



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

June 10, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to urge your favorable consideration of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Hertz was a pioneer in the research of medical uses of radioiodine (RAI). This year marks the eightieth anniversary of Dr. Hertz's administration of the first therapeutic use of radioiodine to a human patient. This was the first time humans were successfully treated with an artificially produced radioactive material.

The son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, Dr. Hertz graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1929. He served as director of the Massachusetts General Hospital's thyroid unit. Alongside Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Dr. Arthur Roberts, Dr. Hertz discovered the potential for iodine radioisotopes in thyroid disease diagnosis and treatment.

Following this achievement, Dr. Hertz's follow up studies were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Today, medical uses of RAI remain the gold standard of targeted precision oncology. One patient successfully treated with RAI, former First Lady Barbara Bush, wrote to Dr. Hertz's widow, recognizing the importance of his work.

Before his sudden passing in 1950 at the age of forty-five, Dr. Hertz played an essential role in the developing field of nuclear medicine – critical during World War II and beyond. In 1949, he established the first Nuclear Medicine Department at the Massachusetts Women's Hospital. Today, Dr. Hertz's archives are kept in Greenwich, Connecticut, where they offer a rich history of research in this critical field, and serve as a testament to his brilliant, lifesaving efforts.

This year, Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo issued a proclamation, naming March 31, "Dr. Saul Hertz Nuclear Medicine/Radio Pharmaceutical Day." I was pleased to commemorate Dr. Hertz's extraordinary work with a statement in the Congressional Record, and I urge your consideration of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

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James A. Himes

Congress of the United States

4th District, Connecticut

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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

July 12, 2021

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to convey my sincerest hope that you will consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. What Dr. Hertz was able to accomplish over the course of his medical career certainly makes him worthy of such an honor. Dr. Hertz researched, developed, and pioneered the medical usage of radioiodine (RAI) as the first targeted cancer therapy. Exactly eighty years ago, Dr. Hertz successfully administered the first therapeutic use of radioiodine to a human patient. Because of Dr. Hertz's monumental work, the medical community is better equipped to successfully treat patients with cancer.

Dr. Saul Hertz was born on April 20, 1905 to Jewish immigrants from Poland. One of seven sons, Dr. Hertz attended public school in Cleveland and went on to receive an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. In 1929, Dr. Hertz received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. Upon graduation, Dr. Hertz returned to Cleveland to complete his internship and residency at Mount Sinai Hospital.

In 1931, Dr. Hertz joined the Thyroid Clinic and Metabolism Laboratories at Massachusetts General Hospital. He soon became Chief of the Thyroid Clinic and served in this role from 1931-1943. It was here that Dr. Hertz and MIT physicist Dr. Arthur Roberts conducted their renowned research to explore the possible applications of iodine radioisotopes for diagnosis and treatment of thyroid diseases. In 1937, Hertz predicted the therapeutic use of radioactive iodine for treating thyroid carcinoma, and in 1941, he successfully administered the first therapeutic dose of cyclotron-produced radioiodine (RAI) to a human patient suffering from Graves' Disease.

Dr. Hertz's interest in utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes led him to establish the Radioactive Isotope Research Institute in Boston, Massachusetts and the first nuclear medicine department at the Massachusetts Women's Hospital, where he expanded his research to use radionuclides to diagnose and treat other forms of cancer. In a letter to Dr. Hertz's widow, Former First Lady Barbara Bush, who was successfully treated with radioiodine, wrote, "It is comforting to know that so many people are well because of the scientific expertise of people like Dr. Hertz." It is for this reason that I strongly urge you to consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,

Dear Mr. President,

As a cancer survivor, whose life was saved due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Saul Hertz(1905-1950), I am reaching out and respectfully ask that you consider awarding Dr. Hertz the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Saul Hertz, was a pioneer of nuclear medicine who originated the use of radioactive iodine (RAI) to treat thyroid diseases. His wonderful efforts have saved the lives of millions of people worldwide over the many decades since his work began in the late 1930s.

I started feeling ill in my first term as Greenwich Town Selectman, after serving eleven years as a Connecticut State Representative. I felt heart palpitations, my hands were shaking and I was rapidly losing weight. Soon after being diagnosed with a thyroid disorder I was treated at Sloan Kettering. I had surgery to remove my thyroid and the RAI treatment to provide clean borders and kill any remaining cancer cells. Dr Hertz's targeted method of precision oncology continues to save the lives of thyroid cancer patients and serves as an approach that is successfully extending the lives of patients with other forms of cancer, most notably, neuroendocrine tumors. Steve Jobs succumbed to this form of Cancer. Targeted Alpha Therapy is extending the lives of patients with brain tumors.

Dr. Hertz, the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, is an American success story. I identify with the courage and determination that he put forth being an outsider, as my Italian Catholic family members came to Greenwich , CT at a time of restrictions. Dr Hertz graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1929 when there were quotas for Jews and Catholics.

Inspired by a presentation about the use of physics in medicine, he collaborated with Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Dr. Arthur Roberts to develop the experimental data and apply it in the clinical setting. Collaboration has been a distinct feature in my legislative and leadership career.

Since 1941 and Dr. Hertz 's success, radiopharmaceuticals have provided a window into the functioning of the human body with unimaginable imaging techniques. An estimated 100 million scans are completed yearly in the United States.

Dr. Hertz stated, "...demand is expected for radioactive iodine and as research develops in the field of cancer and leukemia for other radioactive medicines." In July of 1950 at age 45, he passed, leaving an indelible impact on endocrinology, oncology, neurology, cardiology, radiology and most importantly countless generations of patients, including me.

Sincerely,

Fred Camillo
First Selectman
Town of Greenwich.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

May 10, 2024

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to bring to your attention a highly deserving candidate for the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom, Dr. Saul Hertz. As a prominent figure in the field of medical research and innovation, Dr. Hertz's contributions have had a profound and lasting impact on healthcare and human well-being.

Dr. Saul Hertz is widely recognized for his pioneering work in the medical application of radioiodine (RAT). His groundbreaking research and development of radioiodine therapy have revolutionized the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid diseases, marking over two decades of dedicated service to advancing medical science.

Born on April 20, 1905, in Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Hertz's journey as the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland reflects the American spirit of innovation and perseverance. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1929 and went on to serve as the director of the thyroid unit at Massachusetts General Hospital, where his collaboration with leading scientists such as Dr. Arthur Roberts of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology led to significant breakthroughs in nuclear medicine.

Dr. Hertz's contributions extend beyond his pioneering work in radioiodine therapy. He played a pivotal role in the development of nuclear medicine, particularly during World War II and its aftermath, when his research proved instrumental in diagnosing and treating various forms of cancer. His studies on radioactive phosphorus and the influence of hormones on cancer have laid the foundation for modern oncology research and treatment protocols.

Dr. Saul Hertz's legacy endures to this day. In recognition of his outstanding career achievements and tireless dedication to advancing medical science, the Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Engineering established The Dr. Saul Hertz Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to radionuclide therapy. His archives, located in Greenwich, Connecticut, stand as a testament to his enduring legacy and contributions to the field of medicine.

I believe that Dr. Saul Hertz exemplifies the ideals of scholarship, innovation, and humanitarianism. His contributions have not only saved countless lives but have also paved the way for future generations of medical researchers and practitioners. Therefore, it is with great respect and admiration that I recommend Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, as a fitting tribute to his remarkable achievements and lasting impact on society.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I am confident that honoring Dr. Hertz with the Presidential Medal of Freedom would be a testament to the values of excellence, dedication, and service that define our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Lamont".

Ned Lamont
Governor

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Governor.Lamont@ct.gov



 **James L. Madara, MD**
CEO, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

james.madara@ama-assn.org

July 6, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Presidential Medal of Freedom for Saul Hertz, MD

Dear Mr. President:

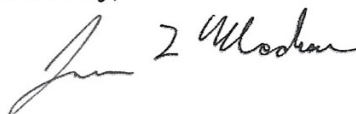
The American Medical Association (AMA) is pleased to support the nomination of Saul Hertz, MD, for the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his novel use of radioactive isotopes to target hyperthyroidism. In doing so, Dr. Hertz demonstrated the clinical potential of targeted radionuclide therapy and he set the stage for what is now a robust class of anti-cancer therapies.

The son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, Dr. Hertz overcame incredible odds by graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1929. After which, he completed his internship and residency at Cleveland's Mount Sinai Hospital, eventually taking a position at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) where he became Chief of the Thyroid Clinic. At the time the only treatments for hyperthyroidism were surgery, which was invasive and potentially dangerous, and radiation, which damaged normal tissue, as well as the thyroid. Dr. Hertz's targeted use of radioactive isotopes to cure hyperthyroidism (with no apparent side effects) was the first treatment of its kind and laid the foundation for a new class of therapies that would use radioactive substances to develop targeted treatments for many types of cancer with many others currently in the development pipeline.

In 1943, Dr. Hertz left MGH to join the United States Navy as part of the war effort. When Dr. Hertz returned from the war, he continued his research and established the use of radioactive iodine as a frontline treatment in thyroid disorders. Sadly, Dr. Hertz passed away at the age of 45 before he could enjoy the honors that were due him; his role in developing the field of nuclear medicine largely overlooked. A posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom would give Dr. Hertz the recognition that he deserved in life for his pioneering work.

