Joseph H. Holmes Clinical Pioneer Award

The Pioneer Award honors individuals who have significantly contributed to the growth and development of medical ultrasound. This special award is named in honor of Joseph H. Holmes, MD, who was the first person named as an AIUM pioneer and was an important figure to both the field of diagnostic ultrasound and the AIUM. Each year, the Joseph H. Holmes Pioneer Award honors at least 2 current or retired AIUM members for their work in clinical science or basic science.

Joshua A. Copel, MD, FAIUM

From the very beginning of his career in maternal-fetal medicine, Joshua A. Copel, MD, FAIUM, has been an avid proponent of an ultrasound examination during pregnancy and incorporating it as a standard of care. He did not, however, begin college with an aim of entering the field.

In 1975, Dr Copel received his BA in Psychology from Brandeis University before receiving his MD from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1979. Dr Copel then completed his internship and residency in Pennsylvania Hospital’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (in 1983), and was a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale School of Medicine from 1983 to 1985.

To this day, Dr Copel remains with the Yale School of Medicine as Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs, a Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, the Vice-Chair of Clinical Operations in that department, and a Professor of Pediatrics. And throughout it all, his background in psychology has helped him to better communicate with his patients.

Dr Copel has also remained active on committees at Yale and for multiple organizations, particularly the AIUM, where he has volunteered on numerous committees, served on the Board of Governors (twice), and was President from 2007 to 2009. In addition, he has served on the Advisory Editorial Board for the AIUM’s Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine (JUM). All of this has allowed him to continually share his vast knowledge of prenatal diagnostics and fetal therapy.

In addition to his volunteer work, Dr Copel has written or edited several books on obstetric ultrasound; numerous articles, chapters, and abstracts; and has been an invaluable lecturer ensuring that many others can share in his knowledge.
In honor of his many contributions to the field of maternal-fetal medicine, Dr Copel has received multiple awards, including the Dru Carlson Memorial Award for Best Research in Ultrasound and Genetics from the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. It is the honor of the AIUM to present the 2022 Joseph H. Holmes Clinical Pioneer Award to Dr Copel.