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Following graduate training in physics at the University of Utah, Christian entered nuclear medicine and served as technical director for 30 years at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center. During that time he managed all clinical operations and participated in establishing a centralized radiopharmacy as well as training physicians, technologists, pharmacists, and graduate students. At the U of U he also co-developed the first enterprise-wide nuclear medicine PACS system.

As an active researcher, Christian has participated in diverse areas, including radiopharmaceuticals, instrumentation, and both basic science and clinical research. He has co-patented devices and techniques for single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT). Research related to SPECT and PET imaging have included the development of iterative algorithms, attenuation correction, and PET lesion detectability and quantitation. He has over 200 publications and 30 book contributions.

He has chaired the SNM Quality Assurance Committee for many years providing annual testing at over 100 hospitals per year and is also Chairman of the SNM Clinical Trials Network Scanner Validation Sub-Committee.