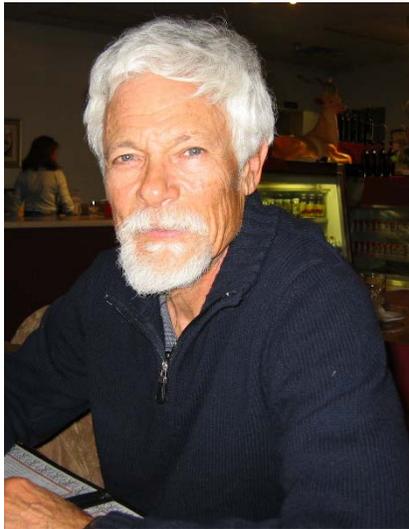


Memorial Recognition

Established in 2002, Memorial Recognition serves as a posthumous tribute to a creative and devoted physician, research scientist, or other member who has contributed to the field of ultrasound in medicine. The honoree is recognized at the Plenary Session during the Annual Convention of the AIUM.



LeRoy Kopel, MS

Mr Kopel was an inventor who had a major impact on how ultrasound examinations are performed. In 1961 and 1963, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He accepted a position with Hewlett-Packard in 1965 to participate in a project focusing on the use of ultrasound in medical diagnostic imaging. While working on this project, he was able to share his knowledge of piezoelectric sensors and learn a lot from his research and his colleagues.

Mr Kopel went on to work for Advanced Diagnostic Research in 1970. At the time, the company was working on revolutionizing how ultrasound images were portrayed by developing moving ultrasound images. He managed probes and was highly instrumental in establishing the first compact real-time imaging systems. While there, he made several engineering advances, which led to him receiving several ultrasound-related patents for his inventions.

After working at Advanced Diagnostic Research for several years he, along with some colleagues, established a company called Acoustic Imaging in 1982. During this time, the medical community used flat probes to produce ultrasonic images. However, Mr Kopel was a man of many ideas. He designed the curved probe, which allows for a wider field of view. His invention can easily be seen in hospitals and clinics all over the world.

Outside his work, Mr Kopel was a patron of the arts and a cyclist aficionado. He greatly enjoyed music and was an avid supporter of the Phoenix Symphony. He was a founding member of the Phoenix Metro Bicycle Club and could be seen every Saturday morning riding from Kiwanis Park. He pedaled in the Mt Graham Hill Climb and Arizona State Hill Climb championships, the South Mountain Time trials, and other bicycling events for several years. He also volunteered at events such as the Memorial Ride for Safety Benefits Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists, passing out food and making sure that cyclists remained hydrated.

Mr Kopel died on October 21, 2017, in Phoenix, Arizona, after a 2-year struggle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife Jemma. He will be missed by his family and his colleagues in the medical community.



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