



# Registry Reports

Quarterly Newsletter for ARDMS Registrants

Spring 2010

## In Memory: Donna Kepple – 1949-2010



Photo courtesy of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine archive.

Donna Kepple, RDMS (AB, NE, OB), a pioneer in endo-vaginal sonography, passed away on April 14, 2010. Ms. Kepple’s ovarian cancer sonography research from the late 1980’s was considered groundbreaking in its time and is still routinely referenced today. Ms. Kepple served as Chief Sonographer – Senior Technical Advisor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for 18 years and directed the sonographer training program from 1984-1989.

During her career, Ms. Kepple gave many lectures and authored or co-authored numerous papers, chapters and books, including Transvaginal Sonography: A Clinical Atlas and Diagnostic Sonography: Principles and Practice. Ms. Kepple’s contributions to sonography extended beyond research and included volunteer leadership roles within various sonography organizations. In the late 1980’s through 1998, Ms. Kepple lent her time and expertise to ARDMS as Chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Examination Development Task Force (EDTF) and as a member of the Board of Directors. The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) honored Ms. Kepple in 1997 with the Distinguished Sonographer Award and bestowed the title of Fellow member in 2002. The Vanderbilt University named her Sonographer of the Year in 1989 and awarded her the O. Malcolm Sloan Outstanding Imager Award in 1995. Colleagues, friends and patients of Ms. Kepple remember her as a consummate professional with an infectious laugh and demeanor that could put anyone at ease. She was passionate about sonography, a gifted lecturer and a talented teacher.

Dr. Arthur C. Fleischer, a long-time friend and colleague of Ms. Kepple’s at Vanderbilt said, “Donna will be missed for her enthusiastic approach to her profession as well as her care and charm with her patients and those that came in contact with her. She inspired her staff to treat patients as if they were family and insisted on being referred to as a sonographer rather than an ultrasound technician. She leaves a legacy of pride in her profession and exemplifies what one individual can contribute to improve their field while enhancing the daily lives of those with which she worked.”

Ms. Kepple is survived by her husband (David), father (Warren), step-mother (Dorris), son (Jarrod), daughter (Hillary), brother (Wayne), sister (Connie), and grandchildren (Austin, Dylan, and Skylr). She was preceded in death by her mother (Rose Marie).

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[www.ARDMS.org](http://www.ARDMS.org)

# Letter From the Chair

The ARDMS Board of Directors and five ARDMS Standing Committees (Certification, Exam Development, Board Development, Finance and Legislative) meet quarterly via conference call and two in-person meetings per year. The spring ARDMS Board of Directors and Standing Committee meetings, held from February 23-27, focused on new initiatives for the organization. I am pleased to share with you some highlights from the meeting.



- The ARDMS Board of Directors approved the creation of a Musculoskeletal (MSK) Sonography credentialing examination. The examination is still in the early stages of development. A new Exam Development Task Force (EDTF) will be appointed by the Board of Directors in the upcoming months. At this time we are projecting approximately 24 months before the examination will go live.
- The Certification Committee established a pathway for RPVI Registrants to apply for the RDMS, RDCS and RVT credentials under a prerequisite without having to re-verify their education experience. This new prerequisite will be available in early 2011.
- The Legislative Committee discussed Healthcare reform and the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (CARE) bill. State licensure laws were also discussed a great length during the meeting. Two states, New Mexico and Oregon, enacted laws requiring sonographers to be licensed. Two additional states, New Jersey and West Virginia, are also considering licensure laws. Licensure laws were discussed regarding how this might affect the livelihood of unregistered sonographers.
- The Board Development Committee discussed the elections of new members of the EDTF.
- The Exam Development Committee reviewed ARDMS' advanced item (question) development (AIT) program as technology allows for better test questions to measure the performance and interpretation of sonograms.
- Brainstorming sessions were held to discuss ways to better serve ARDMS Registrants, devise ways to enhance the volunteer program and experience, set guidelines for the recertification assessment program and explore innovative ideas for new interactive questions/items for ARDMS examinations (also referred to as Advanced Item Types).

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the volunteers, who include my fellow Board members, as well as all of the Exam Development Committee and Standing Committee members, for contributing their time to this productive meeting. I would also like to thank the ARDMS staff. Without their organization and preparation, the volunteers could never accomplish so much in a four day meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Prince".