For his pivotal role in developing a new class of anti-cancer therapies and in advancing the field of nuclear medicine, the AMA strongly supports and urges you to consider the nomination of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD



American Chemical Society

 DR. THOMAS CONNELLY, JR.
Chief Executive Officer

1155 SIXTEENTH STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
Phone (202) 872-4534

November 15, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you consider awarding Medals of Freedom, I would highlight a deserving candidate, Dr. Saul Hertz, a pioneer of nuclear medicine. Just last month, the American Chemical Society recognized the importance of Dr. Hertz's work by designating Massachusetts General Hospital a National Historical Chemical Landmark. The innovation of using radioactive iodine to treat thyroid diseases inspired an entirely novel field of medicine which remains one of the key tools in treating cancer and imaging the body even now. A Medal of Freedom would be a well-earned posthumous recognition of Dr. Hertz research.

Dr. Hertz, the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, is a classic American success story. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1929. Inspired by a presentation about the use of physics in medicine, he collaborated with Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Dr. Arthur Roberts to discover the potential for iodine radioisotopes in thyroid disease diagnosis and treatment. In 1941, Dr. Hertz was the first person to use radioactive iodine to treat a patient. Since then, the use of radioactive iodine has expanded beyond thyroid treatment to targeted oncology as well. His initial success has led to a wide range of radioisotopes being used to treat patients and provided a window into the functioning of the human body with previously unimaginable imaging techniques.

I hope that you will consider my recommendation and award Dr. Hertz the Medal of Freedom in the coming year. Should the American Chemical Society be able to provide any additional information to support the consideration of Dr. Hertz, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Thomas M. Connelly, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



February 2, 2022

Dear President Biden,

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Dr. Saul Hertz, MD for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a long overdue honor for a pioneer of medicine. Dr. Hertz was the first physician to use radioactive isotopes to target a specific disease, in his case, hyperthyroidism, and he set the stage for what is now a robust class of anti-cancer therapies.

By way of background, many of the body's functions are controlled by hormones, one of which is thyroid hormone, a major regulator of metabolism. In the case of hyperthyroidism, also known as Grave's disease, the thyroid gland is overactive and produces many unpleasant and in some cases life threatening symptoms. In order to produce thyroid hormone, the thyroid gland takes up the element iodine from the blood to synthesize thyroid hormone in excess. This uptake of iodine is unique to the thyroid gland and thus, provides a unique avenue for therapy.

Dr. Saul Hertz was an endocrinologist and Chief of the Thyroid Clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH; 1931-1943) and was very familiar with hyperthyroidism. At the time the only treatments were surgery which was invasive and potentially dangerous, and radiation which damaged normal tissue as well as the thyroid. After hearing a talk by Professor Karl Compton of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Dr. Hertz wondered whether radioactive iodine might be selectively taken up by the overactive thyroid gland, resulting in selective killing of the thyroid gland cells. After several years of experimental work in animals to determine an appropriate dose of radioactivity, the treatment was administered in 1941 to one of Dr. Hertz' patients at MGH, a young woman with hyperthyroidism. This treatment cured the patient of the disease without apparent side effects. This historic moment ushered in a new era where targeted radionuclides could be given to patients to selectively ablate abnormal cells, which, in the current era has been directed at cancer cells. This form of therapy has undergone a renaissance over the last few years with several new agents introduced for the treatment of neuroendocrine and prostate cancers with many others in the pipeline. These agents trace their origins to the initial insight of Dr. Hertz who recognized the potential of targeted radionuclide therapy.

In 1943 Dr. Hertz left MGH to join the US Navy as part of the war effort. When he returned from the war, he was unable to get his old position at MGH back but nonetheless continued to conduct research on radioactive iodine therapy. The news of his therapy spread rapidly and soon was a standard of care for hyperthyroidism, eventually also being used to treat thyroid cancer. Unfortunately, Dr. Hertz passed away at the young age of 45 before he could enjoy the honors that were due him. Perhaps because of his early passing his role in this pivotal discovery has not been sufficiently recognized. A posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom would certainly go a long way toward righting this injustice.


Very few treatments in medicine stand the test of time. Over 70 years after the treatment of the first patient in his clinic, radioactive iodine is still a standard of care for hyperthyroidism. Moreover, his insight has launched many other treatments based on radioactive isotopes that have improved the lives of many patients and will continue to do so well into the future. It is in the spirit of this remarkable contribution that I write this letter of support and strongly recommend you consider Dr. Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,



Norman E. Sharpless, MD
Director, National Cancer Institute



 Dr. Ilya Gipp, MD, PhD
Global Clinical Leader - Oncology

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May 23, 2024

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500


Dear President Biden,

Our names are Dr. Ilya Gipp and Shari Manuel, and we serve as the Global Clinical Leader for Oncology and the Vice President for Molecular Imaging at GE HealthCare. GE HealthCare is a leading global medical technology, pharmaceutical diagnostics, and digital innovator working to solve the greatest challenges in healthcare that patient and clinicians face today and in the future.

We are writing to wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom to be awarded posthumously. This nomination is in recognition of his pioneering discovery and the first clinical application of radioactive isotopes in treating patients, marking the beginning of the era of targeted therapies for cancer and other diseases. Dr. Hertz's work emerged from his profound observations and intellectual curiosity, leading him to explore the therapeutic potential of radioisotopes.

Dr. Hertz, the son of Jewish immigrants from what is now Poland, received a BA from the University of Michigan in 1924 with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He then attended Harvard Medical School (when the school imposed strict quotas for admission of Jewish students) graduating in 1929.

By 1941, Dr. Hertz had achieved his initial breakthrough by successfully treating a patient with hyperthyroidism using radioactive iodine. This was the first instance in history where a disease was treated with artificially produced radioactive materials. Dr. Hertz's research laid the groundwork for the field of radiopharmaceutical therapies, which today treats thousands suffering from thyroid and prostate cancers, as well as neuroendocrine tumors. With so many more molecules and isotopes in the pipeline of clinical trials, there is promise of hope to many more patients in the future.

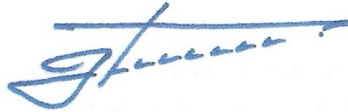
 Moreover, Dr. Hertz's methodical approach to quantitatively investigating therapeutic agent distribution has earned him the title of the father of what we now recognize as theranostics – the combination of diagnostics and therapy. His relentless pursuit of precision in cancer care, through targeted, personalized, and measured treatment strategies, has had an immeasurable impact on the field of nuclear medicine.

The legacy of Dr. Hertz in transforming the landscape of medical treatment and establishing fundamental protocols in modern nuclear medicine and cancer therapy has benefited millions of patients worldwide. It stands as a testament to his dedication and foresight in the realm of scientific and medical innovation.

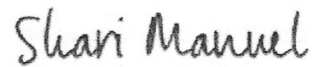
We firmly believe that awarding Dr. Saul Hertz the Presidential Medal of Freedom would not only be a fitting tribute to his exceptional contributions to medicine but would also align with the goals of your Administration's Cancer Moonshot Initiative, further inspiring future generations of scientists and physicians to pursue innovative solutions in cancer care.

Thank you for considering this nomination. We are confident that Dr. Hertz's enduring legacy perfectly embodies the ideals of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,



Ilya Gipp



Shari Manuel

Annick D. Van den Abbeele, MD, FACR, FICIS

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Chair Emeritus, Department of Imaging
Institute Physician
Founder and Director, Center for Biomedical Imaging in Oncology
Harvard Medical School
Professor of Radiology

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Chief Emeritus, Division of Cancer Imaging
Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center
Co-Director, Tumor Imaging Metrics Core
International Cancer Imaging Society
Immediate Past President
Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Cancer Imaging*

June 20, 2023
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am honored and very pleased to enthusiastically support the nomination of Dr. Saul Hertz, prior chief of the Massachusetts General Hospital's Thyroid Clinic for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The field of Radiopharmaceutical Therapy, now called Theranostics, is a rapidly expanding medical field that uses precision medicine to define a biological target, precision imaging to verify the presence of the target, and precision therapy to deliver a payload dose of radioactive tracer(s) to that target. Targets are not only a variety of cancers, but benign tumors and conditions such as thyroid disease, meningioma, arthritis, and others. In summary: "If you can see it, you can treat it".

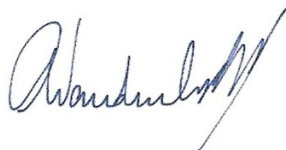
Dr. Hertz showed an extraordinary vision when he asked a seminal question in 1936 regarding iodine which led to a transformative change in the way that hyperactive thyroid disease could be treated using a noninvasive method with radioactive iodine as opposed to surgery. Shortly after that, radioactive iodine was also administered to treat thyroid carcinoma. These novel approaches opened the door to the field of Nuclear Medicine in which I have been practicing for more than 30 years. Thanks to Dr. Hertz and other researchers since then, radiopharmaceuticals are now routinely used in diagnostic imaging and treatment of benign and malignant diseases and the paired theranostics concept has also been supported and approved by our regulatory agencies such as the FDA and CMS.

Furthermore, Dr. Hertz' legacy is also having a positive impact on the nuclear medicine market growth both in the USA and globally. This does not only reflect on the availability of a greater number of precision medicine radiopharmaceuticals, but also illustrates the rapid implementation of these tracers at an increasing number of theranostics centers, and more importantly demonstrates the increased access to patients worldwide.

In conclusion, Dr. Hertz' vision has not only withstood the test of time, but it is also now leading to significant improvements in the quality of life and survival of millions of patients in the USA and across the globe. His legacy has also been recognized by his alma mater and major professional societies with several prizes bearing his name.

