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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ARDMS Announces 1,000th Breast-Specialty Certificant

*Critical milestone for women's health*

(ROCKVILLE, MD, Nov. 7, 2003) — The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) is pleased to announce that it has certified its 1,000th sonographer in the breast sonography specialty.

Now, an impressive number of professionals are actively practicing quality breast ultrasound throughout the United States and Canada. They are making a significant difference in women's lives by improving the delivery of breast health-care and enhancing patient safety.

The 2003 edition of the American Cancer Society's *Guidelines for Breast Cancer Screening* notes that, "Ultrasound has become a valuable diagnostic adjunct to mammography." The guidelines also emphasize the current shortage of quality breast sonographers, "Breast ultrasound requires a skilled operator, and the number of radiologists and technologists needed to perform the exam is limited."

ARDMS-certified sonographers fill this need for skilled breast sonographers. They must meet established requirements in length and quality of academic and clinical education. They must verify extensive clinical experience in breast sonography, must pass two rigorous examinations. The first covers ultrasound physics and instrumentation. The second covers specific areas of breast sonography shown to be most important for quality practice, as demonstrated by a task survey of hundreds of ARDMS-Registered sonographers currently working in the field.

Breast-specialty certification also boosts professionalism and a dedication to lifelong learning. As one breast certificant commented, "With the ARDMS Breast Credential, I feel much more confident doing breast scans and interacting with other breast-health professionals."

Commenting on this important milestone, Paul Cardullo, MS, RVT, chair of the ARDMS Board of Directors notes, "We are proud and excited to have reached this critical benchmark. We're that much closer toward the ARDMS' goal of making quality breast sonography readily available to women."

ARDMS' affiliate organization, the Breast Ultrasound Foundation, has made major contributions toward the recent achievement of 1,000 certified sonographers. Its mission is to promote awareness of the role of breast ultrasound in quality patient care. It has distributed over 50,000 of its patient pamphlets, held a multi-disciplinary conference on breast-ultrasound education, and sponsored world-renowned speakers at major professional meetings.

"I join with the ARDMS staff and my fellow members of the Foundation board in saluting this achievement," says Foundation Board Chair Lawrence Platt, MD. "I look forward to new possibilities for collaboration between the Foundation and the ARDMS Breast Certificants. These initiatives will draw upon the energy and commitment already demonstrated by these individuals in advancing women's health." He adds, "Women will now be empowered to play a major role in their breast care by asking for an ARDMS-certified breast sonographer."

The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS), incorporated in June 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers examinations and awards credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, vascular technology and ophthalmic biometry. ARDMS programs are accredited through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ARDMS has more than 42,000 certified individuals in the U.S., Canada and throughout the world.

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