

## **Molecular Imaging – progress for the visualisation of molecular and cellular mechanisms to improve patient's care**

The 4<sup>th</sup> European Molecular Imaging Meeting (EMIM) took place from May 27 to May 30 in Barcelona, Spain. Over 350 scientists from 19 European Countries, USA, China and Australia joined for this important meeting to present their actual scientific data and to exchange ideas, knowledge and know-how. The main topics covered imaging technology, smart probes and contrast agents as well as the main disease areas of our society, such as tumours, cardiovascular and neurological diseases.

Molecular imaging allows the non-invasive visualisation of the dynamics of disease-specific molecular events in the living organism by various imaging technologies such as ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and positron emission tomography (PET). Molecular imaging is based on the detection of small molecular structures on the cellular level (receptors, peptides, enzymes) with the help of contrast media and specific imaging agents. Molecular imaging helps for the improved characterization of disease and enables the establishment of imaging-guided therapy assessment.

The 4<sup>th</sup> EMIM conference was held under the auspice of the European Society for Molecular Imaging (ESMI) in close collaboration of 4 EU funded research projects (CliniGene, DiMI, EMIL, MOLIM) and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM). In bringing together several key players in the field of molecular imaging from all over Europe, a strong and tight scientific programme was established. The meeting was one further important milestone on the way of establishing a sustainable and competitive molecular imaging community on the European level. For the detailed programme as well as abstracts please visit: [www.e-smi.eu](http://www.e-smi.eu).

The Inaugural Lecture "Interplay and endpoints in molecular imaging biomarkers. A look to the future." was delivered by Prof. Ignasi Carrio (Professor of Nuclear Medicine, Barcelona) (Fig.1). Prof. John Clark (Professor of Chemistry, Cambridge/Edinburgh) received the ESMI Award 2009 for his outstanding contributions in the field of chemistry, radiochemistry and small animal imaging (Fig.2). Abiraj Keelara (University Hospital Basel, Switzerland) and Abraham Martin (CEA, Paris) received this year's Young Investigator Awards for their outstanding research presentations (Fig.3). Prof. Andreas Jacobs (Professor of Neurology, Fulda/Cologne) as the current president of the ESMI pointed out that the ESMI as a non-profit, apolitical and independent entity aims to foster the scientific exchange in all fields of molecular imaging at the highest possible level and to establish a strong training programme for young scientists (Fig.4). The further progress in the field of molecular imaging is based on the strong interaction of various basic research disciplines and the clinical sciences to work together to finally help to improve patient's care.

Contact and further information:

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Fig.1: Inaugural lecture given by Prof. Ignasi Carrio



Fig.2: Winner of the ESMI Awards 2009; Prof. John Clark (left) and Past ESMI President Bertrand Tavitian, France



Fig.3: Winner of the ESMI Young Investigator Awards 2009 (from left: Andreas H. Jacobs, the awardees Abirraj Keelara and Abraham Martin, the session chairs Andrea Varrone and Sabina Pappata)



Fig.4: President of the ESMI; Andreas H. Jacobs