Dr. Hertz has certainly been an inspiration for me in my own career and that of many other clinicians and scientists. I respectfully urge you to consider his nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Respectfully submitted,



Annick D. Van den Abbeele, MD, FACR, FICIS

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

February 14, 2022

Dear Mr. President,

Re: Nomination of Saul Hertz, M.D. for the Presidential Medal of Freedom

It is my great privilege to recommend Dr. Saul Hertz, for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Hertz was a true pioneer in the field of medicine who had the unique foresight to recognize the value of radioactive radioiodine for therapy of thyroid overactivity (hyperthyroidism) and thyroid cancer. Subsequently, tens of thousands of patients with overactive thyroids and metastatic thyroid cancer have benefited from his determination in showing the feasibility of this therapy in sick patients. His innovation went beyond the accepted wisdom of his time, and because of his insight and drive, lives were saved.

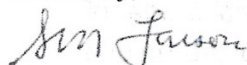
* Dr. Hertz's achievements were all the more remarkable because of the great obstacles that he overcame to conduct his careful clinical studies and see his predictions of benefit become a reality. As a Jewish physician in a time of strong anti-Semitism in American medicine, his work was actively plagiarized and discounted; because of the powerful administrative and scientific position of his medical critics he did not receive the recognition and accolades which his discoveries warranted. Nonetheless, he courageously persevered and ultimately convinced a skeptical medical audience.

As a nuclear medicine physician, and Chief of Nuclear Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, for more than 25 years, I have treated hundreds of patients with radioactive Iodine and can attest to its healing power. Perhaps even more remarkable is that Dr. Hertz also predicted the value of other radioactive drugs, tailored for other cancers. He foresaw a day when the value of radioactivity for treatment, would go well beyond life-threatening thyroid conditions to include other dread diseases, especially treatments for adult and childhood human tumors. Dr. Hertz is quoted as saying "...demand is expected in the fields of cancer and leukemia for other radioactive medicines. His words were indeed prophetic, and now we see a blossoming of "radioactive medicines" being produced through the advance of science and an explosion of academic and industrial interest, to be successfully applied to many human cancers, such as lymphoma, leukemia, pediatric tumors, prostate cancer and other endocrine malignancies.

Recognition of the importance of Dr. Hertz' major contributions to science and medicine is relatively recant. Leaders in science and medicine, from several professional societies have now come forward as witness to his legacy. I myself am especially proud to have been named the first recipient of the Saul Hertz Prize (2016) sponsored by the Society

of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, awarded for lifetime achievement in the field of radionuclide therapy. The prize which bears his name will be a continuing inspiration to those of us who labor in this field and who also believe in Dr. Hertz's vision of the huge benefit that will come to mankind from judicious use of "radioactive medicines" in treatment of human disease.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Larson, MD, FACNM, FACR

Hedvig Hricak Chair

Attending Molecular Imaging and Therapy Service

Department of Radiology

Member and Lab Head, Molecular Pharmacology and Chemistry Program

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NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center



Angela N. Koehler, Ph.D.
Goldblith Professor of Applied Biology
Department of Biological Engineering, MIT
Intramural Faculty, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research
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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

December 22, 2021

Dear Mr. President,

It is with greatest pleasure that I urge you to consider **Dr. Saul Hertz** for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Hertz was a pioneer of nuclear medicine, and his work has had profound impacts on cancer therapeutics and diagnostics. Indeed, I currently teach my MIT students the principles of theranostics, a field pioneered by Dr. Hertz in the last century that combines diagnostic imaging with therapy via single or multiplexed agents. Armed with modern methods of genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, nanomedicine, and imaging, the theranostic vision of Dr. Hertz will be a cornerstone of precision medicine for my age and the age of my children. Indeed, radiomedicine to diagnose and treat cancer has seen a recent resurgence in academic medicine, intramural research at NIH, and within the biopharma sector.

✓ The story of Dr. Hertz inspires today's students in many ways. Dr. Hertz was the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland and was able to earn a spot at Harvard Medical School at a time when his ethnic background and religion would have been viewed negatively in that setting. After graduating in 1929, he completed his internship and residency at Cleveland's Mount Sinai Hospital where he was able to serve the local Jewish population. In 1931, he moved back to Boston and joined the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Thyroid Clinic and Metabolism Laboratories. He formed a scientific bridge across the Charles River, joining forces with MIT physicist Dr. Arthur Roberts to uncover applications of iodine radioisotopes for the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disorders. In early 1941, Dr. Hertz administered the first therapeutic dose of radioactive iodine to a patient suffering from Graves' Disease, paving the way for a larger clinical trial. In the years that followed, he was able to expand the use of radioactive iodine to a broad swath of cancers, establishing the agent as a frontline treatment in thyroid disorders and beyond. This past year, the American Chemical Society recognized his work by designating the MGH as *the Saul Hertz and Medical Uses of Radioiodine National Historic Chemical Landmark*.

More importantly, Dr. Hertz is an example for our students that one can combine their passion for 'molecular magic' and medicine to have an impact on the lives of patients. While many of our students are extremely gifted in science and engineering, we strive to send a message that impacting the lives of people is the true measure of success at MIT. Dr. Hertz is exemplary of this mission, as his pioneering work in the use of radioactive iodine to treat thyroid diseases opened up a completely new field of medicine. We refer to these moments in scientific or medical history as examples of 'disruptive innovation.' Indeed, the use of radioactive iodine in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disease is the cornerstone of nuclear medicine and his seminal research has had a direct impact on my own family, eight decades after his first administration to patients. As you can see, I view the posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom for Dr. Hertz as worthy from the perspectives of a scientist, a teacher and as a family member to patients. Please do not hesitate to reach out if any additional information in support of this nomination is required. ✓

Sincerely,

Angela N. Koehler, Professor of Biological Engineering, MIT



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Department of Urology

December 20, 2021

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington D.C., NW 20500

Dear President Biden,

I write to you today to encourage you to consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. 80 years ago, in 1941, Dr. Hertz was the first to recognize the potential to use radioactive iodine to treat thyroid cancer. Testament to his foresight, this treatment is still in use today. In those ensuing 80 years, probably hundreds of thousands of patients worldwide have benefited greatly from it. While that, in itself, is a monumental achievement worthy of honor, Dr. Hertz in effect ushered in the entire field of molecularly targeted therapy which has, in recent years, begun to make a very impactful benefit to the treatment of cancer and other diseases. Hertz presaged 'personalized medicine' and the very recent concept we now refer to as 'theranostics'—that is the linkage of related diagnostic imaging and therapeutic agents to enable selection of the patients most appropriate for the respective treatment. This makes treatment more effective, spares those likely unresponsive patients from potential side effects and allows them to seek other potentially more beneficial treatments, and makes for a more cost-effective health care system.

At the time of developing his medical advance, Dr. Hertz was based at the prestigious Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1941, especially at the patrician MGH, it was not easy being a Jew. Hertz was one of only two Jews; neither was allowed to have faculty status. And how did his fellow physicians reward Dr. Hertz' discovery? They did so by stealing his data and trying to claim the discovery as their own and not his. Fortunately, they did not succeed, but I'm sure the events were very difficult and trying for Dr. Hertz. He died suddenly, in 1950, at the age of 45, well before his time.

Dr. Hertz' treatment paradigm has recently been extended to image and treat neuroendocrine tumors (similar to the tumor that killed Steve Jobs) and prostate cancer with tumor-targeted radioactive isotopes. Substantial effort continues to expand this benefit to other tumor types.

Dr. Hertz would be a worthy recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, honoring both his direct and lasting contribution to the treatment of thyroid cancer as well as the related fields of targeted therapeutics and personalized medicine that his research ushered in.

Sincerely,



Neil H. Bander, MD
Bernard & Josephine Chaus Professor of Urologic Oncology
Weill Cornell Medical College



February 27, 2024

The President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

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courier
333 Cedar Street, Box 208028 (www221)
New Haven CT 06510

RE: Dr. Saul Hertz consideration for the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Dear President Biden,


It is my honor to write this letter humbly encouraging your consideration of Dr. Saul Hertz posthumously for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Hertz can be credited as one of the founders of nuclear medicine and radionuclide therapy through his discovery that radio-labeled iodine could be used to target and treat hyperthyroidism in the 1940's. His ground-breaking discovery also served as the impetus for the personalized medicine movement in the treatment of cancer. We have long recognized that cancer is not just one disease, but many different diseases driven by various genetic mutations and cellular changes (also known as biomarkers) that can be unique to an individual's cancer. Key to effective long-term treatment is the ability to identify the unique biomarkers of a patient's cancer and to use targeted treatments that inhibit those unique mutations. This has been the standard of care in the modern age of cancer treatment, but it was a completely novel and untested concept when Dr. Hertz first proposed the idea of "Theranostics" eighty years ago. Theranostics combines the words "therapy" and "diagnostics" to describe the use of radioactive drugs to diagnose and treat diseases such as cancer. Since his initial discovery, millions of patients around the world have benefited from the use of radioactive tracers and medicines in diagnostic imaging and for the targeted treatment of cancers such as thyroid, neuroendocrine, and prostate cancers, as well as neuroblastoma in children.

Dr. Hertz' work has also influenced my own career. For more than 25 years, I have dedicated my translational research program to the discovery of more effective, personalized, targeted therapies and to improving outcomes for patients with lung cancers. Dr. Hertz inspired my early work developing monoclonal antibody therapies that specifically target and inhibit the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), one of the most common mutations in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). These EGFR inhibitors first approved by the US Food & Drug Administration in the early 2000's revolutionized the field by prompting mutational screening for all patients with NSCLC and corresponding treatment with targeted therapy. Likewise, the discovery of the programmed death-1 (PD-1) receptor and its ligand PD-L1 as modulators of immune cell evasion in tumors prompted us and others to develop immune checkpoint inhibitors targeting this pathway. Now, patients whose tumors do not harbor activating mutations (such as in the *EGFR* gene), but who express PD-1/PD-L1 receive treatment with immunotherapies such as pembrolizumab or atezolizumab. This personalized treatment strategy serves as the cornerstone of care for lung and other cancers, and this approach was only made possible by the early discoveries of Dr. Hertz.

