

History of AIUM  
By Harvey L. Nisenbaum

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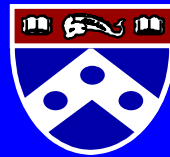
A thankful heart is not only  
The greatest virtue, but the  
Parent of all other virtues.



# History of AIUM



Harvey L. Nisenbaum, M.D.





## Beginning

- In 1940s and 1950s, when ultrasound was just emerging as a diagnostic technique, display technology was largely limited to A- and M-mode tracings and crude bistable static B-mode images. At that time, the only nonresearch clinical application for ultrasound was for therapy rather than diagnosis. High-power, low-frequency ultrasound was already widely used to provide therapeutic heating of deep tissues.
- There were no professional associations or educational meetings dedicated to ultrasound. Those interested in ultrasound met in informal groups.



## Beginning

- Summer of 1951, while attending American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, group of 24 physiatrists (physicians who administer physical therapy or specialize in physical medicine) met in a hotel room in Denver, Colorado, to discuss the need for organizing an ultrasound subgroup of that congress. This informal group of ultrasound pioneers hoped to expand the scope of physical medicine to include new therapeutic techniques in ultrasound, a field in its infancy in Europe.

## 24 Physicians Who Paved the Way

John H. Aldes, MD  
Herman J. Bearzy, MD  
Hans J. Behrend, MD  
William Bierman, MD  
Harvey Billig, MD  
Nila K. Covalt, MD  
Harold Dinken, MD  
Jerome Gersten, MD  
Leonard Huddleston, MD  
I. F. Hummon, MD  
Arthur Jones, MD  
Disraeli Kobak, MD

Lt Col John H. Kuitert, MD  
Sedgwick Mead, MD  
Fred Moor, MD  
Max K. Newman, MD  
William Paul, MD  
G. Morris Piersol, MD  
Nathan H. Polmer, MD  
Donald L. Rose, MD  
Ferdinand F. Schwartz, MD  
Clyde I. Stafford, MD  
Jerry Weiss, MD  
Eugene Weissenberg, MD



## Beginning

- Mr Cecil Birtcher, president of the Birtcher Corporation and one of the AIUM's founders, encouraged this group of ultrasound pioneers and provided them with ultrasonic instruments with which to conduct research and carry out experiments. The Birtcher Corporation assumed most of the financial obligations of the AIUM during the AIUM's early years.



## Beginning

- Disraeli Kobak, MD, AIUM's first president, along with Mr Birtcher, organized the first annual meeting of this ultrasound group, held in New York in September 1952. At this meeting they elected officers and adopted an official constitution and bylaws. The group decided to call itself the American Institute of Ultrasonics in Medicine, a name that in 1968 was changed to American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine



Disraeli Kobak, MD



Cecil J Birtcher





## Beginning

- By 1953, with the use of ultrasound in medicine gaining momentum, plans were formulated for the American Conference on Ultrasonic Therapy in Medicine, which would be held in Chicago, Illinois. In August 1953, 14 papers relating to the use of ultrasound for conditions such as periarthrititis, geriatrics, referred pain, muscle disease, and subdeltoid bursitis were presented. All presentations were published in the *Journal of Physical Medicine*. Some of the early work was also submitted to the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*



## Beginning

- In 1954, as word spread of the annual meeting of the AIUM, the number of participants rose to 375. That year, the meeting was arranged in 3 sections: research, clinical investigations, and case reports, and it ended with a panel discussion by all who presented papers.

## Beginning

- The August 1955 meeting was held in Detroit, Michigan. The first paper on the use of diagnostic ultrasound was presented by 2 ultrasound pioneers, John J. Wild, MD, and John M. Reid, BEE, and was entitled “Echographic Tissue Diagnosis”. Somewhat arbitrarily, 1955 was chosen as the first year of the AIUM probably in part as the first year there was a presentation on the use of diagnostic US in addition to the therapeutic use.



