# Real time assessment of tumor response presentation wins the Innovation Competition at 2013 SNMMI Meeting

June 25, 2013, West Chester, Pennsylvania, Molecular Targeting Technologies, Inc., (MTTI) announced that Dr. Kai Chen of the University of Southern California was awarded the 2013 Center for Molecular Imaging Innovation and Translation (CMIIT) Young Investigator Award during the annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular imaging (SNMMI) in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Chen presented results from his study entitled: “Synthesis and evaluation of a novel bis (zinc(II)-dipicolyamine) derivative for dual-modality PET/NIRF imaging of phosphatidylserine exposure”.

This real time assessment probe can be used to monitor tumor response in as early as one day to evaluate treatment efficacy and intervene early in treatment modification. Non-invasive imaging of drug response has a significant clinical impact and can be broadly useful for monitoring numerous conditions, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, neurology and renal diseases.

Dr. Kai Chen, Assistant Professor of the Department of Radiology at USC said, “Novel tools to assist in the non-invasive, real time assessment of tumor response to anti-cancer treatment are urgently needed. Our current preclinical results could lead to a robust imaging agent, offering synergistic advantages, not only to allow comprehensive collection of cell death information, but also to facilitate clinical applications of image-guided surgery”.

Chris Pak, President and CEO of MTTI said, “I want to congratulate Dr. Chen in winning this prestigious award. We envision this novel proprietary probe (MTTI-170)* has the potential to provide early assessment of cancer treatment efficacy, leading to individually tailored therapeutic plans with improved patient outcomes.”

## University of Southern California

Founded in 1880, the University of Southern California (USC) is a world-renowned private university and rated among the top 25 of all U.S. institutions of higher learning. USC is comprised of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and 17 graduate and professional schools. The number of graduates exceeds the number of undergraduates at USC, with students enrolled in such programs as the highly ranked Keck School of Medicine, Marshall School of Business, and Andrew and Erna Viterbi School of Engineering. USC offers its nearly 22,000 graduate students a choice of over 130 master’s, doctoral, and professional degrees.

## Molecular Imaging Center (MIC), the University of Southern California

The USC Molecular Imaging Center is located at the Keck School of Medicine's Clinical Sciences Center. The center focuses on the translational needs of any investigator to allow *in vivo* imaging of disease processes and development of new molecular therapeutics and diagnostics. MIC's mission is to provide scientists and physicians with state-of-the-art imaging technology for studying intact biological systems using a multimodality approach. MIC faculty are active in developing novel methods of imaging to obtain new types of information as well as in applying current methods to study a wide range of biomedical questions using novel radiotracers, small animal models, and state-of-the-art imaging systems.

## Molecular Targeting Technologies, Inc.

Molecular Targeting Technologies, Inc. (MTTI) is a privately held biotechnology company primarily focused on the identification, evaluation, acquisition and development of novel technologies for diagnosis and treatment of human diseases. MTTI has licensed several proprietary technologies that allow targeting of glioma and prostate cancers as well as stroke and myocardial infarction. MTTI is also advancing a therapeutic human monoclonal antibody in China for Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis and a vaccine technology for development of a Botulinum neurotoxin vaccine and a potent human rabies vaccine. In addition, MTTI is building a research reagents business and currently offers a range of innovative fluorescence based products for in vitro and in vivo research applications. Please visit our website: www.mtarget.com for more information.

* This novel probe targets one of the most ubiquitous fingerprints/biomarkers of dying cells, making it an attractive target for molecular imaging. For more information on biomarkers, please visit: http://www.omicsgroup.com/conferences/biomarkers-2013/

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