Tragically, Dr. Hertz died in 1950 at the young age of 45 from a heart attack. One wonders what more he could have accomplished for science and medicine had he lived on. There is no honor more fitting than the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is awarded to those who have made great contributions to the US and/or the world, to be given in Dr. Hertz memory. I truly hope you consider Dr. Hertz for this tremendous honor.

Re: Dr. Saul Hertz consideration for Presidential Medal of Freedom
February 27, 2024

Sincerely,



Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD
Deputy Director of Yale Cancer Center
Ensign Professor of Medicine, Yale University
Chief of Medical Oncology, Yale Cancer Center

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to you in the capacity of Vice President - Medical Affairs, on behalf of POINT Biopharma, to very strongly recommend Dr. Saul Hertz, MD, as a top nominee for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and a posthumous honor of his incredible professional achievements as the pioneer of radioiodine therapy. Dr. Hertz's groundbreaking work has set the foundation for targeted precision medicine with radioligand therapies, and has positively impacted the lives of many of cancer patients across the globe.

Dr. Hertz, a Harvard Medical School graduate, overcame several personal and life challenges to bring his work to fruition. In 1941, Dr Hertz and a physicist from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Dr. Arthur Roberts, collectively discovered how to use radioiodine to diagnose and treat thyroid diseases. Dr Hertz's research continued with his appointments as instructor at Harvard Medical School from 1946 to 1950 and with MIT's Nuclear Physics Department from 1939 to 1950, amongst numerous other prestigious titles and accolades. In today's treatment landscape, approximately 80 years later, Dr Hertz's work has translated into what is now known as the field of theranostics, an emerging beacon of hope for patients with metastatic bone cancers, prostate cancer, neuroendocrine tumors and neuroblastoma.

✓ Dr Saul Hertz's legacy is enduring and critical to cancer care. His work established the cornerstone of nuclear medicine and has paved the way for significant advancements in the field of theranostics for a wide variety of cancer patients. Aside from my career in the field of radioligand therapeutics, I am also an active philanthropist and a caretaker for my mother who is currently undergoing her own cancer journey. As such, I cannot stress the importance of the profound impact that Dr Hertz's contributions has and continues to have in the field of Oncology. We encourage you to strongly consider Dr Saul Hertz as the potential recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best wishes,

POINT
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Vice President – Medical Affairs

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sal-safadi@pointbiopharma.com



December 13, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing in support of a deserving candidate for the *Medal of Freedom*, Dr. Saul Hertz, a pioneer of nuclear medicine. My name is Sergio Calvo, President of Jubilant Radiopharma, based in Yardley, PA. Our company manufactures radioisotopes for medical use including radioactive iodine used in the treatment of thyroid diseases.

We recognize the significant contribution of Dr. Hertz to medicine, creating a field that the industry currently refers to Theranostics, which is the use of the same molecule to image and treat a disease -- in Dr. Hertz' case, Hyperthyroidism and Thyroid Cancer.

✶ We are proud to bring to American patients a therapy that yields 98% 10-year survival in thyroid cancer based on the early work of Dr. Saul Hertz at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. One of the most prominent patients successfully treated with radioactive iodine was former First Lady Barbara Bush, who wrote to Dr. Hertz's widow recognizing the importance of his work.

In 1941, Dr. Hertz was the first person to use radioactive iodine to treat thyroid cancer. Since then, the radiopharmaceuticals industry has been working to develop targeted therapies for oncology and immune diseases. *A Medal of Freedom* would be a well-earned posthumous recognition of Dr. Hertz's research.

I hope that you will consider my recommendation and award Dr. Hertz the *Medal of Freedom* in the coming year. Should Jubilant Radiopharma be able to provide any additional information to support the consideration of Dr. Hertz, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

* Sergio Calvo
President
Jubilant Radiopharma

10 May 2024

The Honourable President Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President

My name is Dr Christian Behrenbruch, the CEO and co-founder of Telix Pharmaceuticals, a radiopharmaceutical company established in 2015. Telix employs 190+ people in the United States, and more importantly we are impacting the lives of thousands of patients globally through our diagnostic imaging agents and investigational therapeutic products for the treatment of cancer and rare diseases.

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the United States. Dr. Hertz's contributions to the field of nuclear medicine (radiopharmaceuticals), particularly in the advancement of thyroid cancer treatment, are truly deserving of this prestigious recognition.

As a pioneer in the medical community, Dr. Hertz made groundbreaking discoveries that revolutionized the way we understand and treat cancer. Perhaps his most notable achievement is the development of radioactive iodine therapy for the treatment of thyroid cancer. This landmark technique, which he first introduced in 1941, has since saved countless lives and become a cornerstone of modern oncology, and set the foundations for modern day Theranostics. Theranostics is a term that combines "therapy" and "diagnostics" and refers to an evolving field of radiopharmaceuticals that aims to combine diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities into a single agent or procedure.

On March 31, 1941, Elizabeth D, a patient referred to Dr. Saul Hertz at the Massachusetts General Hospital for management of hyperthyroidism, was administered 2.1 mCi of a ^{130I}/^{131I} mixture. Thus, she became the first patient with thyroid disease to be treated with radioiodine. Dr. Hertz's innovative approach to cancer treatment not only extended patients' lives but also paved the way for further advancements in the field.



Personally inspired by his dedication to research, has led to the founding of Telix Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Built on Dr Hertz's principles, our prostate imaging technology has been used to diagnose 72,000 American men. We are investing in difficult to diagnose and treat cancers with high unmet need such as kidney, and our brain cancer portfolio utilises 18F-floretyrosine (18F-FET) to diagnose, and we are in clinical trial utilising 131I-IPA as a potential treatment. None of these advancements would have been possible without the extraordinary work of Dr. Hertz. His empathy, integrity, and unwavering commitment to his profession serve as an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps.

Mr President, just as your legacy will include your commitment to The Cancer Moonshot, in recognition of his extraordinary achievements and profound impact on medicine, I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of medical professionals and serve as a testament to the power of innovation and compassion in the fight against cancer.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I trust that Dr. Hertz's remarkable contributions to humanity make him a worthy recipient of this esteemed honour.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CB", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Christian Behrenbruch
Managing Director & Group Chief Executive Officer



CardinalHealth

Cardinal Health
Nuclear & Precision Health Solutions
5100 Rings Road
Dublin, Ohio 43017
614.757.5000 tel

cardinalhealth.com/nphs

December 17, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I am writing to ask for your consideration of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Hertz made many pivotal contributions to the field of nuclear medicine, most notably his pioneering work with radioiodine.

Partnering with his colleagues at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Hertz discovered how iodine radioisotopes could diagnose and treat thyroid disease. Since this time, there have been significant advancements in the field, due in no small part to Dr. Hertz's contributions.

Many of these advancements in nuclear medicine are expected in an area of precision medicine called Theranostics, which uses the same or paired molecule(s) to both diagnose and treat a disease – work that Dr. Hertz began more than 80 years ago.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom recognizes those individuals who have made “an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.”

* I cannot think of another individual who has contributed so much to an industry that impacts millions of people every year via the diagnosis or treatment of routine and unique cancers as well as in the areas of neurology, cardiology and endocrinology for benign conditions.

At Cardinal Health Nuclear & Precision Health Solutions, we are excited about the future of our industry and continuing to build on Dr. Hertz's work to advance precision medicine for the benefit of patients everywhere.

If I can provide any additional information to support your consideration of Dr. Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, I would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

* Michael Pintek
President, Nuclear & Precision Health Solutions
Cardinal Health



March 4, 2023

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington D.C., NW 20500

Dear President Biden,


This letter is intended to persuade you to consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. By way of introduction, I am a medical oncologist who spent most of my career at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, then as Chair of the Department of Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Recently, I became the Chief Executive Officer of Convergent Therapeutics, a biotechnology company using targeted radiation (antibodies coupled to radionuclides) to improve the lives of cancer patients.

What we are trying to achieve now in our company would not be possible were it not for the work that Dr. Hertz did some 80 years ago. Dr. Hertz was the first to recognize the potential to use radioactive iodine to treat thyroid cancer. As a testament to his foresight, this treatment is still used today in thousands of patients with thyroid cancer or an overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism). Those treated have benefited greatly from it. Dr. Hertz can also get credit for pioneering targeted therapy and personalized medicine which are now standards of care.

At the time of developing his targeted thyroid cancer therapy, Dr. Hertz was a physician at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Hertz was one of only two Jews at the Massachusetts General Hospital at that time; neither was allowed to have faculty status. I recently learned that fellow physicians tried to steal his data and tried to claim the discovery as their own. Fortunately, they did not succeed. He died suddenly in 1950, at the age of 45 soon after all of this occurred.

In my opinion, Dr. Hertz is worthy of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, honoring both his lasting contribution to the treatment of thyroid cancer and thyroid disease as well as pioneering the fields of targeted therapeutics and personalized medicine which are now standards of care in oncology.

Sincerely yours,



Philip Kantoff, MD

1 Broadway, 14th Floor | Cambridge, MA 02142



**Lantheus
Holdings**

331 Treble Cove Road
North Billerica, MA 01862

800.362.2668
www.lantheus.com

The President

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I recommend that you consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Medal of Freedom, as a well-earned posthumous recognition of his ground-breaking research and pioneer of nuclear medicine. Thanks to Dr. Hertz, companies such as Lantheus Holdings today provide life-saving nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging products and radiopharmaceutical therapies to millions of patients each year in the United States.