John J. Wild c. 1953



John M. Reid 1970s



## History

- Carrie Chapman, MD (1963-1965), the first and up to 2014 only female AIUM president



- In 1967, AIUM President William J. Fry encouraged further expansion of the AIUM to include technologists, physicists, physiologists, and engineers, as well as physicians

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# Presidents

(<http://www.aium.org/aboutUs/leadership/presidents.aspx>)

Disraeli Kobak, MD (1952-1956)

Jerome Gersten, MD (1956-1959)

David Rubin, MD (1959-1962)

Carrie Chapman, MD (1963-1965)

Carlos Ruiz, MD (1965-1966)

William J. Fry (1966-1968)

George Kossoff, DscEng (1968-1968)

Joseph H. Holmes, MD (1968-1970)

Denis N. White, MD (1970-1972)

Gilbert Baum, MD (1972-1974)

William M. McKinney, MD (1974-1976)

Ross E. Brown, MD (1976-1978)

Horace E. Thompson, MD (1978-1980)

Barry B. Goldberg, MD (1980-1982)

Marvin C. Ziskin, MD (1982-1984)

Richard A. Meyer, MD (1984-1986)

Christopher R. B. Merritt, MD (1986-1988)

William D. O'Brien, Jr., PhD (1988-1991)

John C. Hobbins, MD (1991-1993)

Michael S. Tenner, MD (1993-1995)

Peter H. Arger, MD (1995-1997)

Frederick W. Kremkau, PhD (1997-1999)

Lawrence D. Platt, MD (1999-2001)

Alfred B. Kurtz, MD (2001-2003)

Lewis H. Nelson, III, MD (2003-2005)

Lennard D. Greenbaum, MD (2005-2007)

Joshua A. Copel, MD (2007-2009)

Harvey L. Nisenbaum, MD (2009-2011)

Alfred Z. Abuhamad, MD (2011-2013)

Steven R. Goldstein, MD (2013-2015)



## Journal

- In an attempt to establish a forum to communicate new developments in the field of diagnostic ultrasound, the AIUM established a close working relationship with the *Journal of Clinical Ultrasound (JCU)*, which debuted in March 1973 with AIUM past president Joseph Holmes, MD, serving as editor. *JCU* was owned and published by John Wiley and Sons, Inc
- Subsequently, AIUM created a new journal, *the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine (JUM)* which started January 1, 1982 with George Leopold, MD as it's 1<sup>st</sup> Editor. *JUM* is owned and currently published by the AIUM. Starting January 2001, Beryl Benacerraf, MD became 2<sup>nd</sup> *JUM* Editor and January 2011, Levon Nazarian, MD started as the current Editor

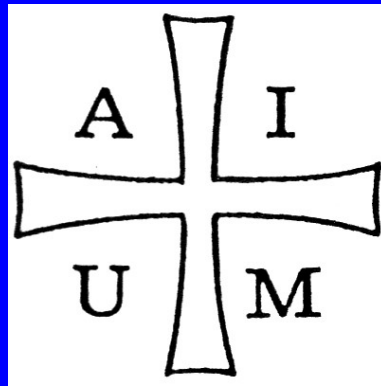
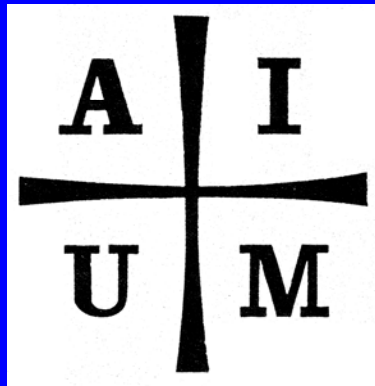


## Headquarters

- In late 1974, Ross Brown, MD, established the first AIUM central office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Up until that point, the AIUM executive office had been run on an unofficial basis, traveling from place to place, residing with each new president.
- After approx 20 years in Oklahoma, AIUM decided to relocate to the Washington, DC area to increase its visibility and amplify the professional recognition of its members
- In October 1993, the AIUM-owned building opened its doors in Laurel, Maryland, which remains the site of the AIUM executive office today.



# AIUM Logos







## Membership (Dec 31, 2013)

• Total- 10136

Physicians- 5634

Sonographers- 2751

Scientists- 157

Students- 783

Others- 811

Physicians- 5634

OB/Gyn- 2968

Diag Rad- 1255

Emerg Med- 233

Intern Med- 216

Fam Pract- 180

Phy Med/Rehab- 179

Sports Med- 136

Surgery- 89

Rheumat- 70



## History Resources

- History Timeline

<http://www.aium.org/aboutUs/history/timeline.aspx?decade=1950>

- History Articles

<http://www.jultrasoundmed.org/content/24/2/131.full>

<http://www.aium.org/aboutUs/history/articles.aspx>

**Thank You  
For Your Attention**