



American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARDMS Announces 2,000th Breast-Specialty Certificant

Now, Most U.S. Women Can Access Quality Breast Sonography

(ROCKVILLE, MD, Sept. 9, 2004) – The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) has reached a critical milestone. It has certified its 2,000th sonographer in the Breast Sonography specialty.

Now, there are ARDMS-certified breast-sonography professionals actively practicing in every state in U.S. and throughout Canada. They are making a significant difference in women's lives by improving the delivery of breast health care and enhancing patient safety.

The Breast Specialty certification is ARDMS' response to a clear need for competent breast sonographers.

The most recent - 2003 - edition of the American Cancer Society's "Guidelines for Breast Cancer Screening" states that, "Ultrasound has become a valuable diagnostic adjunct to mammography." But 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 prerequisites in length and quality of academic and clinical education. They must verify that they have had extensive clinical experience in breast sonography. And they must pass two rigorous examinations. The first covers ultrasound physics and instrumentation. The second covers the specific areas of breast sonography important for quality practice, as demonstrated by surveying hundreds of ARDMS-Registered sonographers currently working in breast sonography.

Commenting on this important milestone, Paul Cardullo, MS, BSN, RVT, chair of the ARDMS Board of Directors notes, "We are proud and excited to have reached this critical benchmark for women throughout the United States

and Canada. We're that much closer toward ARDMS' goal of making quality breast care readily available to all women."

The 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 60,000 of its patient pamphlets, is developing a nationally standardized distance-learning curriculum in breast sonography, and will hold a dedicated educational session at next February's meeting of the National Consortium of Breast Centers, Inc.

"I join with all of the ARDMS staff and my fellow members of the Breast Ultrasound 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 certifiants. 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 key role in their own breast care by asking for an ARDMS-certified breast sonographer."

The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS), incorporated in 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers examinations and awards credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, and vascular technology. All ARDMS credentialing programs are accredited through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ARDMS has more than 44,000 certified individuals in the U.S., Canada and throughout the world.

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