In October 2021, the American Chemical Society recognized the importance of Dr. Hertz's work by designating Massachusetts General Hospital a National Historical Chemical Landmark. It was there that Dr. Hertz, the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland who had graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1929, together with Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Dr. Arthur Roberts, discovered in 1941 the use of iodine radioisotopes for thyroid disease diagnosis and treatment – a combination today known as a “theranostic” approach.

As noted, his success inspired an entirely new field of medicine which today is advancing exciting new products to diagnose prostate, breast, and other cancers, in addition to other conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, and to treat various diseases. Lantheus itself began as New England Nuclear in Boston in 1956 and has, over its sixty-five year history, followed in Dr. Hertz's footsteps in bringing vital nuclear medicine products to the US medical market. These include AZEDRA® (iobenguane I-131), itself an iodine-based product which is the only product currently approved by the FDA to treat cancers known as pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular imaging, the professional society for nuclear medicine physicians and technologists in the United States, has an annual “Saul Hertz Award Symposium” (being held virtually on December 16th) to honor the contributions of Dr. Hertz to the field of radioisotope therapy.

As a nurse, a businesswoman and a dedicated Life Sciences professional, I am so thankful that Dr. Saul Hertz dedicated his life to advancing the science of nuclear medicine and I hope that you will consider my recommendation and award Dr. Hertz the Medal of Freedom in the coming year. Should I or Lantheus Holdings be able to provide any additional information to support the consideration of Dr. Hertz, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Heino, President and CEO



**The Russell H. Morgan Department of
Radiology and Radiological Science**

George Sgouros, Ph.D.
*Professor, Radiology and Radiological Science and Radiation Oncology
Director, Radiological Physics Division*

February 14, 2022

Dear Mr. President,

I am honored to add my voice in support of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Prior to Dr. Hertz's pioneering work, cancer therapy relied on identifying agents that would kill cancer cells by chemical means (e.g. mustard gas and other poisons), his insight into the potential of using radioactive atoms to delivery cell-killing radiation to cancer cells while sparing other normal cells spawned a cancer treatment approach that holds tremendous promise in treating cancer patients. It is the only treatment that brings the power of physics – delivery of alpha-particles to cancer cells – in a way that overcomes conventional biologic resistance. Resistance is the reason that cancer can be so devastating and all too often incurable. Dr. Hertz's work introduced a force of nature that supersedes chemistry and biology to overcome the ability of cancer cells to mutate and mount resistance against even the most potent chemical or biological therapies.

I started my career interested in particle and accelerated physics, I recognized very early on, however, that I could have a much greater impact by devoting my life and career to bringing my knowledge of physics towards the search of fundamentally different and more effective cancer therapies. In this regard, I am probably one of many scientists that has been indirectly influenced by Dr. Hertz's work.

WOW → Aside from his scientific achievements and contributions, Dr. Hertz deserves the Presidential Medal of Freedom because his life and history exemplify all that make America the beacon of hope and aspiration for all people on our planet. Like many continue to do, he overcame incredible odds and reached the highest pinnacles of academia to achieve his human potential. It is a uniquely American story, one that continues to be by far the greatest source of our collective strength as Americans. It is what distinguishes us from the rest of the world, and I can think of no more deserving a candidate to exemplify this than Dr. Saul Hertz.

I would be delighted to provide further background and additional information, if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Sgouros".

George Sgouros, Ph.D.



12/20/2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to respectfully nominate Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the highest civilian awards of the United States. This nomination is in recognition of Dr. Hertz's pioneering contributions to the field of medicine, particularly in the treatment of thyroid disease using radioactive iodine.

Dr. Hertz's groundbreaking research and clinical application in the early 20th century have had a profound and lasting impact on medical science. His innovative approach to treating hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer with radioactive iodine was not only revolutionary at its inception but continues to be a standard treatment method today, benefiting and curing countless patients across the globe.

The work of Dr. Hertz laid the foundation for the field of nuclear medicine. It opened up new avenues for the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases using radioactive isotopes. Dr. Hertz is considered by many to be the father of theranostics. Theranostics is a term that combines "therapy" and "diagnostics." It refers to an integrated approach in nuclear medicine where a single agent or paired agents are used both to diagnose and treat diseases, particularly in the field of personalized medicine. This approach is most notably used in the management of cancer but has potential applications in various other diseases. The timing of this nomination is appropriate given the fact that theranostics is experiencing a renaissance, particularly in the field of oncology. This resurgence is driven by several factors, including advancements in molecular biology, imaging technologies, and targeted therapies. The increasing focus on personalized medicine, where treatments are tailored to individual patient characteristics and specific disease markers, has also significantly fueled interest and development in theranostics.

Dr. Hertz's contributions to the field of medicine have been largely overlooked due to his early death at the young age of 45. During Dr. Hertz's time, the field of nuclear medicine was in its infancy. The interdisciplinary nature of his work, straddling endocrinology, physics, and the emerging field of nuclear medicine, might have made it less apparent to which field his contributions belonged. Furthermore, institutional politics and anti-Semitism led to his contributions being falsely recorded, omitted, and trivialized in medical history. Only recently has there been a growing awareness and acknowledgement of Dr. Hertz's contributions.

Dr. Hertz's dedication to his work and his unwavering commitment to advancing medical knowledge reflect the values of perseverance, innovation, and service to humanity. His achievements embody the spirit of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which honors individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.



University of Wisconsin
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Department of Medical Physics

It is my firm belief that honoring Dr. Saul Hertz with the Presidential Medal of Freedom would not only recognize his extraordinary contributions to medicine but also inspire future generations of scientists and doctors to pursue innovative solutions for the challenges in healthcare.

Thank you for considering this nomination. I am confident that Dr. Hertz's legacy aligns with the ideals and prestige of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,
Kind regards,

Bryan Bednarz, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Medical Physics
University of Wisconsin – Madison



David Mankoff, MD, PhD

Professor of Radiology

Vice-Chair for Research, Department of Radiology

February 2, 2024

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing as a practicing nuclear medicine physician and leader in radiopharmaceutical imaging and therapy research to recommend Dr. Saul Hertz, MD for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This would be posthumous honor of his achievements as the pioneer of radioiodine therapy for thyroid diseases, and, as such, is the person who enabled the increasingly important field of radiopharmaceutical therapy (RPT). Advances in RPT in past 10-15 years have generated new cancer treatments that, in addition to thyroid cancer, are now an important part of the treatment of advanced prostate cancer, neuroendocrine tumors, and several other cancers where patients had few good treatment options prior to RPT. Dr. Hertz's groundbreaking work set the foundation for targeted precision oncology using radiopharmaceuticals, an advance which has changed the practice of medicine and positively impacted the lives of many of cancer patients in the US and around the world.

Dr. Hertz, a Harvard Medical School graduate, overcame a number of life challenges to go on to become a pre-eminent physician investigator in the then nascent field of nuclear medicine - i.e., the use of radioisotopes for diagnosis and therapy. In 1941, Dr. Hertz and a physicist from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Dr. Arthur Roberts, collectively discovered how to use radioiodine to diagnose and treat thyroid diseases. Dr. Hertz's research continued with his appointments as instructor at Harvard Medical School from 1946 to 1950 and as a member of MIT's Nuclear Physics Department from 1939 to 1950. Approximately 80 years later, Dr. Hertz's work has translated into what is now known as the field of theranostics, which is rapidly becoming one of the most important aspect of nuclear medicine research and practice. The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI), the leading professional society for nuclear medicine, has long recognized the importance of Dr. Hertz's work and annually names a top research in the field of theranostics/RPT as the Saul Hertz Award winner - a highly coveted prize in nuclear medicine.

I have personally witnessed the impact of Dr. Hertz's work on the field of nuclear medicine and on the patients who are served by this medical specialty. The number and breadth of cancers impacted by radiopharmaceutical has grown considerably over the years. In my academic practice at Penn, I have exponential seen growth in our radiopharmaceutical therapy practice, with treatments that I would not never have thought possible a few as ten years ago. I've seen the restored hope of patients and their families referred for treatment of cancers previously thought to be untreatable, and I have witnessed their joy at treatment follow-up when they learn that radiopharmaceutical therapy has stopped tumor growth and in many cases led to cancer regression. Even with this progress and rapid advancement in the field, we have only just

scratched the surface of what RPT can do for cancer patients. I led the radiopharmaceutical therapy section the report of the Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee

3400 Spruce Street 1Donner | Philadelphia, PA 19104 | 215.615.3687 | Fax: 215.349.5843 | david.mankoff@uphs.upenn.edu



David Mankoff, MD, PhD

Professor of Radiology

Vice-Chair for Research, Department of Radiology

(CTAC) Working Group on Radiation Oncology that set priorities for future research in radiation treatment (<https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/ctac/1120/RadOncWGreport.pdf>). In this report that priorities future radiation research for cancer, we identified radiopharmaceutical therapy as a key component of the report - one of six areas of emphasis in the report. We suggested dedicate NCI funding to support research in this area, and we prioritized the need to train more clinicians and scientists in the science of to advance the field of radiopharmaceutical therapy. I have personally been part of studies designing new therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals to treat challenging lethal cancers that include neuroblastoma and advanced ovarian cancer. I am excited about what is to come for this theranostics, and what we will be able to do for cancer patients who, up to now, had few good treatment options.

