

In Memoriam: Fon-Jou Hsieh, MD, FAIUM, 1946–2018, A Pioneer of Obstetric and Gynecological Ultrasound in Taiwan

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Fon-Jou Hsieh, MD [Figure 1], a Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology at National Taiwan University (NTU) School of Medicine, a pioneer of obstetric and gynecological ultrasound, and a devoted medical ultrasound educator, passed away in Taipei, Taiwan, on November 10, 2018, after a fruitful life of 72 years.

Prof. Hsieh was born in a Christian family in Tainan, as the eldest son of Dr. Po-Chen Hsieh and Mrs. Shu-O Fu Hsieh's seven children. His father, Dr. Po-Chen Hsieh, a leading obstetrician, practiced in Tainan for six decades. Prof. Hsieh received his medical college education in NTU, Taipei (1965–1972), and earned his B.S. He began his residency

training at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of NTU School of Medicine since 1972. In 1975, he was assigned to Taipei Municipal Maternity and Child Health Center to finish residency training and became an attending physician in 1978. In the same year, he was appointed as a lecturer of NTU School of Medicine and became a fulltime faculty of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NTU Hospital. In 1984, he served as an Associate Professor, and he was appointed as a tenured professor of obstetrics and gynecology in 1989.



Figure 1: Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh attended the exhibition of the history of the Shuntien Surgical Hospital (The first surgical hospital in Taiwan was set up by Prof. Hsieh's grandfather Tang-Shan Hsieh, the first surgeon in Taiwan) at the library of National Taiwan University in 2008



Figure 2: Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh and Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen in the Fourth Congress of Federation of Asian and Oceania Perinatal Society in Tokyo (1986)

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Received: 10-11-2019 Accepted: 19-12-2019 Available Online: 17-03-2020

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:
www.jmuonline.org

DOI:
10.4103/JMU.JMU_125_19

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How to cite this article: Chou YH, Tiu CM, Cheng PJ, Hsieh CY, Chen TC, Chen FC. In memoriam: Fon-jou hsieh, md, faium, 1946–2018, a pioneer of obstetric and gynecological ultrasound in taiwan. J Med Ultrasound 2020;28:1-4.



Figure 3: From left to right, Prof. Min-Ho Huang, Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh, Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen, Prof. Satomura (Japan), and Prof. Jian-Fan Ren (China) at the Fourth World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology held in 1985



Figure 4: From left to right, Prof. Morimichi Fukuda (Japan), Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen, and Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh at the First Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology Congress, Tokyo, Japan (1987)



Figure 5: From left to right, Ms. Lillian Fu-Chin Chen, Prof. Chui-Mei Tiu, Prof. Yi-Hong Chou, Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh, Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen, and Prof. Hsieh's eldest daughter Chun-Yih Hsieh at the Seventh World Congress, World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology '94, Sapporo, Japan



Figure 6: Officers and Councilors of Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology at Administrative Council Meeting in Taipei, Taiwan (1997) (from left to right, sitting: Prof. Hiroki Watanabe, Prof. Toshio Wagai, Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen. Standing: Prof. Yong Ho Auh, Meeting English Editor Mr. Mike Steely, Prof. Chui-Mei Tiu, Prof. Masatoshi Makuuchi, Prof. Kittipong Vairojanavong, Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh, Prof. Cheng-Wen Chiang, Prof. Byung Ihn Choi, Dr. Melani Setiawan, Prof. Yoshihide Chiba, Prof. Yi-Hong Chou)



Figure 7: Group photo of The Board Members of World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology and Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology 1998 at the Congress of Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology '98, Taipei, Taiwan, held in Taipei International Conference Center, Taipei, Taiwan

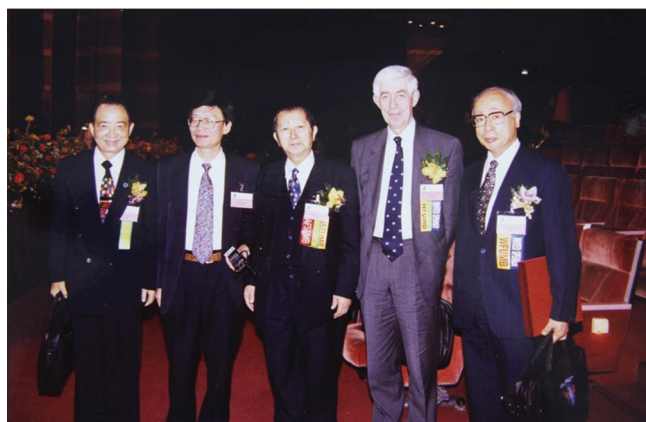


Figure 8: From left to right, Prof. BN Chiang, Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh, Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen, Prof. Peter Wells (UK), and Prof. Morimichi Fukuda (Japan) at the Fifth Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology '98, Taipei, Taiwan

Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh was mentored by late Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen (1922–2012), one of most famous pioneers of medical ultrasound in Taiwan and Asia [Figure 2]. Prof. Hsieh worked with Prof. Chen and became an outstanding researcher, exploring the use of diagnostic and interventional ultrasound in the field of obstetrics and gynecology in Taiwan. During



Figure 9: Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh, Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, 1998



