

REGISTRY REPORTS

FALL 2008

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE • QUALITY CARE • PATIENT SAFETY • WORLDWIDE REACH



ARDMS®

The globally recognized standard of excellence in sonography

Please note that the new SPI examination and the proposed Recertification Program are two distinct programs and are not interrelated. Please see the articles below for additional information about both programs.

Update on the ARDMS Recertification Efforts

In December 2007, ARDMS announced that it was beginning to explore a recertification program based on the following principles:

- Maintain ARDMS' ongoing mission to promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals;
- Meet recommendations of the ISO-ANSI and NCCA (the organizations that accredit ARDMS);
- Reflect the present day entry-level practice of Sonography;
- Be simple for ARDMS Registrants to comply with;
- Be affordable;
- Benefit patients and the Sonography community; and
- Co-exist with Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs.

Over the past year, volunteer members of the ARDMS Recertification Task Force, members

for the community advisory work group (which includes representatives from leading Sonography organizations) and ARDMS staff have spent many hours deliberating and developing the basic components of the recertification program to include:

- The ability for Registrants to take the recertification examinations online from their home or office computer, not in a testing center;
- That the assessments will be affordable; and
- Examination content will likely consist of specialty-specific questions.

The formal implementation of a recertification program is still several years away and ARDMS is committed to keeping Registrants and the Sonography community informed every step of the way. The recertification section of the ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org) features a complete listing of articles and press releases. Updates about the recertification program will also be featured in future issues of *Registry Reports*.

Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) Examination

In April 2009, ARDMS will launch the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) examination. SPI will meet the fundamental physical principles and instrumentation

requirements needed to earn the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS), Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS) and Registered Vascular Technologist

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chair2

New Members to the Board of Directors3

ARDMS and SDMS Restart CME Credit Reporting Program4

ARDMS accepting payments for the 2009 Annual Renewal fee4

Spotlight on a Sonographer – Lori Green5

Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

My first year as Chair of the ARDMS Board of Directors has made for a busy and exhilarating 2008.

It has been an honor to represent ARDMS during this exciting time and I want to share a few of the projects and programs ARDMS has been working on this year.



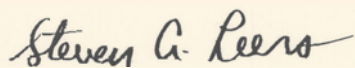
Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) Examination: In April 2009, ARDMS will launch the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) examination. SPI will change the ARDMS credentialing process, as it will meet the fundamental principles and instrumentation requirements to earn the RDMS, RDCS and RVT credentials. The preparations for the release of SPI have been a monumental project and I want to extend my thanks to the countless hours that volunteers and staff have dedicated to the effort. For more information about the SPI examination, please visit www.ARDMS.org/SPI.

Recertification: The Recertification Task Force (RTF), comprised of Registrants and physicians who donate their time and expertise to ARDMS, began the careful process of developing this future program. The RTF held numerous conference calls and meetings and engaged Sonography organizations (AIUM, ARRT, ASE, CSDMS, SDMS, SVU) into the planning process. Although the program is still in the development phase and several years from implementation, I have a few important elements to share. We anticipate that Registrants will be able to take the recertification examinations online from their home or office computer. Additionally, the assessments will be inexpensive and likely consist of approximately 25 to 50 questions. I encourage Registrants to visit the ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org) frequently for the latest news and updates regarding the recertification program.

Advanced Item Types: ARDMS has begun developing Advanced Item Types (AIT) which will move the examinations a step closer to assessing practical, hands-on Sonography skills. Eventually, AITs will allow the candidate to interact with Sonography controls on a simulated console and modify the image. Development of the AITs has progressed much faster than expected and candidates may see versions of AITs on ARDMS examinations as early as 2009.

Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI): The RPVI credential, launched in 2005, continues to expand. To date, more than 600 physicians, including cardiologists, radiologists, and surgeons, have earned the RPVI credential. International interest in the credential continues to increase and this Fall ARDMS will administer the examination in Beijing to almost 70 Chinese ultrasound physicians.

