

## 11th World Congress of Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology, 23–28 October, Melbourne, Australia: presentation of the 2001 Ian Donald Gold Medal



### Presentation of the 2001 Ian Donald Gold Medal to Beryl Benacerraf

Professor Beryl Benacerraf was selected as the winner of the Ian Donald Gold Medal for the year 2001.

The Ian Donald Gold Medal was introduced by ISUOG in 1991 to honor our great pioneer and teacher in ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology, Professor Ian Donald. Each year the award is presented for outstanding contribution to the development of ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology. The Ian Donald Award committee consists of previous award winners, to assure the highest level of objectivity for future award winners.

Beryl Benacerraf is clinical professor at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School and clinical professor at the Department of Radiology at the same institution. Through her pioneering research in several fields of diagnostic ultrasound, she has contributed significantly to the development of obstetric and gynecological ultrasound during the past 20 years.

Beryl's interest in sound goes back to her junior years. I have been told she started her audio career many years ago

as a disk jockey in a New York radio station! Later she became more focused and—typical for her—moved up on the frequency scale and entered the silent world of ultrasound where she has been causing a lot of good vibrations ever since.

Professor Benacerraf was born in New York, New York. She went to the prestigious Harvard Medical School in Boston where she received her MD in 1976. She has stayed in close contact with her Alma Mater ever since.

She has been a member of the American College of Radiology since 1980 and The Radiological Society of North America since 1982 where she has also held prestigious offices. She has been a member of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine since 1982 and has been extensively involved in their organizational as well as research activities. Since 1992 she has been a member of the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound and, most important of all, of course, she has been a member of ISUOG since 1992. She has served on our Board since then and on the Executive Committee since 1999 as Treasurer. As with all offices in which Beryl is involved, she has demonstrated intense activity and interest to move forward and make progress.

Beryl is a member of numerous editorial boards and is now Editor in Chief of the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine. I know she has great ambitions for that journal which is a competitor to the White journal of ISUOG. Competition leads to progress!

Beryl has had extensive research activity resulting in over 220 peer-reviewed papers since her first paper in 1978. Her interests span the whole range of fetal anomalies and for a number of years she has demonstrated images of superb quality, encouraging all of us to expand our diagnostic capabilities. Her particular interest has been the use of ultrasound in the prenatal detection of Down syndrome and she has shown how ultrasound technique can aid in the detection of a variety of syndromes. She introduced the genetic sonogram which has made ultrasound technology into one of the diagnostic tools in genetics.

Beryl has also found the time to edit two books—and in addition she is the single author of a textbook in ultrasound diagnosis of fetal syndromes. She is recognized as an excellent speaker and teacher and has traveled world-wide in this capacity.

The Nomination Committee could not have made a better choice when it awarded the 2001 Ian Donald Gold Medal to Professor Beryl Benacerraf for her outstanding achievement in the clinical use of ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology. My congratulations.

Sturla H. Eik-Nes  
President, ISUOG