2014 Young Investigator Awards

Steven Allen

Awarded for: Real-Time MRI Feedback of Cavitation Ablation Therapy (Histotripsy) [89-LV/P189-Y1]

Steven Allen is a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His research is focused on MRI feedback of histotripsy therapy.

Alberto Bazzocchi

Awarded for: Palliation of Painful Bone Metastases: The “Rizzoli” Experience [52-BM/P-190-Y1]

Additional Presentations: 45-BN, 46-BN

Dr. Bazzocchi serves as Consultant Radiologist for clinical and research activity at the “Rizzoli” Orthopaedic Institute (Bologna, Italy). He is author of over 170 works (abstracts) presented by him or by fellows of his team at the most important congresses worldwide, and he wrote over 40 full papers for original research and reviews. Among journals publishing his works it is possible to count some of the top references in medicine (e.g., The Lancet, Bone, and Radiographics, for general medicine, skeletal diseases, and radiology respectively, but also journals corresponding to many other specialties – CMAJ, Arthritis & Rheumatism, The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (Am), Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery, Clinical Nutrition, Clinical Infectious Diseases, Journal of Pediatrics, European Radiology, Skeletal Radiology). Dr. Bazzocchi is principal investigator and main author in the vast majority of publications in curriculum. Principal Investigator and coordinator of the project “Magnetic Resonance guided High Intensity Focused Ultrasound treatment of bone metastases: pain palliation, and local tumor control? (thematic area: Oncology),” winner in the Call for Young Investigator (“Alessandro Liberati”) 2013, Area I “Innovative Research,” of the Research Program Regione-Universita. He actively participated and participates in numerous research programs, on a regional, national and international basis. Among these, here is also mentioned “Development of a novel technological platform for the treatment of neoplastic and infectious diseases based on focus ultrasounds” NOP-R&C 2007-2013, funded under the European Union and Italian Ministries. Member of the European Working Group on Focused Ultrasound (2011/2012) and of the European Focused Ultrasound Society (EUFUS) since their establishment (2013).
Kelli Bryant

Awarded for: MRI Characterization of Uterine Fibroids May Predict Success of GnRH Agonist Therapy Prior to Magnetic Resonance Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS) Treatment [101-UF/P-191-YI]

Additional Presentations: P-183-UF, P-184-UF

Kelli Bryant received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010. After graduating, she continued to work for the UNC Gene Therapy Center investigating the use of viral gene transfer vectors. Kelli went on to earn a master's degree in biomedical science from Barry University and is currently a second year medical student at the Florida Atlantic University Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine.

Ulrik Carling

Awarded for: MRgHIFU – Experimental Perivascular Volumetric Ablation in the Liver [83-LV/P-192-YI]

Dr. Ulrik Carling is a research fellow at the Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at Oslo University Hospital. His fellowship is in Interventional Radiology, with focus on image guided treatments of liver tumors. Part of the work is in the field of MR guided HIFU, conducted at the Intervention Center at Oslo University Hospital.

Hong Chen

Awarded for: Harmonic Motion Imaging for Pancreatic Tumor Detection and High-intensity Focused Ultrasound Ablation Monitoring [81-LV/P-193-YI]

Dr. Hong Chen received her BE and ME degrees in Biomedical Engineering from Xi'an Jiaotong University in 2003 and 2006, respectively. She joined the Center for Industrial and Medical Ultrasound at the University of Washington in 2006 and received her PhD in Bioengineering in 2011. She then spent one year as a senior fellow at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She is now a postdoctoral research scientist at the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University.
2014 Young Investigator Awards (continued)

Christopher Dillon

Awarded for: Quantifying Perfusion-related Energy Losses During Magnetic Resonance-guided Focused Ultrasound [103-UF/P-194-YI]

Chris Dillon is a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Radiology at the University of Utah, where he is developing MR perfusion imaging sequences for validation of biothermal models used in MRgFUS. He received his doctoral degree from the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Utah this past August. His dissertation utilized analytical temperature solutions to improve quantitative estimates of MRgFUS parameters in the bioreact transfer equation.

