November 1, 2022

Academy 2022 Gold Medal Award Announcement

Director of the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging & Bioengineering (NIBIB), Bruce Tromberg, PhD, to receive Academy Gold Medal

The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research (Academy) is proud to announce Bruce Tromberg, PhD, Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), as the 2022 Academy Gold Medal Recipient. Established in 2014, the Academy Gold Medal is awarded for extraordinary contributions in advancing the cause of radiology and imaging research. This award provides the opportunity to raise the profile of imaging research among scientific leaders and to provide recognition and encouragement for future efforts to individuals who have been successful supporters.

As the eighth recipient of the Academy’s highest accolade, Dr. Tromberg will join the ranks of the Academy’s most passionate and dedicated allies. From founding Presidents to the most decorated of imaging scholars, the Academy Gold Medal has been awarded to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the radiology and biomedical imaging research.

“I’m grateful to the Academy for this special honor and hope that it further highlights the essential role innovation and technology development play in biomedical imaging.” said Dr. Tromberg. “The Academy has had an enormous impact on our community, and I’m delighted to be able to work with so many generous colleagues and an inspiring group of Gold Medal recipients.”

“As someone who embodies the true nature of advancing innovation in imaging research, the nominating committee found Dr. Tromberg to be a unanimous candidate for this year’s Gold Medal.” said Dr. Hedvig Hricak, Chair of this year’s nominating committee.

Academy President, Dr. Mitchell Schnall added “Bruce is a champion for the research at the interface of basic imaging technology and clinical medicine. In his short tenure as the director of NIBIB he has already had a
significant impact on the visibility of imaging technology research across the NIH. We are grateful for his continuous partnership with the Academy.”

As Director of NIBIB, Dr. Tromberg oversees a portfolio of research programs focused on developing, translating, and commercializing engineering, physical science, and computational technologies in biology and medicine. He also leads NIBIB’s Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx Tech) program, a $1.7 billion initiative to increase SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) testing capacity and performance.

In addition to managing this extensive portfolio of imaging and biomedical engineering research and innovation, Dr. Tromberg routinely takes the time to engage with the Academy in various supportive roles. From lending his time and expertise as an invited keynote speaker during Academy-sponsored briefings on Capitol Hill to educating our Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²) on how they can effectively engage with NIBIB’s leadership and program staff, he graciously volunteers himself time and again.

Prior to joining NIH in January 2019, he was a professor of biomedical engineering and surgery at the University of California, Irvine. During this time, he served as director of the Beckman Laser Institute and Medical Clinic (BLIMC) from 2003 to 2018, and the Laser Microbeam and Medical Program, an NIH National Biomedical Technology Center at the BLIMC, from 1997-2018.

Dr. Tromberg specializes in the development of optics and photonics technologies for biomedical imaging and therapy. He has co-authored more than 450 publications and holds 24 patents in new technology development as well as bench-to-bedside clinical translation, validation, and commercialization of devices. He is the co-founder of the biophotonics company, Modulim, Inc, and has served on numerous advisory boards in academia, industry, government, and private foundations.

Dr. Tromberg received his undergraduate training in chemistry from Vanderbilt University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the University of Tennessee where he was a U.S. Department of Energy/Oak Ridge Associated Universities Fellow at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He was a Hewitt Foundation Photomedicine Fellow at the BLIMC and joined the UC Irvine faculty in 1990. Recent honors include the Britton Chance Award from the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE), the Michael S. Feld Award from Optica, and the Horace Furumoto Innovator Award from the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS). Dr. Tromberg is also a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineers (AIMBE), and a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Tromberg and his wife Patti live in Bethesda, Maryland. They enjoy exploring the area on hikes with their two dogs and visiting their 3 adult sons and daughter-in-law in Southern California whenever possible.

The Academy will honor Dr. Tromberg and this year’s class of Academy Distinguished Investigators at a special ceremony during the RSNA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 from 3-5PM CT in McCormick Place Convention Center, Room S105D, in Chicago, IL.

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