

Joseph H. Holmes Clinical Pioneer Award

The Pioneer Award, which honors individuals who have significantly contributed to the growth and development of medical ultrasound, was established in 1977. This special award was renamed in 1982 to honor Joseph H. Holmes, MD, who died that year. Dr Holmes, the first person named as an AIUM pioneer, was an important figure to both the field of diagnostic ultrasound and the AIUM. His early efforts in ultrasound research, which included tissue characterization and ultrasound's diagnostic use in polycystic kidney disease and orthopedics, helped advance the field of ultrasound and encourage others to conduct new research. Serving the AIUM in many capacities, Dr Holmes was president from 1968 to 1970 and was editor of the AIUM's official journal, which was then titled the Journal of Clinical Ultrasound, for nearly 10 years. Each year, the Joseph H. Holmes Pioneer Award honors individuals in clinical science and in basic science.



Alfred B. Kurtz, MD, FAIUM

When someone has a curriculum vitae that is 69 single-spaced pages, how do you summarize his achievements in a few paragraphs? The easiest way might be to go to a thesaurus and search for all the words synonymous with “excellence,” and that would provide the perfect overview of the career of Alfred B. Kurtz, MD, FAIUM. Even in high school, it was obvious he was destined for greatness. This National Honor Society member and Merit semifinalist went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from New York University before leaving his home state to complete his medical degree at Stanford University School of Medicine. A member of academic honorary societies in chemistry and biology, Dr Kurtz returned home to complete his internship and residency at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center. He would find a new and permanent home when he completed a fellowship in the Department of Radiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where he is now professor of radiology and professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

The recipient of numerous honors, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound, the Mary S. Fisher Outstanding Educator Award from the Philadelphia Roentgen Ray Society, and the A. Edward O'Hara, MD Award for Excellence in Teaching from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Dr Kurtz has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to imaging excellence. He has been involved in local, national, and international imaging societies, having been active on more than 2 dozen committees and having served as president of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound, and the Greater Delaware Valley Ultrasound Society, as well as co-opted councilor for the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology.

Elected as a fellow to 4 organizations, Dr Kurtz has chaired or been a member of a wide range of committees at Thomas Jefferson University, from the Cross-Sectional Imaging Fellowship Selection Committee to the Department of Radiology Advisory Committee to the Abdominal Imaging Fellowship Selection Committee and a dozen others. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and 140 abstracts, has written 65 chapters and nonrefereed articles, and has authored 5 books. *Ultrasound: The Requisites*, now in its third edition and now coauthored by William Middleton MD, and Barbara Hertzberg, MD, is considered a standard in the field. A sought-after lecturer, Dr Kurtz has given more than 250 presentations in 26 different states, as well as in Canada, Mexico, Israel, Argentina, and throughout Europe.

Not one to ever rest, Dr Kurtz has been a journal reviewer or editorial board member for 10 journals, including the *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine, Radiology, RadioGraphics, and Ultrasound Quarterly*. His specific ultrasound research interests have focused on problems related to obstetrics and gynecology. Indeed, he has been involved in 8 grants and has served as primary investigator for a multicenter study on the diagnosis and staging of ovarian cancer awarded by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

Teaching, writing, researching, leading—Dr Kurtz has spent a lifetime committed to advancing ultrasound in medicine. But, he’s not *all* work. He does find time to spend with his wife of 42 years, Barbara, their 3 children, and 4 grandchildren, and he even finds time to enjoy his guilty pleasure, *The Simpsons*. Dr Holmes would applaud: even the best pioneers have to rest.

