

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.



Juergen Willmann, MD

Dr Willmann graduated summa cum laude in 1998 with a medical degree from Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg. In 1999, he completed an internship at the University Hospital of Freiburg, and he concluded his residency at the University Hospital of Zurich in 2003.

Dr Willmann held the roles of clinical division chief of body imaging and executive vice chair of strategy, outreach, and clinical trials in the Department of Radiology at Stanford University Hospital. In addition to those positions, he was a member of the Center for Biomedical Imaging at Stanford, Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford, Stanford Cancer Center, and BioX, the interdisciplinary biosciences institute at Stanford. Dr Willmann was also instrumental in leading the research on preclinical development and clinical translation of ultrasonic molecular imaging for early detection of various cancers within the Canary Foundation.

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/juergen-k-willmann-14baa280>

Some people are great scientists, whereas others are phenomenal researchers. Dr Willmann was extraordinary at both. Some of his many awards include the Best Basic Translational Research Scientific Paper Award from the Society of Abdominal Radiology, Distinguished Investigator Award from the Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research, the Howard H. Stern Research Award from the Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists, and the Walter Friedrich Award for Outstanding Research in Radiology from the German Society of Radiology. Last year, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering inducted him into the College of Fellows Class of 2017 for his fundamental contributions to bioengineering and medicine through the development and clinical translation of molecular imaging of cancer with ultrasound.

As the principal investigator in the Translational Molecular Imaging Laboratory, he and his team focused on the development and clinical translation of novel molecular and functional imaging biomarkers with special focus on imaging abdominal and pelvic diseases. He used targeted contrast microbubbles in combination with ultrasound to detect early tumors and target the delivery of drugs. His laboratory produced the first clinical imaging trials in humans in which microbubbles were used to detect breast and ovarian cancer.

Dr Willmann was also a skilled writer and editor. He authored more than 143 publications. He served as the deputy editor for the Association of University Radiologists and senior Editorial Board member for the *American Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* and has been a reviewer for the Radiological Society of North America and the *European Journal of Radiology*.

In addition, Dr Willmann had a great love for music. He was a piano prodigy in his youth, and he learned to play a total of 4 instruments. His passion for music was so strong that he seriously considered

becoming a musician before joining the medical field. However, his thirst for knowledge and scientific discovery could not be subdued.

On January 10, 2018, Dr Willmann was involved in a fatal car accident. He is survived by his wife Amelie and their 2 children, Alexander and Juliana. The AIUM is thankful for his speaking engagements at AIUM conventions and his numerous contributions to the ultrasound community.

