

Joseph H. Holmes Pioneer Award-Clinical

In 1977, the Pioneer Award, which honored an individual who significantly contributed to the growth and development of diagnostic ultrasound, was established. 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 to 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 two current or retired AIUM members, one in clinical science and the other in basic science.

Ximena Wortsman, MD, FAIUM

The field of dermatologic ultrasound has largely expanded from its beginnings as the result of the prolific work of Ximena Wortsman, MD, FAIUM. Fewer than 20 years after the first study using ultrasound in dermatology (published in 1979), Dr Wortsman left Chile to train as a fellow in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Since then, she has returned to her home country and devoted herself to learning more about ultrasound of the skin and nails and sharing that knowledge with the medical community.



Dr Wortsman's research laid the groundwork for the integration of ultrasound imaging into routine dermatological practice, facilitating the noninvasive assessment of skin lesions with unparalleled accuracy and efficacy. Her innovative approaches not only expedited the diagnostic process but also enhanced therapeutic decision-making, fostering optimal outcomes for patients across diverse clinical scenarios. As a result, her pioneering work in the field of dermatologic ultrasound has garnered widespread acclaim.

At the forefront of her research endeavors lies her seminal work on the utility of ultrasound in dermatologic diagnosis and management. Dr Wortsman's studies have illuminated novel avenues in the realm of dermatologic imaging, shedding light on the nuances of cutaneous pathologies with unparalleled precision. Her pioneering investigations have elucidated the diagnostic prowess of ultrasound in discerning dermatologic conditions, empowering clinicians with a potent tool for accurate diagnosis and therapeutic guidance.

Among her most notable contributions is her research on the use of high-frequency **ultrasound** to characterize skin tumors and assess their depth and extent. Through meticulous examination and analysis, Dr Wortsman has unraveled the intricacies of cutaneous neoplasms, facilitating

early detection and informed treatment decisions. Her endeavors have not only elevated the standard of care in dermatology but have also engendered transformative shifts in clinical practice, fostering improved patient outcomes and enhanced quality of life.

Beyond her research pursuits, Dr Wortsman remains a steadfast advocate for the integration of dermatologic ultrasound into clinical practice. Her unwavering commitment to education and dissemination of knowledge has propelled the widespread adoption of ultrasound in dermatology, catalyzing a paradigm shift in the approach to cutaneous diagnostics.

Throughout all of this, Dr Wortsman has been a member of a growing number of organizations, including the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). As a member and leader of the AIUM (as Chair of the Community of Practice Committee), she was instrumental in the creation of the AIUM's Dermatology Community, for which she also served as the first Chair.

Dr Wortsman's indelible imprint on dermatologic ultrasound has not only enriched the scientific community but has also left an indelible mark on the landscape of clinical practice, elevating the standard of care for patients worldwide. For her significant contributions to the growth and development of dermatologic ultrasound and the AIUM, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine is proud to honor Ximena Wortsman, MD, FAIUM, with the 2024 Joseph H. Holmes Clinical Pioneer Award.