Patricia Prince, RVT, RDMS, RT  
Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors

# Spotlight on a Sonographer: Michael J. Walter

**ARDMS Credentials:** RDMS, RDCS, RVT

**ARDMS Registrant Since:** 1984

**Current Position:** Senior Sonographer, Franklin Square Hospital

While many of us saw images of the world's best athletes compete in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, Mike Walter experienced it first-hand as a volunteer in the polyclinic in the Olympic Vancouver Village. Walter was one of nearly 25,000, out of 75,000, applicants selected to take part of the historic event in Vancouver, Canada and the only American volunteer in imaging. In fact, this was the first Winter Olympics to offer CT, MR, digital radiography and ultrasound within the athletes' villages. The imaging team was comprised of 70 sonographers, radiologic technologists and radiologists.



2010 Winter Olympic Games  
Photo courtesy of Mike Walter



Polyclinic at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Photo courtesy of Mike Walter

Volunteers were an integral part of the event as they came from all over the world with different scopes of practices, cultural backgrounds and language barriers. "It was a learning experience and I was able to work with all aspects of ultrasound and radiology," described Walter. "There was a polyclinic set up in the athletes' village in both Vancouver and Whistler. Each polyclinic had an ultrasound machine, which was used for all types of scanning procedures, and in addition there were 5 ultrasound laptop scanners that were used for onsite scanning for 'return to play' decisions."

The standards set by the Vancouver Organizing Committee were part of the application process. Reviewers considered the applicant's experience, interview, references and credentials.

"ARDMS credentials were a requirement for the sonographers," said Karen Smith, the Imaging Team's lead technologist and supervisor, "we held the volunteers to high standards with the whole world watching."

"All of the volunteers wanted to be there and that created a high-energy, enjoyable work environment. Collaborative medicine was essential," noted Walter, hoping to bring the energy back into Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore, MD, where he currently works.

Walter has always had the thirst for more knowledge. "I started out as an x-ray technologist and all of my ultrasound experience was on the job training," said Walter. "I was always eager to learn more. I would take courses, gain scanning experience and then take the Registry to verify my skills and knowledge." Despite the go-getter attitude, Walter faced challenges from previous positions as to what specialties could be practiced.

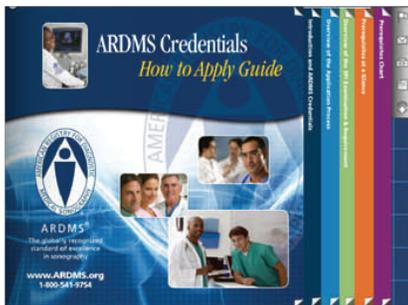
As a "seasoned" sonographer, Walter has been instrumental as a clinical instructor in the curriculum for students from local Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs. Walter describes his time spent mentoring students as rewarding and is hoping more sonographers will be able to play the role of a mentor. "Working with athletes from around the world utilizing all four imaging modalities – CT, MR, digital radiography and ultrasound, at the Olympics was encouraging to experience," said Walter, "everyone was open to learn something new and share their expertise."

# Advancements in Technology: Interactive How to Apply Guides

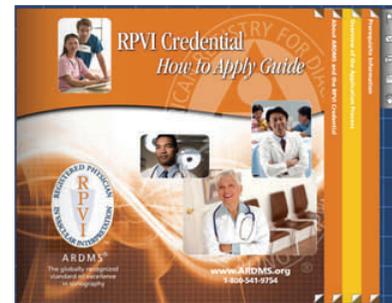
These interactive guides allow for quick and easy access to information when applying for ARDMS examinations and offers the following features:

- Dynamic page navigation
- Fully linked to the ARDMS website for quick and easy access to documents, programs and/or the online application
- Bookmarking, sharing and printing capabilities
- Zoom in and out elements for easy reading
- Forward to a friend feature
- Environmentally friendly

Visit [www.ARDMS.org/genntxbook](http://www.ARDMS.org/genntxbook)



Visit [www.ARDMS.org/pvigenntxbook](http://www.ARDMS.org/pvigenntxbook)



## Q&A: Registrant Services Department

**Q.** Once I submit my online application, how can I get my examination confirmation letter?

**A.** The application summary page of the online application lists any documentation or payment required for submission. You will need to send the noted documentation and/or payment to ARDMS. Once ARDMS has approved your application, you will be able to print your examination confirmation letter by logging in to MY ARDMS ([www.ARDMS.org/myardms](http://www.ARDMS.org/myardms)). If the third column of your application summary page does not list any documentation or payment required for submission, you can print your examination confirmation letter immediately by logging in to MY ARDMS. Within two business days, you will be able to schedule your appointment with the testing vendor. Additionally, an original copy of the examination confirmation letter will be mailed to the address on record.

