

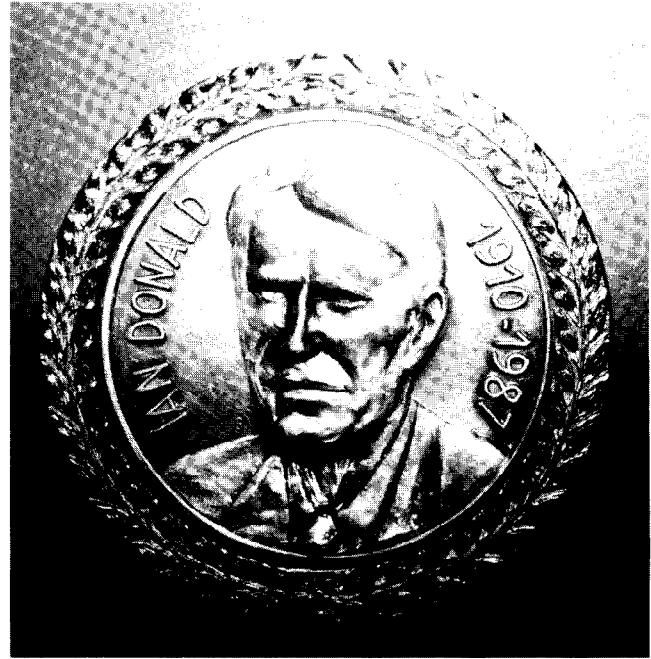
## Presentation of the 1991 Ian Donald Gold Medal to Alfred Kratochwil



Dr Alfred Kratochwil

The Ian Donald Gold Medal is awarded at the time of each World Congress to a person who has made a profound and significant contribution to the development of ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology.

The award is made by the Executive Committee of ISUOG after taking advice from a wide range of opinion from within the membership of the Society.



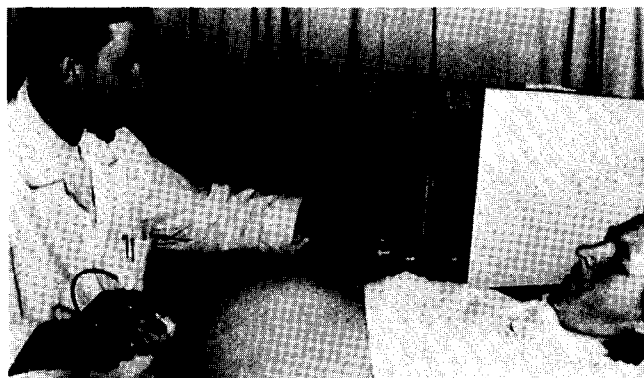
The 1991 Ian Donald Gold Medal

The 1991 Gold Medal was presented at the Plenary Session on Tuesday, 8th January to Dr Alfred Kratochwil by Alix Donald, the widow of Ian Donald. The President of ISUOG, Stuart Campbell, made the following oration.

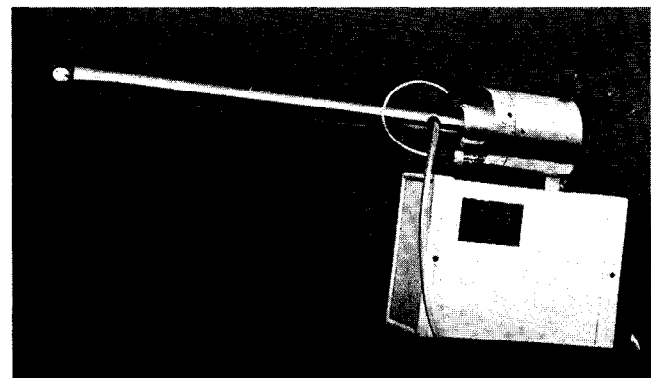
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*Fellow members of ISUOG, Vienna is famous not just for its musical geniuses but for its medical ones as well. Wertheim, Semmelweiss, Freud, Billroth, Pfannenstiel, Rokitanski are a few of the famous names that lighten up the pages of medical history. Today we honor another Viennese doctor who has followed in the great tradition of dedicated, innovative research. His name is Alfred Kratochwil.*

