity to present recent scientific breakthroughs, to discuss results and future research activities.

The ESMI succeeded in showing the advantage of translational networking by bringing together physicists, technologists, physicians, biologists, and chemists; as well as by the close organisational collaboration with EU funded network-projects “DiMI – Diagnostic Molecular Imaging” as well as “Clinigene – Clinical Gene and Cell Therapy” and the “European Society for Radiology – ESR”. The meeting was also supported through “COST Actions – European Cooperation in Science and Technology”. The excellence of the scientific programme should ensure further success of the interdisciplinary society: The 5th annual meeting was a milestone on the way to a sustainable and competitive establishment of a European MI community. For detailed information on programme, people as well as abstracts please visit: www.e-smi.eu/index.php?id=2332

Within the Opening Ceremony the **ESMI Award 2010** was given to **professor Andreas H. Jacobs** (MD) for his outstanding contributions to the Society and the field of Molecular Imaging (Pic1). Andreas H. Jacobs is the Director of the European Institute for Molecular Imaging – EIMI at the University of Münster and the Head of the Laboratory for Gene Therapy and Molecular Imaging at the Max-Planck-Institute for Neurological Research in Cologne. He was the 2nd president of the ESMI from 2008 to 2010 and is the coordinator of the DiMI network www.dimi.eu.

During EMIM, Andreas H. Jacobs handed over the **presidency** and the **"key of success"** to **professor Clemens W.G.M. Löwik** (PhD). Clemens W.G.M. Löwik is the Head of the Endocrinology Research Laboratory and Molecular Imaging Platform at the Leiden University Medical Centre (Pic3). The new Vice President of the ESMI is now Professor Silvio Aime (PhD, Torino) of whom Professor Annemie van der Linden (PhD, Antwerp) took over the duties as the Secretary of the ESMI.

The **ESMI Young Investigator Awards 2010** went to three deserving individuals whose laboratories and research highlight the scientific diversity of the European Molecular Imaging Meeting: **Anu Autio** from Turku for her work on “A leukocyte ligand of vascular adhesion protein-1 as an imaging tool in PET”; to **Stefanie Lehmann** from Zürich for her work on “Assessment of HIF transcriptional activity in a mouse tumor model using GPI anchored avidin– a novel protein reporter for in vivo imaging”; and to **Caroline Vandeputte** from Leuven for her presentation on “The type 2 cannabinoid receptor as a new PET reporter gene for the brain” (Pic2).

The **ESMI Poster Awards 2010** were presented to ten outstanding scientific contributions in seven diverse fields of MI: Imaging Cancer Biology, Technology and Data Analysis Methods, Molecular Neuroimaging, Probe Design, Imaging in Cancer and Drug Development, Imaging in other Diseases, as well as Imaging Guided Gene and Cell based Therapies. For details on awardees, titles, and abstracts please visit: www.e-smi.eu/index.php?id=2332

Molecular Imaging provides a way to see, define and track how molecules in the body function and change – particularly in relation to disease – and to use that information to improve patient's care. The images produced by molecular imaging technology reflect cellular and molecular mechanisms of disease present in the context of the living subject. Biological processes can be studied in their natural instead of laboratory environment.

The ESMI is a non-profit, apolitical and independent entity established to foster the development and practical application of Molecular Imaging as well as the coherence of European MI experts. Future and **upcoming major events** (co-)organised by the ESMI are:

- WMIC 2010: September 8-12, Kyoto (together with SMI, AMI, FASMI)
- TOPIM 2011: January 16-21, Les Houches
- EMIM 2011: June 19-21, Leiden

Mark your calendar!

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Pic1: Andreas H. Jacobs – ESMI Award 2010

Pic2: ESMI Young Investigator Award 2010 (from left: John Clark – Chair, Caroline Vandeputte, Anu Autio, Stefanie Lehmann, and Bertrand Tavitian – Chair)

Pic3: Hand over of ESMI presidency Andreas H. Jacobs and Clemens W.G.M. Löwik