Figure 10: From left to right, sitting: Prof. Chui-Mei Tiu, Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh, Prof. Yi-Hong Chou, and Dr. Chien-Hua Chen. Standing, the Taiwan Society of Ultrasound in Medicine's staffs: Ms. Lily Li-In Chang, Ms. Lillian Fu-Chin Chen, Ms. Candy Tsai-Chin Chen, Ms. Yu-Shau Ko, Dr. Jyh-Herng Lin, and Ms. Sophy Fu-Dun Chen

the following years, he contributed immensely to the progress of medical ultrasound in Taiwan. He helped introducing new generations of ultrasound instruments to Taiwan ultrasound community, including real-time scanner, Doppler ultrasound, transvaginal ultrasound, and three-dimensional ultrasound to keep the medical ultrasound expertise of Taiwan at the forefront of healthcare. In 1984, when Prof. Chen founded the Society of Ultrasound in Medicine of the Republic of China, now known as the Taiwan Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (TSUM), Prof. Hsieh served as the Secretary General for the first two terms, assisted Prof. Chen during his Presidency (1984–1990). Prof. Hsieh also helped set up the administration and education systems of TSUM and worked together with Prof. Chen in leading TSUM to participate in nearly all international activities. Great efforts had been made by Profs. Chen and Hsieh and many other Taiwanese key opinion leaders to overcome the political barriers for TSUM to join the Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB) and then the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) [Figures 3-6].^[1]

The TSUM grew rapidly from 1984 to the early 1990s partly because of Prof. Hsieh's leadership (President, 1992–1994; Secretary-General: Yi-Hong Chou).^[2] In the first 10 years, diagnostic ultrasound technologies not only have been used in obstetrics/gynecology and cardiology but have also rapidly spread to surgery, urology, radiology, gastroenterology, pediatrics, ophthalmology, neurology, and novel fields, such as head and neck, pulmonology, and musculoskeletal system. The TSUM has been uniting ultrasound researchers, educators, and practitioners from all medical centers and subspecialties in Taiwan. TSUM is now the second-largest society in AFSUMB. With its sizable number of members (5500), TSUM contributes substantially to AFSUMB and WFUMB. With Prof. Hsieh's strong recommendation, *Journal of Medical Ultrasound*, the official Journal of TSUM, was accepted by the Council of AFSUMB and has become the official Journal of AFSUMB since 1999. The 1998 AFSUMB Congress was held in Taiwan. Prof. Hsi-Yao Chen served as the President and Prof. Hsieh as the Vice Congress President and Chair of the Organizing Committee [Figures 6-9]. In AFSUMB, Prof. Hsieh was the Administrative Councilor (1995–1998) and then the Vice President (1998–2001).



Figure 11: Group photo of the directors, supervisors, and secretaries at Taiwan Society of Ultrasound in Medicine Annual Convention 2017. Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh (sitting, left second) and Prof. Po-Jen Cheng (Current President of Taiwan Society of Ultrasound in Medicine, standing, left twelfth)



Figure 12: Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh and Dr. Ghi-Jen Lin visited Ill Azalea Bio-Medical Image Contest, a key event in the Azalea Festival of National Taiwan University initiated by Prof. Hsieh from 2006



Figure 13: From left to right, sitting: Dr. Hao-Yang Hsieh, Dr. Ghi-Jen Lin, Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh, standing: Dr. Chun-Yih Hsieh and Dr. Shiao-Fu Hsieh (2015)



Figure 14: Two azalea bushes were planted in front of the old National Taiwan University library building (currently Gallery of National Taiwan University History) in memory of Prof. Fon-Jou Hsieh

Prof. Hsieh was the author of more than 360 scientific papers. He received many honors and awards including the prestigious Award of Outstanding Education and Research from the Wan-Yu Chen Foundation and National Science Council, Executive Yuan in Taiwan. He made great contributions to the nationwide Down Syndrome Screening Project and the establishment of prenatal care program provided by National Health Insurance. Moreover, he proposed an innovative strategy for breast cancer screening program in Taiwan, encouraging obstetrician-gynecologist to participate in the screening of breast cancer with ultrasound to improve the detection rate of early cancer. As a Professor at NTU, he was a tireless advocate for medical ultrasound and more recently facilitated a role for ultrasound in radiomics and artificial intelligence in Taiwan. His passing is a huge loss for the entire ultrasound family, and he will be missed enormously as a colleague and a friend, a kind, warm, decent human being with whom it was always a pleasure to spend time with.

Besides biomedical research, Prof. Hsieh was determined to be a Renaissance man and worked hard in promoting art and liberal education. He enjoyed sharing his passion for biology and art with his family, students, colleagues, and friends [Figures 10 and 11]. He is a physician, a scholar, and an educator. Prof. Hsieh is a family man and had great support from his wife, Dr. Ghi-Jen Lin, a famous pediatrician at Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital, and three children: Dr. Chun-Yih Hsieh, Dr. Shiao-Fu Hsieh, and Dr. Hao-Yang Hsieh [Figures 12 and 13].

To honor Prof. Hsieh, the NTU and TSUM have instated a lecture series, known as The Fon-Jou Hsieh Memorial Symposium. Since Prof. Hsieh loves azalea, two azalea bushes were planted in the NTU campus in the winter of 2019 in memory of him [Figure 14]. All his old friends in AFSUMB and WFUMB expressed their deepest sympathy to the great loss of TSUM and Prof. Hsieh's family. They look upon Prof. Hsieh as a great educator and glorify his contribution to build a vibrant ultrasound society in Taiwan. With enormous sorrow, the Board of Directors of TSUM and AFSUMB Administrative Council honor the memory of their dear friend and colleague, Fon-Jou Hsieh.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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