Merel Huisman

Awarded for: International Consensus on Use of MR-guided High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound for Bone Metastases: Current Status and Future Directions [49-BM/P-195-YI]

Merel Huisman, MD is a clinical researcher from the department of Radiology, University of Utrecht in The Netherlands. Her research focus is MR-guided HIFU.

Christina Keravnou

Awarded for: Image-Guided Sonoporation in an Ex vivo Machine Perfused Porcine Liver [P-196-YI]

Christina Keravnou earned a BS in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Cyprus in 2010. She is currently pursuing a PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Biomedical Ultrasound Laboratory of the University of Cyprus. Her main research interests are in the areas of diagnostic and therapeutic applications of ultrasound. Specifically during her PhD, she has been working on the optimization of sonoporation parameters, evaluated on ex vivo machine perfused porcine livers under ultrasound imaging guidance.

Young Goo Kim


Young Goo Kim is Clinical Fellow of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at Yonsei University College of Medicine.
2014 Young Investigator Awards (continued)

Wonhye Lee


Dr. Lee is a research fellow, working with Prof. Seung-Schik Yoo at the Department of Radiology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. His research background includes the development of 3 dimensional bioprinting technology and its application to tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, as well as utilization of various neurophysiological methods for neuroscience. Since he obtained his PhD degree from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Dr. Lee has explored various preclinical applications of FUS-mediated neuromodulation techniques. Currently, he is actively engaged in studies furthering and detailing functional neuromodulation applications achieved by FUS.

Mirjam Peek

Awarded for: High IntensityFocused Ultrasound (HIFU) in the Treatment of Breast Fibroadenomata: a Feasibility Study [77-BT/P-199-Y1]

Miss Mirjam Peek is a sixth year Technical Medicine student from the University of Twente in The Netherlands. She is currently working on the High intensity focused ultrasound in the treatment of fibroadenomata (HIFU-F) trial as her graduation project at Guy's and St. Thomas’ Hospital in combination with King's College London.

Michael Plaksin

Awarded for: A Unifying Framework for Understanding Ultrasonic Neuromodulation Mechanisms [P-200-Y1]

Misha is a PhD student in the Israeli Technion Nanoscience and Nanotechnology program. He finished his BSc studies in Biomedical Engineering with summa cum laude and continued to direct PhD track studies. His research interests are: 1. Cell membrane biomechanics and biophysics; 2. Ultrasound based neural stimulation and suppression; 3. Infrared based neural stimulation.
2014 Young Investigator Awards (continued)

Karin Skalina
Awarded for: Immunomodulation of Prostate Cancer Cells after Low Energy Focused Ultrasound [63-PR/P-201-YI]
Karin Skalina is a 4th year student in the Medical Scientist Training Program at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY. She is currently completing her PhD work in the laboratory of Dr. Chandan Guha, Vice Chair of Radiation Oncology at Montefiore Medical Center, where she is focusing on the immunomodulatory effects of focused ultrasound therapy. She holds a Master of Science in Pathology from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Tufts University in Somerville, MA.

Pamela Tebebi
Awarded for: Reestablishment of Perfusion in Critical Limb Ischemia Model with Pulsed Focused Ultrasound (pFUS) and Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Aged Mice [P-202-YI]
Pamela Tebebi received her bachelor of engineering in biomedical engineering from Vanderbilt University in 2002. She worked in industry for several years and obtained a master of science in biomedical engineering from University of Texas, Arlington. She is currently a biomedical engineering PhD student at The Catholic University of America with Dr. Victor Frenkel in collaboration with Dr. Joseph Frank at the NIH.

Yuan Zheng
Awarded for: High Speed, High Sensitivity PRF Shift MR Thermometry [P-203-YI]
Mr. Yuan Zheng graduated from Peking University in 2007 and is now a physics PhD candidate at the University of Virginia. His research includes low field imaging of hyper-polarized noble gases, introducing radiation detection techniques to enhance conventional MRI, and currently he's working with Professor Wilson Miller in the Radiology Department on developing high speed, high sensitivity MR thermometry techniques.