Distinguished Sonographer Award

Established in 1997, the Distinguished Sonographer Award is a means of recognizing and honoring current or retired AIUM members who have significantly contributed to the growth and development of medical ultrasound. This annual presentation honors an individual whose outstanding contributions to the development of medical ultrasound warrant special merit.

Shawn C. Roll, PhD, OTR/L, RMSKS, FAOTA, FAIUM

Dr. Shawn C. Roll is, first and foremost, an occupational therapist. He first attended The Ohio State University to earn his magna cum laude Bachelor of Science (BS) in Allied Health Professions (Occupational Therapy), then stayed on to earn his Master of Science (MS) in Allied Health Professions and his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health & Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Roll’s resulting dissertation focused on the relationship of ultrasonographic physiologic changes to personal factors and psychosocial stressors in the development and diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome.

Recognizing his immense potential, the University of Southern California (USC) welcomed Dr. Roll onto its faculty upon graduation. There, he quickly established himself as a rising star in the field. At USC, Dr. Roll has spearheaded numerous research endeavors to promote worker health and well-being and assess, prevent, and rehabilitate work-related injuries.

Dr. Roll is also a founding member of USC’s Laboratory for Investigatory Imaging, where he is currently serving as the co-PI for the survey research being conducted on work-related musculoskeletal injuries. He is also helping develop a national database for sonographers’ and sonologists’ health and well-being.

In addition to his research endeavors, Dr. Roll is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of occupational therapists. As a dedicated mentor and educator, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the minds of aspiring clinical occupational therapists, instilling in them a passion for musculoskeletal sonography and a commitment to excellence. Today, Dr. Roll is a professor of the Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy as well as director of the Musculoskeletal Sonography and Occupational Performance Research Lab.

In addition to this incredible work for USC, Dr. Roll has also shared his vast knowledge with the help of professional societies, such as the American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), where, as a fellow, he served on the Clinical Standards Committee’s Work-Related
Musculoskeletal Disorder Prevention Task Force, contributing to the AIUM Practice Principles for Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorder.

Dr Roll’s groundbreaking work has earned him numerous accolades and honors, including prestigious awards from professional societies and world-renowned journals. He is widely regarded as a leading authority in the field of musculoskeletal disorders, and his insights continue to influence research and occupational practice around the world.

As he continues to push the boundaries of excellence, Dr Shawn C. Roll remains steadfast in his commitment to supporting worker health, well-being, and occupational performance. Through his visionary leadership and unwavering dedication, he has cemented his legacy as a pioneer in Occupational Therapy, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of supporting worker health, with a focus on work-related stress and musculoskeletal disorders. As a result, the AIUM is proud to honor Shawn C. Roll, PhD, OTR/L, RMSKS, FAOTA, FAIUM, with the 2024 Distinguished Sonographer Award.