

Radiology *focus*

Issue 6

Molecular Imaging of Chemical Threats and Countermeasures

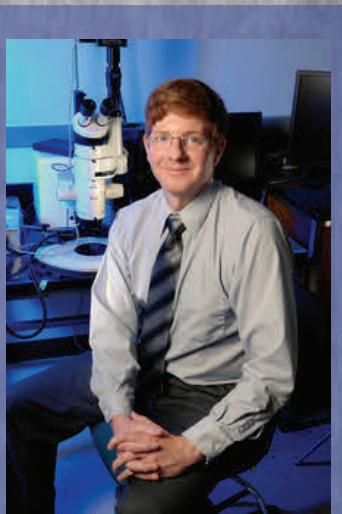
In August, a five-year, \$3.8M grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has been awarded to a research team including Kurt Zinn (University of Alabama at Birmingham), John Gerdes (Southern Research Institute), Chuck Thompson (University of Montana), and Henry VanBrocklin (University of California, San Francisco). The grant will be used to support research that investigates new chemical and imaging technologies to understand how poisonous organophosphates enter the brain and how antidotes and therapeutics can be used to reduce neurotoxic effects to organophosphate exposures. Organophosphates are chemicals that have been used for decades as pesticides but are also major components of chemical nerve agents that represent a continued threat to military personnel and citizens from terrorist groups and rogue nations. The investigation will draw from the researchers' collabora-

tive expertise to transform the toxic organophosphates into safe, beneficial imaging technologies that lead to highly useful clinical tools and therapeutic inventions. Central to the award is the utilization of positron emission tomography (PET) imaging to evaluate organophosphate exposures and the efficacy of the therapeutics. PET imaging has been used widely in cancer diagnosis and to determine the progress of certain neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. However, this research is the first use of PET imaging to study toxic organophosphates. The researchers are hopeful that this PET imaging investigation will unveil important characteristics about brain susceptibility to toxic agents and guide drug development that halts or reverses the toxic effects following organophosphate exposures.

Grant Number: 1U01NS092495-01
Institute: National Institute Of Neurological Disorders And Stroke

Distinguished Investigator Award from AAR

Congratulations to Kurt R. Zinn, DVM, PhD as the named winner of the 2015 Distinguished Investigator Award by the Academy of Radiology Research (AAR). The Academy annually gives this award to celebrate and recognize the tremendous accomplishments in the field of academic research. As Vice Chair of Translational Research in the Department of Radiology at the UAB School of Medicine, Dr. Zinn has continued to make incredible contributions to the Radiology Department and the ever-growing field of translational science.



2015 Aunt Minnie Awards

UAB was named one of the 2015 Aunt Minnie Finalists for 'Best Radiologist Training Programs'. Additionally, as a prior Director of our Radiology Residency Program, and now Chair of the Radiology Department, Cheri L. Canon, MD, FACR was named one of the 2015 Aunt Minnie Finalists 'Most Effective Radiology Educator'. We appreciate the effective leadership Dr. Canon has accomplished within the Radiology Department.

Gratitude

We greatly appreciate Dr. Ahmed Kamel's efforts in collaborating and enabling a successful recruitment for Ammar Almehmi, MD. Dr. Almehmi will join the Division of Nephrology as an Associate Professor of Medicine and as Director for Interventional Nephrology effective December 1, 2015.

Chief Quality Resident Program (CQRP)

Congratulations to Ryan Telford, MD for being chosen as one of seven new Chief Quality Residents in UAB Medicine's newly developed CQRP! CQRP started last year to allow additional engagement opportunities regarding concepts in quality and patient safety for interested fellows and residents. We are proud to have Dr. Telford represent the Department of Radiology in this new journey.

