

Maurice Tubiana is Fourth Recipient of Gray Medal



The International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) announced today that Professor Maurice Tubiana is to be the third recipient of the L.H. Gray Medal. Professor Tubiana, who is Chief of the Radiation Department and the Director of the Research Laboratory on Clinical Radiobiology at the Institute Gustave-Roussy in Villejuif, will receive the award at the XVth International Congress of Radiology to be held in Brussels in June 1981 where he will also give a scientific lecture on an appropriate topic.

The award to Professor Tubiana is based on outstanding contributions involving the use of radioactive isotopes and high energy radiation in medicine. His early work was mainly in nuclear medicine and medical physics and included the first system (non-automated) for scanning the neck after administration of radioactive iodine. He was also the first to describe profile counting, a technique he used for the study of spinal fluid circulation. His early work in clinical dosimetry, the assessment of relative biological effectiveness and clinical use of high energy photons and electrons is also noteworthy. In 1959 he pioneered whole body irradiation for organ transplants. Research on the kinetics of cell proliferation became a particular interest in 1962 and, with his co-workers, he soon showed that cell loss is one of the important parameters for explaining the progressive increase in the doubling time for experimental tumors. With this as a basis, and in cooperation with other centers, Professor Tubiana organized control clinical trials on Hodgkin's disease and osteosarcoma and demonstrated that prophylactic therapy is able to prevent the occurrence of metastases.