

[Virginia Apgar Celebration](#)

On September 19, 2002 the Columbia Center for Bioethics, in collaboration with the Columbia Health Sciences Center, celebrated the notable life and works, from medicine to music, of Virginia Apgar.

The year 2002 was the 50th anniversary of her presentation of the scoring system that bears her name and revolutionized care of the newborn. This simple observational assessment ultimately led to the creation of sub-specialties such as Neonatology and Perinatology, as well as the development of neonatal intensive care units.

The first event of the day was the annual Allen Hyman History of Anesthesia and Medicine Lecture. Dr. Hyman delivered the lecture entitled "The History of Neonatal Resuscitation." The afternoon included a series of short talks focused on scientific and ethical topics (for a detailed list of the day's events see [Virginia Apgar Celebration](#)). Dr. Mary Ellen Avery, President Elect of AAAS, and Dr. Selma Calmes, Chair of Anesthesiology at Olive View UCLA Medical Center and noted medical historian, delivered the keynote and the capstone addresses respectively.

A reception was held at 5:30 pm in which participants were able to view Dr. Apgar-related photographs and memorabilia. A concert, performed by Columbia University medical students, followed from 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm, using string instruments that were hand made by Dr. Apgar and a friend.

For more information on the day's events, see the following publications:

[Virginia Apgar Celebration](#): IN VIVO (9/11/02)

[Columbia News \(9/19/02\): Health Sciences Remembers Virginia Apgar on the 50th Anniversary of the Apgar Score for Evaluating Newborns](#)

[Virginia Apgar: Still Helping Babies Today](#) IN VIVO (10/9/02)