

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, Canada, that year. William J. Fry was a physicist with a strong interest in ultrasound in medicine, whose innovative research efforts advanced the field of medical 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 was established in his honor. It recognizes a current or retired AIUM member who has significantly contributed in his or her particular field to the scientific progress of medical ultrasound.



Roberto Romero, MD, DMedSci

It is extremely challenging to summarize all of Dr Romero's accomplishments within these few pages. At the age of 16, he received his BS degree from Saint Vincente de Paul in Venezuela. He was the valedictorian (magna cum laude) at Zulia University, where he received both his MD degree in 1974 and his DMedSci degree. Dr Romero completed his residency at Yale–New Haven Hospital/Yale University and was the recipient of the Meehan-Miller Award. Subsequently, he did fellowships at Yale in gynecologic oncology, physiology of the cervix in pregnancy and parturition, and maternal-fetal medicine.

Dr Romero is the founding chief of the Perinatology Research Branch and deputy clinical director for obstetrics and maternal-fetal medicine at the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. He is a professor of molecular obstetrics and genetics at the Center of Molecular Medicine and Genetics at Wayne State University, professor of epidemiology and statistics at Michigan State University, and professor of obstetrics and maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Michigan.

As a member of the AIUM for more than 3 decades, Dr Romero has been an ad hoc reviewer, has been an Editorial Board member for the *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine* for more than 10 years, and served as chair and vice chair of the International Relations Committee. He serves as editor-in-chief for obstetrics of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, the oldest journal in the discipline.

He has published more than 1000 peer-reviewed articles, 9 books, and 98 chapters and has an h-index of 144. His work has been cited more than 94,000 times. Dr Romero is an author of *Prenatal Diagnosis of Congenital Anomalies* (the "red book," the first medical best seller that consolidated the knowledge required for prenatal diagnosis in obstetrics).

Dr Romero's areas of interest have spanned from the early diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy (the discriminatory human chorionic gonadotropin [hCG] zone and serial hCG determinations), surgical endoscopic treatment of ectopic gestations, the use of ultrasound for the diagnosis of multiple congenital anomalies in virtually every organ system, the discovery of the role of cytokines in preterm labor, and, recently, the use of vaginal progesterone to prevent preterm birth in women with a midtrimester sonographic short cervix.

Dr Romero has received the Ian Donald Gold Medal from the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Erich Saling Award from the World Association of Perinatal Medicine, the Maternite Prize from the European Association of Perinatal Medicine, and the Presidential Achievement Award and Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society for Reproductive Investigation, in addition to many others from national and international organizations. Dr Romero is recipient of 15 doctorate honoris causae from universities worldwide.

As the Fry lecturer, Dr Romero will address the combined use of ultrasound imaging and computational methods to improve the diagnosis and care of pregnant women and their unborn children.