ARDMS today bears little resemblance to the organization I joined over a decade ago and the changes have all been very positive. As exciting as this year has been for me, I look forward to 2009 and the continued evolution of this great organization.



Steven A. Leers, M.D., RVT
Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors

SPI Examination (continued from page 1)

(RVT) credentials*. ARDMS will begin accepting applications for the SPI examination in February 2009.

Those seeking to earn an ARDMS credential (RDMS, RDCS, RVT) will be required to apply for and pass both the SPI examination and a corresponding specialty examination(s). Once the SPI examination has been passed, applicants may earn additional credentials without having to take another physical principles and instrumentation examination.

Active ARDMS Registrants who hold the RDMS, RDCS and/or RVT credentials, do not need to take the SPI examination in order to maintain current credentials. Active Registrants only need to take the SPI examination if earning a new credential. ARDMS policy does not permit a "grandfather clause" for active ARDMS Registrants or for those who have only passed one or more of the currently offered physical principles and instrumentation examinations – Ultrasound (UPI), Cardiovascular (CPI) or Vascular (VPI).

ARDMS is pleased to announce that students may apply for the SPI examination prior to graduation under the new SPI Requirement. The SPI Requirement, which will be featured in the 2009 ARDMS application scheduled for release in February 2009, will allow a student to apply if the following education and documentation requirements can be met:

Education: Successful completion of a general, medical or sonographic physics class/seminar/course.

Documentation Required with Application:

1. A transcript reflecting successful completion of a graded general, medical or sonographic college, post secondary or higher education physics class (with a grade of C or above); or
2. A CME certificate denoting successful completion of a general, medical or sonographic physics seminar, physics review course, or physics correspondence course, signed by the Program Director, denoting a minimum award of 12 ARDMS-accepted CME credits.

The SPI section of the ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org/SPI) features up-to-date information and helpful resources to assist you in preparing for the SPI examination. You may also sign-up to receive e-mail notifications about the latest SPI updates.

The following is a list of the current SPI articles and resources on the website:

- SPI Practice Examinations
- SPI Content Outline
- Overview of the SPI Examination
- What the SPI Examination Means for You

*The SPI examination does not apply towards the Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation™ (RPVI™) credential.

ARDMS Welcomes New Members to the Board of Directors

ARDMS welcomes three new Board of Directors members, each adding a profound level of expertise, experience and dedication to the field of Sonography and ARDMS as an organization.



Kerry Weinberg, RDMS, RDCS, RT® is the Director of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at New York University and currently serves on the ARDMS Certification Committee as well as the Exam Development Committee. Credentialed in 1978, Ms. Weinberg has actively been involved in the direction and philosophy that has shaped the ARDMS and made it the organization it is today. When asked about her career interests, Kerry said, "Part of being a professional is being active in the profession, being credentialed and seeking continuous education to stay current with technical advances and trends in the profession."



"Since I started volunteering with the ARDMS in 2004, I have felt both fortunate and honored to be working alongside such talented professionals both on the ARDMS staff as well as my fellow volunteers. The dedication and commitment to quality is foremost at every meeting I attend," said David Stolte, RDMS, RDCS, one of ARDMS' newest board members. David is the manager of the Noninvasive Cardiology Swedish Health Systems and is a member of the ARDMS Certification Committee, the Exam Development Committee, and the Recertification Task Force. He is currently the Adjunct Faculty Instructor for Seattle University and served a second term as the Chair of the ARDMS Adult Echocardiography Exam Development Task Force. David first earned his credentials in 1999

and has since dedicated much appreciated time and expertise to various ARDMS committees, programs and processes.