These items all speak to the importance of the pioneering individuals who had the insight and courage to develop radiopharmaceutical therapy at its inception - first and foremost, Dr. Hertz. For his pioneering contributions, and his impact on a rapidly advancing form of cancer treatment for current and future patients, Dr. Hertz richly deserves the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DMK".

David Mankoff, MD, PhD

Matthew J. Wilson Professor of Radiology

Vice-Chair for Research, Department of Radiology

Associate Director of Education and Training, Abramson Cancer Center

cc: Dr. Danielle Carnival Danielle.M.Carnival@ostp.eop.gov

Stephanie Feldman stefanie.g.feldman@who.eop.gov



Mayo Clinic
200 First Street SW
Rochester, MN 55905
507-284-2511

May 2, 2024

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to nominate Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

Dr. Hertz's groundbreaking contributions to the field of targeted radioisotopic therapy and nuclear medicine have had a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals. Initially these findings were applicable in thyroid diseases but extrapolation from these first findings have led to new impactful therapies for a variety of cancers.

Dr. Hertz's exemplary work was initially published in 1938 when he and Dr. Arthur Roberts reported their discovery that the thyroid gland absorbs radioactive iodine. This crucial finding laid the foundation for the use of radioiodine in diagnosing and treating thyroid disorders. In 1941, Dr. Hertz and Dr. Roberts administered the first therapeutic dose of radioactive iodine to a patient with hyperthyroidism, demonstrating its effectiveness in treating the condition.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hertz continued to push the boundaries of nuclear medicine. He founded the Radioactive Isotope Research Institute at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1946, which became a leading center for research and clinical applications of radioactive isotopes. His work led to the development of the radioiodine uptake test, a diagnostic tool still widely used today, and paved the way for using radioactive iodine to treat thyroid cancer.

Given the demonstration of targeted molecular isotopic therapy, first proven in thyroid cancer, it was clear that such an approach might be utilized for other cancers as well. Rather than using a naked isotope like radioactive iodine, researchers have tagged radioisotopes to a variety of molecular targets present on the surface of cancer cells. These advances have benefitted literally thousands of patients. The inspiration for these therapies comes directly from Dr. Hertz's original observations using radioactive iodine.

Dr. Hertz's dedication to advancing medical knowledge and improving patient care exemplifies the American spirit of both innovation and compassion. His legacy continues to inspire researchers and physicians worldwide, and his contributions have had a lasting impact on the field of nuclear medicine, cancer research, and patient care.

In recognition of his extraordinary achievements and his profound impact on the lives of countless individuals, Dr. Saul Hertz is highly deserving of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His work embodies the highest ideals of scientific excellence, innovation, and service to humanity.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Sartor".

Oliver Sartor, MD
Director of Radiopharmaceutical Trials
Chief, Genitourinary Cancer Disease Group
Mayo Clinic



Icahn School
of Medicine at
Mount
Sinai

The Early Lung & Cardiac Action Program

✧ David Yankelevitz, MD
Director of Lung Biopsy Service
Professor of Radiology

One Gustave Levy Place, Box #1234
New York, NY 10029
212-241-2813 / David.Yankelevitz@MountSinai.org

Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Medal of Freedom nomination

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I support this nomination in recognition of Dr. Hertz's pioneering discovery of, and the first clinical application of, radioactive isotopes in treating patients. This milestone marked the beginning of the era of targeted cancer therapies.

I am very familiar with Dr. Hertz's achievements over the last seven decades. Along with Dr. Claudia Henschke, PhD, MD, we created I-ELCAP (**International Early Lung and Cardiac Action Program**). It is an ongoing lung screening program that began accruing participants in 1994 and, currently, has the largest private database of lung screening data in the world. Our mission is to achieve early diagnosis, treatment and, ultimately, facilitate a cure for lung cancer through the rapid dissemination and advancement of research to a diversified, collaborative and worldwide network of clinicians and researchers. It initially began with two participating institutions, New York University and Cornell University, but now includes over 80 sites worldwide; and continues to be coordinated by us at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City where we have been practicing researchers for more than 12 years.

As background, Dr. Hertz's successful research laid the groundwork for the field of radiopharmaceutical therapies, which today aids those suffering from thyroid and prostate cancers, as well as neuroendocrine tumors. His efforts transformed the landscape of medical treatment by establishing fundamental protocols in modern nuclear medicine and cancer therapy, which has benefited millions of patients worldwide. His significant successes stand as a testament to his dedication and foresight in the realm of medical innovation and has earned him the sobriquet of the Father of Theranostics.

✧ His relentless pursuit of precision cancer care, through targeted, personalized, and measurable treatment protocols, has had a lasting impact on the field and is the platform for many current clinical trials, promising hope to many more cancer patients in the future.

Dr. Hertz achieved his initial research breakthrough in 1941 by successfully treating a patient with hyperthyroidism using radioactive iodine. It was the first instance in medical history where a disease was treated with artificially produced radioactive materials. He has been an inspiration to many and I have witnessed how the results of his work has affected not only my research efforts but that of many other clinicians and scientists.

I respectfully urge you to consider his nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Yankelevitz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

David Yankelevitz, MD



Brandon R. Mancini, MD, MBA, FACRO

Medical Director

109 Michigan Ave NW, Suite #200

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

(734) 788-2254

brandon.mancini@bamfhealth.com

bamfhealth.com

**The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500**

January 29, 2023

Dear President Biden,

My name is Dr. Brandon R. Mancini, and I am the Medical Director for BAMF Health, the most advanced cyclotron-equipped theranostics center in the world with the mission of achieving intelligence-based precision medicine through artificial intelligence enabled molecular imaging and theranostics. I have extensive experience in the field of Radiation Oncology, treating patients with a variety of malignancies over the past 11 years and serving in several leadership roles in the field's leading medical societies, including the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO). With this work, I had the honor of being confirmed as an accelerated Fellow of the American College of Radiation Oncology (FACRO) in March 2022. I have authored dozens of peer-reviewed abstracts, manuscripts, and textbook chapters, while also presenting data from such work at dignified international meetings. The purpose of this letter is to provide the utmost support for the nomination of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Saul Hertz's breakthrough work throughout his career forever changed the practice of medicine, facilitating the advancement of radionuclides as tremendously meaningful and life-changing medical therapies. Without his exemplary contributions, a facility such as BAMF Health would not be in existence today and the hope for meaningful cancer control for millions of patients who have exhausted prior therapies would very likely remain out of reach.

As evidenced by the recent United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approval of Pluvicto (lutetium Lu 177 vipivotide tetraxetan) on March 23, 2022, we are approaching an historic and vital opportunity for the expansion of radiomolecular theranostics in the United States and world. This approval will facilitate the treatment of millions of patients with prostate cancer over the coming years, improving the quantity and quality of life for individuals in which no further meaningful treatment options existed previously. With this approval comes tremendous

responsibility, including welcoming the world's most experienced and best scientific and clinical minds to the field of Theranostics to ensure that the care we can provide is the best and most advanced care on Earth. I can think of no more appropriate time than now to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the Father of Theranostics, Dr. Saul Hertz, highlighting his amazing discoveries that continue to positively impact patients, families, and loved ones each and every day. Dr. Hertz's tremendous efforts and scientific and clinical contributions throughout his career will forever impact the medical field. More patients are alive because of his discoveries, and more scientists and clinicians discovered an interest in science and medicine because of Dr. Hertz's curiosity.

Dr. Hertz's inspiring career represents what happens when one asks, "What is possible?" His inquisitiveness, hard work, and perseverance led to monumental contributions to the advancement of Nuclear Medicine and Radiomolecular Theranostics and those continuing his groundbreaking work will facilitate humankind's pursuit of life without cancer. As your Cancer Moonshot to cut the death rate from cancer by at least 50% over the next 25 years, while improving the experience of people and their families living with and surviving cancer proceeds forward, Theranostics will play a critical role in the success of such a mission. We are currently witnessing an historical time for Theranostics, and it is time for the Father of Theranostics, Dr. Saul Hertz, to have the recognition he earned and deserves for his pioneering achievements.

With this, I would like to provide the highest recommendation possible in support of Dr. Saul Hertz's nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom and appreciate the opportunity to support such a remarkable person.

Sincerely,

Brandon Mancini, MD, MBA, FACRO

Brandon R. Mancini, MD, MBA, FACRO

BAMF Health

bamfhealth.com

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to support the nomination of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This nomination is in recognition of the pioneering and visionary contributions of Dr. Hertz to medical practice, especially in the treatment of benign and malignant thyroid disease with radioactive iodine.

I am a practicing nuclear medicine physician and served as President of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging in 2017-2018. Over my career I have witnessed the dynamic and enduring impact of Dr. Hertz's work on the field of nuclear medicine and specifically on the patients who are served by this medical specialty. The wonderful advances and improved patient outcomes are impressive.

* Few people in the field of medicine exemplify the innovative scientific achievements and selfless service as well as Dr. Hertz. Dr. Hertz's groundbreaking and life-saving research and clinical applications in the 1930s and 1940s have had a profound effect and lasting impact on patients with thyroid disease. He developed an innovative method of therapy that was revolutionary at the time and continues to be the current standard therapy. These treatments have benefited and cured many patients throughout the world and continue to do so. He accomplished all of this while overcoming many obstacles, including questionable ethics in medical publishing, others trying to steal credit from his work, and anti-Semitism. He laid the foundation for the field of nuclear medicine. His visionary statement "My new research is in cancer of the thyroid which I believe holds the key to the larger problem of cancer in general." has opened many new avenues to diagnose and treat many different malignancies using many different radiopharmaceuticals, and some are already demonstrating amazing success.