The CME Audit documentation submission deadline has passed (April 30, 2010). Results of the audit will be posted on the secure MY ARDMS site at [www.ARDMS.org/MYARDMS](http://www.ARDMS.org/MYARDMS) and a letter will be mailed to the address on file. If you were selected for audit and have not sent in your documentation by the April 30 deadline, you may follow the CME Audit Reinstatement procedure by logging on to [www.ARDMS.org/cme](http://www.ARDMS.org/cme).

# Discipline Fees and Updates

In keeping with the ARDMS mission to promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals, all ARDMS Applicants, Candidates and Registrants are required to immediately report conduct that meets the Grounds for Discipline in accordance with ARDMS Standing Policies:

- (A) Engaging in fraud, misrepresentation, deception, or concealment of a material fact in connection with obtaining or renewing ARDMS certification on one's own behalf or that of another;
- (B) Having been convicted of, plead guilty to, or plead nolo contendere to a misdemeanor or felony related to the public health or the provision of diagnostic medical sonography or vascular technology services;
- (C) Having had disciplinary action taken by a state licensing board, state or federal agency, or national professional association on grounds that related to the public health or the provision of diagnostic medical sonography or vascular technology services; and
- (D) Failure to cooperate with ARDMS concerning investigations of alleged grounds for discipline (as referenced above), including the collection of relevant information.

ARDMS requires that all criminal matters be reported so that the ARDMS may determine the impact to public health and safety. Please contact ARDMS even if you are unsure upon considering whether or not a criminal matter meets the Grounds for Discipline criteria as referenced above (specifically Standard B).

Upon disclosing a criminal matter or disciplinary action, Applicants, Candidates and Registrants are required to submit official documentation from the presiding court system or disciplinary body verifying the following information in addition to a personally written detailed description of the circumstances leading to the criminal charge or disciplinary action:

- What the initial charges were; and
- What the final judgment was (guilty, no contest, etc); and
- What the sentencing requirements were and for how long (example: probation for 24 months, fine, etc); and
- The current status of the sentencing requirements (complete, case closed, etc). You must provide documentation that either verifies that each sentencing requirement has been completed in full OR a letter from the courts verifying that this case is closed and all of the requirements have been satisfied.

Applicants, Candidates and Registrants disclosing an initial or subsequent criminal violation or disciplinary action will be assessed a \$150 USD non-refundable Initial Legal Review Fee.

Additional fees may be assessed, depending on the level of review required to issue a final determination:

- Hearing Based on Record Only - \$100\* (individual declines participation)
- Telephonic Hearing - \$100\*
- In-Person Hearing - \$500\*
- Appeal Hearing - \$500\*
- Reinstatement Hearing - \$300-\$600\*

\* All fees are in US Dollars (USD) and are non-refundable.

Questions regarding legal and disciplinary compliance with respect to ARDMS policies can be directed to Hilary Wilson, Senior Program Support Analyst, at [Discipline@ardms.org](mailto:Discipline@ardms.org).



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### Registry Reports

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"Registry Reports" welcomes submissions from the field.

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The ideas and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of ARDMS.

# Mark Your Calendars! 2010 ARDMS Exhibit Schedule

### Leading Edge

Atlantic City, NJ

May 11-14

Booth #: 121

[www.jefferson.edu](http://www.jefferson.edu)

### ASE Scientific Session

San Diego, CA

June 12-15

Booth #: 139

[www.asecho.org](http://www.asecho.org)

### SVS/SVU Vascular Annual Meeting

Boston, MA

June 10-13

Booth #: 628

[www.vascularweb.org](http://www.vascularweb.org)

### American College of Emergency Physicians Scientific Assembly

Las Vegas, NV

September 28-October 1

Booth #: TBA

[www.acep.org](http://www.acep.org)

### SDMS Annual Conference

Denver, CO

October 14-17

Booth #: TBA

[www.sdms.org/meetings](http://www.sdms.org/meetings)

### Vascular InterVentional Advances (VIVA)

Las Vegas, NV

October 20-23

Booth#: TBA

[www.vivapvd.com](http://www.vivapvd.com)



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