Memorial Hall of Fame
Established in 1981, the Memorial Hall of Fame serves as a posthumous tribute to a creative and devoted physician, research scientist, or other individual who has been an active member of the AIUM and contributed to the field of ultrasound in medicine. Honorees are announced at the Annual Meeting.

Beryl R. Benacerraf, MD, FAIUM

To obstetrics, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), including the *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine* (*JUM*), and more, Beryl R. Benacerraf, MD, FAIUM, was a legend despite her struggles in school as a child.

Although she was born in New York, Dr Benacerraf and her family moved to Paris soon after, where she learned to speak French, ie, her native language, before moving back to New York at age 7 and being enrolled in school without knowing any English. Everyone assumed her struggles learning were based on her switching languages, but it was later discovered her struggles stemmed from dyslexia.

Dr Benacerraf developed her own methods of managing her troubles though, and it became clear she was meant for great things. She received Early Acceptance to Barnard College and graduated cum laude. At that point, she moved to Italy for a year, working as a research assistant at Laboratorio di Biologia Cellulare in Rome before taking the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) in Italy, on which she scored poorly. However, Dr Benacerraf was accepted to the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, which did not require the test. And, she was able to transfer to Harvard Medical School, where she graduated as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society.

As she intended at that time to become a surgeon, Dr Benacerraf became a surgical intern at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. She wasn't comfortable working in surgery, however, so she then became a resident in Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. She wanted to have children though, and since she was concerned about the effects the radiation would have on a pregnancy, Dr Benacerraf then became a Fellow in Ultrasound and Computerized Tomography at Brigham and Women's Hospital, with the intention of only staying in the ultrasound field while pregnant. She then had a son, Oliver, and a daughter, Brigitte, who were born on the same day, one year apart, and never left ultrasound behind.

Thankfully, Dr Benacerraf was in her element seeing what others could not in ultrasound images. As a result, she set up a private practice and became the Medical Director and President, and a managing partner of Diagnostic Ultrasound Associates. It was there that Dr Benacerraf first made the discovery that revolutionized the prenatal diagnosis of congenital anomalies; that a larger nuchal fold in the second trimester, as seen on ultrasound, was a sign

that the fetus was at high risk for having the genetic disorder Trisomy 21, also known as Down syndrome. Not everyone believed in this discovery at first, however, but she stood her ground and ultimately triumphed over her naysayers.

It was also around that time that Dr Benacerraf first joined the AIUM, and her contributions since then were tremendous. She was a president of the AIUM, and co-chair of the AIUM's most successful and long-standing event, the Annual Advanced OB&GYN Ultrasound Seminar. She was also the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine* for 10 years and brought the Journal into the digital age, bringing the articles and the production online. In addition, Dr Benacerraf was a member and chair of the Practice Accreditation Council, 3 committees, and 3 task forces, as well as was a member of many more.

While contributing so much to the AIUM, Dr Benacerraf was also still running her clinic and had started being a consultant in Obstetrical Ultrasound to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and in Radiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital. That is, until the obstetrics department wanted to hire her. That is when she convinced them to combine the departments. Although doing so was previously unheard of, Dr Benacerraf wanted them to combine departments because she didn't want to give up radiology entirely. Yet again, Dr Benacerraf revolutionized medicine.

Dr Benacerraf also went on to become a clinical professor at Harvard Medical School as well as a prolific teacher to many more individuals outside of the school, a member of 16 societies (including leadership in 4 for them), the author of *Ultrasound Diagnosis of Fetal Syndromes,* an author of *Gynecologic Ultrasound: A Problem-Based Approach* and *Atlas of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, a much-sought-after speaker, on the editorial boards of 7 medical journals, a reviewer on 14 journals, and more.

In recognition of her many achievements, Dr Benacerraf received 12 awards, including 5 from the AIUM, as well as the Ian Donald Gold Medal from the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISUOG) for making a significant scientific contribution to the advancement of diagnostic ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology and having changed the way ultrasound is practiced.

Beryl R. Benacerraf, MD, FAIUM, who revolutionized ultrasound in medicine in so many ways, lost her battle against esophageal cancer on October 1, 2022. For her consistent devotion to the progression of ultrasound in medicine, Dr Benacerraf's work will continue to inspire others for decades to come.