Dr. Hertz deserves the Presidential Medal of Freedom not only for his profound and visionary achievements and contributions to medical science but also for his dedication to his unwavering commitment to advancing medical knowledge while demonstrating the values of innovation, perseverance, and service to humanity, that are producing advances in personalized medicine and better outcomes for thousands of patients in the US and throughout the world. I believe that honoring Dr. Hertz with the Presidential Medal of Freedom would recognize his outstanding and visionary contributions to medicine and would provide inspiration to current and future doctors and scientists. We stand on the shoulders of giants as we pursue advances in medicine. Saul Hertz, MD was one of those giants.

Sincerely,

Bennett S. Greenspan MD MS
Bennett S. Greenspan, MD, MS



PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER DIVISION OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Telephone 63 2 89252401 local 2165
Email: jerryobaldo@yahoo.com, jmobaldo@up.edu.ph

6 February 1, 2023

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Warm greetings from the Philippines! I am a nuclear medicine physician, medical school professor, past president of the local specialty society, and currently actively involved with the Asia-Oceania nuclear medicine organizations (as board member) and medical journal (as Associate Editor).

A couple of years ago, I co-authored a nuclear medicine history article with Barbara Hertz, daughter of Dr. Saul Hertz. While undertaking research for the article, I learned about the remarkable and inspiring life of Dr. Hertz, as well as his incredible contributions to medicine.

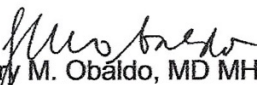
Dr. Hertz was a son of Jewish immigrants. He overcame discrimination to eventually head the Thyroid Clinic of the Harvard Medical School – Massachusetts General Hospital, where he pioneered radioactive iodine therapy. Not only is radioactive iodine therapy now the standard of care in hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer, but its principles led to the development of “theranostics,” the combination of therapeutics and diagnostics using radioactive materials, that is increasingly used routinely for many cancers. His insights and discoveries have benefited millions of patients worldwide.

Dr. Hertz left the Thyroid Clinic to serve in the US Navy in World War 2. While he was away, his colleagues tried to get the credit for his work and pioneering efforts. It took decades before the real story of his pioneering works was established.

With this, I lend my support for Dr. Hertz to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a posthumous award befitting his contributions and recognizing the difficulties he went through to achieve these. It was unfortunate that Dr. Hertz passed away quite young, before his achievements could be fully appreciated in his lifetime. Hopefully, this most prestigious of awards will make up for this oversight.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,


Jerry M. Obaldo, MD MHA
Chief, Division of Nuclear Medicine
Philippine Heart Center; and
University of the Philippines – Philippine General Hospital
Professor, University of the Philippines College of Medicine

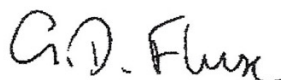
The Royal Marsden
Downs Road, Sutton
Surrey SM2 5PT
Tel 020 8642 6011
www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk

Dear President Biden

I write to add my support to the request for your consideration of Dr Saul Hertz to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr Hertz' leadership in the development of radioactive iodine for clinical benefit led to a highly successful treatment for benign thyroid disease and thyroid cancers that has had a global impact for over 80 years. Further, this work paved the way for more widespread use of radioactive drugs for an increasing range of cancers and the development of a field that is now expanding exponentially.

As a medical physicist in this relatively small and close-knit area that has worked with European and American colleagues to develop and improve treatments, I am particularly aware that Dr Hertz was the first to realise that this new form of treatment was dependent on the radiation doses delivered to patients. He worked closely with physicists, particularly Dr Arthur Roberts, to use the drugs safely and effectively. Further development of these techniques today will lead to significant advances in clinically and cost-effective novel treatments for cancer, demonstrating the lasting legacy of his pioneering work.

Sincerely



Dr Glenn Flux
Head of Radioisotope Physics



Patron
Her Majesty The Queen
President
HRH The Duke of Cambridge, KG

Life demands excellence





March 8, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Recommendation of Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom [posthumously]

Dear President Biden,

I am Dr. Haim Golan, a nuclear medicine physician and formerly the head of the Nuclear Medicine Institute at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Israel. I am now retired but still very much involved with the nuclear medicine industry as a medical advisor for Isotopia Molecular Imaging Ltd in Israel.

Isotopia is a global supplier of medical isotopes devoted to the advancement of cancer diagnosis and therapy. At Isotopia, we are engaged in providing radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic imaging and targeted therapeutic agents for the personalized diagnosis and treatment of a variety of cancers. This science is also known as "Theranostics", a term that merges the words *diagnosis* and *therapy*, which was invented to describe clinical efforts to develop specific, individualized therapies, and to blend diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities into a single medical term.

The late Dr. Saul Hertz is considered to be the father of "Theranostics", having pioneered and spearheaded radioactive iodine therapy. Not only is radioactive iodine therapy now the standard of care in hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer, but its principles ultimately led to the development of "theranostics", which is increasingly being used routinely for many cancers.

Dr. Hertz's insights and discoveries have benefited millions of patients worldwide.

With this in mind, I am pleased and privileged to recommend Dr. Saul Hertz to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a posthumous award befitting his contributions to medicine.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Hertz passed away quite young, before his achievements could be fully appreciated and acknowledged in his lifetime. Hopefully, this most prestigious of awards will make up for this oversight.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Haim Golan MD MSc
Chief Medical Officer
Isotopia Molecular Imaging, Ltd.
Israel

Von: Mirzaei Siroos

Gesendet: Montag, 17. April 2023 11:08

An: 'neera.tanden@who.eop.gov' <neera.tanden@who.eop.gov>

Betreff: Presidential Medal of Freedom

Dear President Biden,

As a specialist in Nuclear Medicine, it is my pleasure to support the nomination of Saul Hertz, MD, for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a long overdue honor for a pioneer in medicine.

Dr. Hertz was the first physician to use radioactive isotopes to treat hyperthyroidism, which was later and is still used today to treat thyroid cancer.

This was a milestone in anti-cancer therapy, known today as Theranostics in nuclear oncology.

This form of therapy has undergone a renaissance over the last few years with several new agents introduced for the treatment of neuroendocrine and prostate cancers with many others in the pipeline.

These agents trace their origins to the initial insight of Dr. Hertz who recognized the potential of targeted radionuclide therapy. In 1943 Dr. Hertz left MGH to join the US Navy as part of the war effort.

When he returned from the war, he was unable to get his old position at MGH back but nonetheless continued to conduct research on radioactive iodine therapy.

The news of his therapy spread rapidly and soon was a standard of care for hyperthyroidism.

Unfortunately, Dr. Hertz passed away at the young age of 45 before he could enjoy the honors that were due him.

Perhaps because of his early passing his role in this pivotal discovery has not been sufficiently recognized.

A posthumous recognition would be welcomed not only by his relatives but also by medical societies, especially the Nuclear Medicine Specialty Society.

Yours respectfully,

Siroos Mirzaei

Univ. Prof. Dr. Siroos Mirzaei, MBA (HOD)
Wiener Gesundheitsverbund
Clinic Ottakring (Wilhelminenspital)
and Clinic Hietzing
Department of Nuclear Medicine with PET-Center

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klinik-ottakring.gesundheitsverbund.at

Recommendation letter : Dr. Saul Hertz(1905-1950) for the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Klinik für Nuklearmedizin

The President

Dear Mr. President,

Direktor :
Prof. Dr. K. Herrmann

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

This letter is in the strongest support of Dr. Saul Hertz to be considered for the Presidential Medal of

Direktor emeritus:
Prof. Dr. Dr. A. Bockisch

Sekretariat: (0201) 723-2032
Fax -5964

Schilddrüsen-ambulanz: (0201) 723-2081
Fax -2098

PET/CT (0201) 723-1544
PET/MRT Fax -1862

Funktionsdiagnostik (0201) 723-2919
Fax -2098

Nuklearmed. (0201) 723-2031
Therapiestation

Freedom.

In my current roles as Chair of the Department of Nuclearmedicine in Essen and Chair of the Oncology & Theranostics Committee of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) I daily acknowledge his groundbreaking contributions to giving birth to nuclear medicine and theranostics. His novel work and world transforming research in 1941 on the use of iodine radioisotopes for thyroid disease diagnosis and treatment is fundamental to targeted radionuclide therapy which is to selectively deliver radiation to cancer cells and/or diseased tissue with minimal toxicity to surrounding normal tissues. The basis for successful radionuclide therapy is a theranostic (We see what we treat, we treat what we see.) approach that integrates diagnostic testing for the presence of a molecular target for which a specific treatment/drug is intended. All of this is thanks to Dr Hertz.

20. April 2023

When I started my career as a resident in 2004 I was exposed on day 1 of my training to the pioneering work of Dr. Hertz. The treatment of benign and malignant thyroid disease represents until today the mainstay of our daily work saving lives of many patients. I have carried the dream of Dr. Hertz and his foundational contributions forward. I am a leader in developing, promoting and implementing several radionuclide therapies in Germany and Europe including some first in human therapies such as the use of ¹⁷⁷Lu- and ⁹⁰Y-Pentixather targeting the CXCR4- receptor in last line multiple myeloma patients. To this extent I am heavily involved in defining the clinical protocols internationally and have contributed critical clinical evidence for the potential benefit of patients with advanced prostate cancer benefiting from diagnostic and therapeutic concepts targeting the prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA). Dr. Hertz's influence on me is profound, as an example I am the section editor of Theranostics of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine.

