Epoch-making sonographic images changed our world

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Photography was invented almost 200 years ago. Since then, many people, scenery, and the history of our world have been documented in numerous photographs. Many photographs, some of them taken by great photographers, many of them by ordinary people, have stimulated our artistic sensitivity and stolen our hearts. What makes photographs unique compared with drawings, paintings, and motion pictures? Photographs seem to be different from other images in that they freeze time instantaneously and capture a moment that we usually experience without consciousness. Representing this uniqueness, we know that only one photograph can change a life, change our world, and eventually make our history (Life Time by John Phillips in 1985, On Photography by Susan Sontag in 1977, Slightly Out of Focus by Robert Capa in 1947, etc.). Our world has been scanned with a camera by photographers, and many historical moments or artistic instances have been frozen on photographic images just like the human body is scanned with ultrasonography and our vital life is frozen on sonographic images. In our field of ultrasonography, many brilliant sonographic images have been documented and reported all over the world. Some of them were landmark images of epoch-making progress in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases with ultrasonography that changed our daily clinical practice and changed our world. Even if many of these sonograms are obscure in image quality and provide an old-style presentation from our present perspective, which is based on the progress in ultrasound technology, they are still brilliant only from the standpoint of changing our world. The editor hopes that readers can find many such

great sonographic images in past, present, and future issues of our journal. In contrast to these great sonographic images, every member of our society must have personal memorable sonographic images, whether epoch-making or not. Every person in our field must have such unforgettable images, stored in films, in computer memories, or only in their brain as personal memories, which probably changed a personal career or a personal history in our field of medical ultrasonography. Personally, the editor also has several unforgettable sonographic images, some of which were published and some of which were just in my heart, such as clear gray-scale images of splanchnic vessels in the abdomen after many attempts, extraordinary Doppler waveform changes in the portal vein system with meal ingestion or vasoactive substance infusion, and over colorful enhancement of the liver vasculature on color Doppler images with the first-generation echo-enhancement medium, etc., which might have changed the world. The way we take sonographic images with our own hands and eyes in close contact with patients, which is a somewhat different style from that of CT or MRI, might allow the editor to present this month's editorial as a kind of pictorial essay. Although this style of taking images that characterizes ultrasonography is sometimes criticized as being subjective, ultrasonography allows us to keep producing epoch-making images that will change our world. To conclude this brief editorial, the editor sincerely hopes the readers of the journal and many active members of our society will submit many excellent and brilliant sonographic images that will stimulate us and change the world.

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