*Dr Kratochwil was born in 1920 and graduated from the University of Vienna in 1953. He was appointed as Professor in 1972. He began his ultrasound researches modestly in 1964 by applying A-scan equipment, designed for echoencephalography to the maternal abdomen in an attempt to achieve placental location. Frustrated by his inability to acquire the new B-mode apparatus, which had been described by Ian Donald in 1958, he decided to adapt*



Dr Kratochwil in 1965 using an A-scanner for placental location (photograph used by kind permission of Kretztechnik)



Transvaginal probe mechanics for the first purpose built B-scanner for endosonographic studies (photograph used by kind permission of Kretztechnik)

his A-scan probe for transvaginal use in order to detect the pulsations of the fetal heart. In 1967 he was able to detect fetal heart action at 46 days of amenorrhea by the transvaginal route. He next developed a thimble-like transducer to combine echography with bimanual examination.

During this time, Dr Kratochwil had been working with the company Kretztechnik and in 1968 they rewarded his efforts by presenting him with the B-mode apparatus for which he so fervently wished.

In 1969 the first B-scanner for transvaginal, rectal and vesical examination was constructed. The new technique was primarily used for the location of local recurrences after radical surgery for cervical carcinoma. But he also used it to obtain pelvic measurements and to localize the ovaries. In cooperation with a urologist, the method was used to demonstrate the prostatic gland.

In 1972 he was able to demonstrate that the ovarian follicle could be recognized and measured.

Dr Kratochwil was innovative in other areas. In 1968 he developed the first transducer with a central needle hole for ultrasound-guided amniocentesis. In 1977 he combined laparoscopy and sonography by inserting a slim 4 MHz transducer down the second sleeve of the laparoscope to provide measurements of pelvic and abdominal organs.

Alfred Kratochwil was one of the first, if not the first, to develop ultrasound training courses. These he began in 1968 and his center in Vienna rapidly became an ultrasound

mecca which was visited by over a thousand colleagues from all over the world.

He has many other achievements – he founded the Austrian Ultrasound Society in 1973 and was a founder member of the European and World Federations.

Among his many prizes is the Maternity Prize of the German Society of Perinatal Medicine. He has written over 220 scientific papers and has written or edited three books, the most recent being published in 1990.

I believe Alfred Kratochwil is not as widely recognized in the English-speaking world as he should be, presumably because he has not published very much in the English literature. There is no doubt that his reputation will grow as it is recognized that he is the father of transvaginal sonography and the first to describe the ovarian follicle. Today, the technique of transvaginal sonography seems obvious because of the superlative images that can now be obtained, but 20 years ago with the relatively crude equipment that existed then, it was not quite so clear, that is to anyone except Alfred Kratochwil. Today, ISUOG salutes his perspicacity and pioneering spirit, by awarding him with the first Ian Donald Gold Medal.

It is an especially great honor that Alix Donald, Ian Donald's widow, will present the first Ian Donald Gold Medal.

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## What you thought of the Congress

Evaluation forms were completed by 130 participants.

The overall opinion of the conference: 51%, excellent; 44%, good; 5%, fair; 0%, poor.

The breadth and scope of the subjects: 61%, excellent; 35%, good; 4%, fair; 0%, poor.

The present format of Parallel, Plenary, Round Table and Free Communication Sessions: 59%, satisfactory; 41%, unsatisfactory.

Plenary Sessions: 52%, excellent; 41%, good; 7%, fair; 0%, poor.

Round Tables: 34%, excellent; 53%, good; 12%, fair; 1%, poor.

Free Communications: 10%, excellent; 49%, good; 33%, fair; 8%, poor.

Opportunity for discussion: 17%, excellent; 46%, good; 28%, fair; 9%, poor.

Meeting facility: 60%, excellent; 33%, adequate; 7%, poor.

Workshop sessions: 89%, approve; 11%, disapprove.

Would you come to an ISUOG Conference again?: 97%, yes; 2%, no; 1%, possibly.

How frequent should future conferences be?: 39%, annual; 48%, bi-annual; 13%, tri-annual.

Which location would you prefer?: 46%, every meeting in a different country; 54%, every third or fourth meeting in London.