

William J. Fry Memorial Lecture Award

The William J. Fry Memorial Lecture Award was established by Joseph H. Holmes, MD, in 1969 and presented for the first time at the AIUM Annual Convention in Winnipeg that year. William J. Fry, MS, was a physicist with a strong interest in ultrasound in biology and medicine, whose innovative research efforts advanced the field of diagnostic ultrasound. One of Professor Fry's most notable contributions was the successful design of an ultrasonic system used to pinpoint lesions in the brain without damaging adjacent tissues. This ultrasonic system was later used to treat various brain pathologies and, in particular, Parkinson disease. His impassioned interest in ultrasound led him to become president of the AIUM from 1966 until his death in 1968. The following year, the William J. Fry Memorial Lecture Award, recognizing a current or retired AIUM member who has significantly contributed, in his or her particular field, to the scientific progress of medical diagnostic ultrasound, was established in his honor.

Alfred Abuhamad, MD, FAIUM



The AIUM is proud to award the 2022 William J. Fry Memorial Lecture Award to Alfred Abuhamad, MD, FAIUM. Dr Abuhamad has demonstrated his worth through his extensive work in obstetrics, including as an inventor of devices now used to enable easier 3D volume acquisition, enable full-term delivery, and reduce postpartum complications.

Dr Abuhamad is also known for his research and program development in ultrasound, prenatal diagnosis, global outreach, and patient safety. For example, in 2004, he established the OB Right patient safety program for 3 hospitals in the Eastern Virginia Medical School system. The program focused on improving patient outcomes and reducing errors in obstetric practice and was distributed to many more hospitals upon seeing the results in the original 3.

In addition, in 2016, he developed “the Standardized Six-Step Approach to the Performance of the Focused Basic Obstetric Ultrasound Examination,” for the training of physicians and midwives in low-resource settings. The International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISUOG) Outreach program adopted that approach for ultrasound training in low-resource settings throughout the world. And, in 2017, he chaired a multisociety task force that developed a consensus report on ultrasound training in obstetric and gynecologic residency programs.¹ The report was published simultaneously in 3 peer-reviewed journals and promotes consistency in training and competency assessment.

As a reflection of his devotion to obstetric ultrasound, Dr Abuhamad earned his way to President of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (2017), the Society of Ultrasound in Medical Education (2015), the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (2011–2013), and the

National Perinatal Quality Forum (2009–2011), not to mention chair of numerous committees, subcommittees, and task forces for the many organizations of which he has been a member.

When he was AIUM president, Dr Abuhamad launched the Ultrasound First initiative, which promoted the expanding role of performing the ultrasound imaging examination first, before other modes of imaging. And, as chairman of the USAID National Task Force on Zika Readiness in 5 Central American Countries (2016–2017), Dr Abuhamad led a team of ultrasound experts determining whether providers were prepared for Zika. Specifically, the task force determined whether the providers' were able to detect features of Zika congenital syndrome using ultrasound. In addition, the task force identified the highest priorities for future ultrasound education and training for an impending Zika assessment.

Dr Abuhamad first started college during the Lebanese Civil War, at the University of Beirut, where he earned his Bachelor of Science. He then went to the American University of Beirut Medical School, earning his doctorate during the 1982 Lebanon War. Upon his graduation, he left the country to continue his education as an intern, resident, then fellow in the Obstetrics & Gynecology Department at the University of Miami School of Medicine. As a result of learning about ultrasound, Dr Abuhamad decided to complete a second fellowship, Ultrasound and Prenatal Diagnosis, from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale University School of Medicine in 1992.

At that time, Arthur T. Evans III, MD, was starting the division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School, and, as the result of a great recommendation, recruited Dr Abuhamad, who readily accepted. Now, Dr Abuhamad is the Interim President, Provost, and Dean of the School of Medicine and is a world-renowned educator, inventor, author, and physician.

Reference

1. Abuhamad A, Minton K, Benson C, et al. Obstetric and gynecologic ultrasound curriculum and competency assessment in residency training programs: consensus report. *J Ultrasound Med* 2018; 37:19–50. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jum.14519>.