The Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) is very proud to present the inaugural CAR Distinguished Career Achievement Award to Dr. Karel ter Brugge. Widely considered the father of interventional neuroradiology in Canada, Dr. ter Brugge is an internationally-acclaimed clinician and researcher, who has dedicated his career to the treatment of adult and pediatric patients with vascular disorders affecting the central nervous system such as brain and spinal arteriovenous malformations, aneurysms and acute stroke. Dr. ter Brugge was among a handful of early innovators who recognized a patient need for specialized intervention, and had the fortitude to bring it to clinical fruition. He and his close collaborator Dr. Pierre Lasjaunias were among the first to highlight the importance of detailed cerebral vascular anatomy and embryology in the practice of interventional neuroradiology.

Born in Holland, Dr. ter Brugge attended medical school at the University of Utrecht, obtained his specialty training in radiology at the University of Toronto, and completed his fellowship training in Neuroradiology at the Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill University. He joined the staff of the Toronto Western Hospital as a neuroradiologist in 1976, and developed a multidisciplinary program in Interventional Neuroradiology at the University of Toronto in 1984. As Professor of Radiology & Surgery at the University of Toronto, Dr. ter Brugge directed Toronto’s first course in Vascular Anatomy and Interventional Neuroradiology in 1992.

Dr. ter Brugge was instrumental in the establishment of a strong diagnostic neuroradiology division at the University of Toronto that continues to function across four hospital systems. Together with Dr. Chris Wallace he was the co-founder of what became a highly successful national and international referral center for cerebral vascular disorders at the Toronto Western Hospital. Over the course of his career, Dr. ter Brugge was the Head of the Division of Neuroradiology at the University of Toronto and the JDMI at the University Health Network, Women’s College and Mount Sinai Hospitals (1992-2016). He was the inaugural holder of the David Braley and Nancy Gordon Chair in Interventional Neuroradiology at the University of Toronto (2006-2016).

In addition to his clinical and academic leadership, Dr. ter Brugge is recognized as a leading statesman of international neuroradiology organizations. He has served as President of the World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology (1999-2001), the Chairman of the second Congress of the WFITN in Vancouver 1993, and the past Secretary General of the World Federation of Neuroradiological Societies (2008-2010). He is the current President of the Canadian Neuroradiological Society.

A prolific scholar, Dr. ter Brugge has over 300 publications in scientific journals and chapters in books. He co-authored with Drs. Lasjaunias and Berenstein the 2nd edition of the three-volume textbook on Surgical Neuroangiography. He is also co-authored with Drs. Krings and Geibprasert the textbooks Case-Based Interventional Neuroradiology and Neurovascular Anatomy in Interventional Neuroradiology. Dr. ter Brugge is the current Editor in Chief of Interventional Neuroradiology, and has decades of professional service as an editor and reviewer for esteemed journals in neuroradiology and interventional neuroradiology.

Dr. ter Brugge is a visionary researcher, clinician, teacher and radiology leader whose relentless energy, focus, and dedication have encouraged hundreds of radiologists to achieve professional excellence. Over the decades he has trained numerous interventional neuroradiologists who now provide service and leadership in centers across Canada, and around the world. He was the inaugural recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Department of Medical Imaging at the University of Toronto in 2015. In 2016, for his contributions to the development and evolution of interventional Neuroradiology, Dr. ter Brugge became the first radiologist to be recognized with the UHN Global Impact Award, which honours UHN staff members who have changed the world of health and healthcare.

For his long and incomparable career in interventional neuroradiology, his influence on generations of radiology trainees, and his dedication to his profession, we are proud to present Dr. ter Brugge with the 2017 CAR Distinguished Career Achievement Award.