

Memorial Recognition

Established in 2002, the Memorial Recognition serves as a posthumous tribute to a creative and devoted physician, sonographer, research scientist, or other member or nonmember who has contributed to the field of ultrasound in medicine. Honorees are recognized at the AIUM Annual Meeting.

Khaled Sakhel, MD, FACOG, FACS, FAIUM



Khaled Sakhel, MD, FACOG, FACS, FAIUM, began his path to obstetrics and gynecology in Beirut, Lebanon, working his way up through completing his residency in 2003 at the American University of Beirut. He then moved to the United States and became a Fellow at IVF Michigan PC, followed by becoming an intern, then resident, in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Michigan State University.

In 2008, Dr Sakhel moved on to be an assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Eastern Virginia Medical School. He remained there, working his way up to being an associate professor, Director of the Division of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, Director for Medical Student Clerkships and Electives in OBGYN, and Medical Coordinator for the Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery Program.

In 2008, Dr Sakhel also joined the AIUM and soon became a Community Communication Representative (2010–2012). Then, in 2011, he joined the Annual Convention Committee and the Clinical Standards Committee, as a part of which he helped in the development of the AIUM Practice Guideline for the Performance of Ultrasound of the Female Pelvis and the AIUM Practice Parameter for Documentation of an Ultrasound Examination. He also became an AIUM Fellow, a member of the Sound Judgment Committee (2012–2015), and was on the Board of Governors (2017–2020).

The AIUM wasn't the only organization Dr Sakhel joined, however. He also joined the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology (ISOUG), the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL), and the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (SLS). Plus, he was a member of multiple committees at the Eastern Virginia Medical School. Not to mention, he was always presenting, moderating, reviewing, and publishing, ensuring that everyone had access to everything he had learned himself.

In evidence of his excellence, Dr Sakhel earned many awards throughout his own education, including, but not limited to, 6 resident awards and membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society.

The obstetrics and gynecology field lost a legend-in-the-making in September of 2020 when Dr Sakhel died. He left a lasting impact on the field, his community, and his home, and will be missed by many, particularly his wife Samar, son Ryan, and daughters Lana and Mia.