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Dr. Hertz's pioneering work has inspired the strong Nuclear Medicine community in Germany driving the invention and translation of both PSMA-directed theranostics as well as the newest theranostic concept targeting the fibroblast activation protein (FAP). To date there are several life changing development of novel radiopharmaceuticals notably in prostate cancer, neuroendocrine and bone metastases palliation, all of this is because we are following on the footsteps of an excellent leader, innovator and scholar, Dr. Hertz.

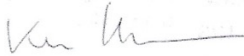
The legacy of Dr Hertz continues to motivate and inspire the entire global nuclear medicine community and now the oncologist. To this effect leading

professional associations such as The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular imaging (SNMMI) has one of the most prestigious awards named after Dr. Saul Hertz, WARMTH celebrates and honor leading physicians via a lecture on 31 March, as: "Dr. Saul Hertz Theranostic Nuclear Medicine Day," commemorating the day the first patient was treated with therapeutic radionuclide therapy on that day in 1941, marking the advent of theranostic medicine.

In summary I conclude stating that Dr. Saul Hertz is global icon, a leader, pioneer of radiopharmaceuticals theranostics and above all a role model for many generations of young doctors and scientists.

I m pleased to advocate with the highest enthusiasm in support of the recommendation that you consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom Posthumously.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.



Ken Herrmann, MD, MBA
Chair, Full Professor
Department of Nuclear Medicine
Universitätsklinikum Essen
Hufelandstr. 55
45147 Essen
Germany

Date: 20/06/2022

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

RE: Recommend letter that you consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Medal of Freedom Posthumously

Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to write with the highest enthusiasm in support of the recommendation that you consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Medal of Freedom Posthumously, as I believe he is the most suitable person for this prestigious honour in recognition of his contributions to giving birth to nuclear medicine and theranostics. His novel work and ground-breaking research in 1941 on the use of iodine radioisotopes for thyroid disease diagnosis and treatment is fundamental to targeted radionuclide therapy which is to selectively deliver radiation to cancer cells and/or diseased tissue with minimal toxicity to surrounding normal tissues. The basis for successful radionuclide therapy is a theranostic (See it, treat it) approach that integrates diagnostic testing for the presence of a molecular target for which a specific treatment/drug is intended. All of this is thanks to Dr Hertz.

I have used Dr Hertz pioneering work for over 20 years and had the opportunity to save many lives of many patients, capacity development to researchers and doctors as well as influencing policy on the use of nuclear medicine. Because of carrying the dream of Dr. Hertz forward I have made exceptional contributions as a leader in developing, promoting and implementing several radionuclide therapies in South Africa and Africa. To this extent I am heavily involved in defining the clinical protocols internationally and have contributed critical clinical evidence for the potential benefit of patients with advanced prostate cancer from treatment with Bi-213 prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) and one of leading figures with regards to the use of Ac-225 PSMA. Dr. Hertz's influence on me is profound, as an example I am the Editor-in-Chief of the Seminars of Nuclear Medicine, and an Associate Editor of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine both of which are USA based scientific journals. Additionally, I am the President of The World Association of Radiopharmaceutical and Molecular Therapy (WARMTH) an organization driving radiopharmaceuticals theranostics like Dr. Hertz did.

Dr. Hertz's pioneering work has inspired South Africa to enhance life via NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) that is a global leader of the supply of I-131 which Dr. Hertz used in 1941 when he saved life. Furthermore, NTP supplies 20% of global 99-Mo API market share which is critical for nuclear medicine and several radiopharmaceuticals such as 177Lu, I-131 MIBG. While another South African institution iThemba labs is a global supplier of I-123, Ga68 and Rb82. Myself as the head of Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure in South Africa, I ensure that both institutions NTP and iThemba Labs continues to provide life-saving nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging products and

Postal: Department of Nuclear Medicine, Private Bag X169, Pretoria, 0001

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Tel: 012 354 1794, Fax: 012 354 1219

radiopharmaceutical therapies to millions of patients each year in the world including the USA. To date there are several life changing development of novel radiopharmaceuticals notably in prostate cancer, neuroendocrine and bone metastases palliation, all of this is because we are following on the footsteps of an excellent leader, innovator and scholar, Dr. Hertz.

The legacy of Dr Hertz continues to motivate and inspire the entire global nuclear medicine community and now the oncologist. To this effect leading professional associations such as The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular imaging (SNMMI) has one of the most prestigious awards named after Dr. Saul Hertz, WARMTH celebrates and honor leading physicians via a lecture on 31 March, as: "Dr. Saul Hertz Theranostic Nuclear Medicine Day," commemorating the day the first patient was treated with therapeutic radionuclide therapy on that day in 1941, marking the advent of theranostic medicine.

Dr. Saul Hertz is global icon, a leader, pioneer of radiopharmaceuticals theranostics.

I have the highest level of enthusiasm for supporting the in support of the recommendation that you consider Dr. Saul Hertz for the Medal of Freedom Posthumously.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Sincerely

Professor Mike M. Sathekge, MD, MMED, PhD, FAMS, Hon FCMSA(SA)
Head of Nuclear Medicine: University of Pretoria and Steve Biko Academic Hospital
President/CEO: Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure (NuMeRI), South Africa

Postal: Department of Nuclear Medicine, Private Bag X169, Pretoria, 0001

Email: mike.sathekge@up.ac.za or sathekgemike@gmail.com

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Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

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petermac.org

26th February 2024

Locations

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President Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you with a heartfelt recommendation for an individual whose groundbreaking work has left an indelible mark on the fields of medicine and science. Dr. Saul Hertz is a name that embodies innovation, perseverance, and a deep commitment to improving human health. It is with great respect and admiration that I propose Dr. Hertz for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, during your State of the Union Address.

Dr. Hertz's pioneering work in the early 20th century opened new horizons in medical treatment and research. His visionary idea to use radioactive iodine (RAI) to treat thyroid disease was nothing short of revolutionary. This concept, conceived during a lecture in 1936, led to the first successful treatment of a patient with hyperthyroidism using RAI in 1941. Dr. Hertz's research and clinical trials laid the foundation for the field of nuclear medicine, offering hope and healing to countless individuals suffering from thyroid and other cancers.

Today, I lead a large clinical and research program in nuclear medicine at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. We continue to use radioactive iodine to cure patients with thyroid cancer. It remains an exemplary targeted treatment in modern oncology with the ability to cure patients with advanced metastatic disease with minimal side effects. With advances in chemistry, we are now able to use the same principles to treat patients with an array of cancers. Most recently, Lutetium-177 PSMA, a treatment we pioneered here at Peter Mac, was FDA-approved, with Novartis now providing this treatment globally for patients with prostate cancer.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Dr. Hertz's journey was marked by challenges that he faced with unwavering resilience. In an era when his innovative ideas were often met with skepticism, Dr. Hertz persevered, driven by a relentless pursuit of knowledge and a compassion for those in need. His work not only changed the landscape of medical treatment but also demonstrated the power of courage and dedication in the face of adversity.

Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC – Governor of Victoria

Peter Mac respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi- Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Dr. Hertz's legacy extends far beyond the laboratory and the clinic. He was a mentor to many, fostering a spirit of collaboration and inquiry that has inspired generations of researchers and clinicians. His contributions have been recognized posthumously, including a National Historic Chemical Landmark designation by the American Chemical Society. However, the impact of his work and the values he embodied merit recognition at the highest level.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom represents not only extraordinary achievements but also the highest ideals of service, leadership, and humanity. Dr. Saul Hertz's life and work exemplify these values. By honoring him with this award, we celebrate a legacy of innovation that continues to benefit humanity and inspire future generations to pursue their own paths of discovery and service.

I am joined by many others who have expressed their support for this nomination, all of whom have been touched by Dr. Hertz's contributions in one way or another. Recognizing Dr. Hertz with the Presidential Medal of Freedom would not only honor his remarkable achievements but also signals the United States' enduring commitment to science, medicine, and the betterment of human lives.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. It is my sincere hope that Dr. Saul Hertz's contributions will be celebrated in a manner befitting his significant impact on the world.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Michael Hofman

MBBS (Hons), FRACP, FAANMS, FICIS, FAHMS, GAICD
Director of Prostate Cancer Theranostics and Imaging Centre of Excellence (ProSTIC),
Senior Medical Staff, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Professor, Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology, University of Melbourne

Scientific Committee, Australasian Radiopharmaceutical Trial Network (ARTnet) International
Advisory Board, Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)
Editorial Board Member, European Urology
Consulting Editor, Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Disease

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THE HON. JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
SENIOR COUNSEL
UNITED STATES SENATOR, RETIRED

ATLANTA
HOUSTON
LOS ANGELES
MIAMI
NEWARK
SAN FRANCISCO
SILICON VALLEY
WASHINGTON, DC

August 2, 2022

The Honorable Joseph Biden
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I have been contacted by the daughter of Dr. Saul Hertz and asked to recommend him for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Frankly, I had never heard of Dr. Hertz, but his daughter's devotion to his memory moved me to learn about him and, on that basis, I am now enthusiastically urging you to consider him for a Medal of Freedom.

Sixty years ago, Dr. Hertz did pioneering work that has saved countless lives and actually brought about the field of nuclear medicine. He began by discovering how to use radioiodine to treat thyroid diseases ranging from hyperthyroidism to thyroid cancer. Today, Dr. Hertz's foundational work has led to the successful treatment of a wide array of cancers with minimal side effects.

I know that several doctors and medical researchers are writing to you on Dr. Hertz's behalf. They will explain to you and your staff much better than I can how Dr. Hertz's research and clinical breakthroughs have helped save so many lives and make him a worthy recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

With thanks for your consideration and every good wish.

Yours,

Joseph I. Lieberman