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## **Echocardiography – The 50th Anniversary Edler–Hertz Meeting 2003**

The development of diagnostic ultrasound in cardiology started in Lund, Sweden, more than 50 years ago, originating from the successful cooperation between the physician Inge Edler and the physicist Hellmuth Hertz. Following the initial exploratory steps, the first echocardiographic recording in the human was performed on Thursday the 29th of October 1953. The method was then further developed and used also outside cardiology – for instance in obstetrics and neurology – at the University Hospital, Lund.

The birth of diagnostic ultrasound in Lund was celebrated on its 50th anniversary by an international meeting. In addition to the talk on historical background the recent technical development and frontier research on the application of ultrasound in clinical cardiology and obstetrics were presented by distinguished scientists within the respective field.

The present issue of Clinical Physiology and Functional Imaging presents not only these new frontline articles, but also an often-cited but difficult-to-find publication – the first paper by Edler and Hertz describing the use of diagnostic ultrasound in cardiology, together with selected high-quality abstracts, presented at the ultrasound anniversary symposium.

It is our belief that the further development of medical ultrasound will depend on a continuing close cooperation between clinicians and technology experts as exemplified by Edler and Hertz in the past. We hope that the meeting and this publication may also contribute to this development.

**S. Bertil Olsson, Kjell Lindström and Karel Marsal**

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