

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.



Michael L. Manco-Johnson, MD, died at home in his sleep earlier this year. He was 73. He is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn, and 5 children; their spouses; and 10 grandchildren. Michael was a friend, colleague, mentor, and educator.

Michael was an incredible innovator and precocious when it came to ultrasound. He began his ultrasound education right after high school, working in the hospital basement at the University of Colorado with Dr Joseph Holmes. In fact, the first immersion tank system in the United States was built in 1952 at the University of Colorado, where Michael would spend most of his academic career.

Michael received his BA in 1967 from Colorado College and his MD in 1972 from the University of Colorado. While a medical student, he worked with Dr Holmes in renal ultrasound and extended the use of ultrasound to echocardiology with Bruce Paton and Gil Blount at the University of Colorado. He did his Radiology Residency and Cardiology Fellowship at Duke University, finishing in 1975. In 1976 he returned to the University of Colorado, where he was Chief of Ultrasound for many years. He trained countless residents and fellows, including Larry Mack, Tom Stavros, and thankfully, me, Dolores Pretorius. Michael taught us to love ultrasound and to push the field forward.

Michael became Chairman of Radiology at the University of Colorado in 1985 and served in that capacity until 2004. In addition, he was a professor and served as co-director of the Prenatal Diagnostic Center at University of Colorado from 1992 to 2004.

Michael was a member of many national and international societies, including the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), American College of Radiology (ACR), American College of Cardiology (ACC), Commission on Ultrasound, American Heart Association (AHA), Council of Clinical Cardiology, Council of Cardiovascular Radiology, American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS), Colorado Radiologic Society (CRS), Radiologic Society of North America (RSNA), Society of Radiology in Ultrasound (SRU), and so many more.

But the AIUM was his favorite and he maintained his membership for nearly 40 years. The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine was the place ultrasound made its leaps forward, both in research and in education, forging the way for it to become the mainstay of clinical diagnosis and treatment. It was also the place that he built his many academic friendships through lecturing, planning, and creating. Michael served on countless AIUM committees, including the Board of Governors, Bioeffects Committee, Central Program Committee, Fellowship Committee, and the Education Committee. He hosted AIUM's Convention in Denver in 1982, serving as the AIUM Program Chairman.

Michael's academic accomplishments were many. He published 115 papers, 4 books, and 28 chapters and participated in many NIH grants. In addition, he helped get echocardiography off the ground, studied fetal hydrocephalus and doing interventional procedures on the fetus, was a major contributor in developing neonatal cranial ultrasound to study intracranial hemorrhage (with his wife, Marilyn Manco-Johnson), and studied Polycystic Kidney Disease.

While an accomplished physician and researcher, Michael was most notably a family man who got his strength, support, and spirit from his wife and children. With them, he enjoyed traveling, adventuring, and most importantly, eating family dinners.

He was an incredible person, physician, researcher, and mentor. I, along with many others, will truly miss him.

Dolores H. Pretorius, MD
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