Daniel A. Merton, RDMS, FSDMS, FAIUM has been actively involved with various ARDMS committees for close to eight (8) years. He has served as both member and Chair for the Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation Examination Development Task Force as well as being an active member of the ARDMS Exam Development Committee. He currently holds the position of Technical Coordinator of Ultrasound Research and Clinical Instructor for the Jefferson Ultrasound Research and Education Institute in addition to being the Adjunct Associate Professor of Drexel University School of Biomedical Engineering Science and Health Systems. He has been actively involved with ARDMS since the 1980s where he functioned as an examination proctor at a Philadelphia testing center. When reflecting on the future of ARDMS, Daniel said, "ARDMS is entering a critical junction with the challenge to continue delivering quality examinations in existing specialties as well as to provide new users of the modality with a means to demonstrate their competency through successful completion of newly developed examinations that are tailored to the essentials of their disciplines." Daniel has spent twenty-two years performing cutting-edge research activities in the Sonography community and adds an invaluable level of experience and commitment to our outstanding Board of Directors.

A Board of Directors composed of Sonographers, vascular technologists, physicians, research scientists and one public member, governs ARDMS. The board creates the policies, defines the direction of, and maintains ARDMS' ongoing mission to promote quality care and patient safety.

Attention Registrants!

The next CME Audit, for Registrants with a 3-year period of 2006, 2007 and 2008, is scheduled to begin March 2009 (please note that this audit period also includes those who earned their initial credential in 2005). If your 3-year cycle ends in 2008 please be sure that you have 30 ARDMS-accepted CME credits by December 31, 2008. You can check the ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org) for a list of acceptable CME providers as well as additional information regarding the CME Audit procedures. Also, please be sure to read the "ARDMS and SDMS Restart CME Credit Reporting Program" article in this edition of *Registry Reports*. Finally, keep an eye out for the 2009 winter edition of *Registry Reports*, as you will find tips to having a successful audit.

ARDMS Gives Back

ARDMS will be working with the Manna Food Center and Toys for Tots by hosting a food drive and collecting toys to help less fortunate families during the upcoming holiday season!

Spotlight on a Sonographer: Lori Green



Most of us can remember our favorite teacher: the one who made a remarkable difference in our lives; the one who encouraged, strengthened and deepened our need for learning; the person who lives everyday with the sole purpose of advancing us on our educational journey. Nominated by a colleague of 13 years, our Spotlight is on Lori Green, BA, RT, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, President and founder of The Gulfcoast Ultrasound Institute in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

Lori is the teacher we all want to have. Although teaching was something she always wanted to do, her career didn't start out this way. In 1978, she completed x-ray school and started out as a Registered Radiologic Technologist. Her first opportunity to work clinically in Sonography came in 1979 at an outpatient clinic. While employed with this clinic in 1980, Lori volunteered to take classes to learn about using 2D cardiac imaging and Duplex scanning for vascular applications. Lori successfully obtained her ARDMS credentials in Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) in 1982 followed by Abdomen ('83), Adult Echocardiography ('85) and Vascular Technology ('87).

In 1982, she accepted a position as a clinical specialist with a major ultrasound manufacturer. Being only one of three people covering the United States for a company that developed equipment using revolutionary technology, she now educated other sonographers on how to use the new equipment. While traveling and training others, she received many inquiries on how one can gain experience cross-training in the area of sonography. Areas such as abdominal, OB/GYN, vascular, cardiac and registry preparation were of particular interest to many she encountered.

What Lori did next would result in life changing events for her and others. She drafted a proposal concerning advanced educational facilities in the field of sonography. When presented to her employer, it was refused. The company was in the business of manufacturing and distributing equipment, not education, as they explained to her. With perseverance, Lori searched endlessly for investors, turning to previous employers and colleagues. Every time, she met resistance. Comments such as "...you'll never make it without an MD after your name", and "...crazy to ruin your reputation by doing something like this..." were heard repeatedly. Banks denied loan applications due to her novice entrepreneurial background. Lori was not going to let these roadblocks stop her. With confidence in her endeavors, and only \$500 in savings, she attacked the project head on and was on her way to realizing a dream!

Beginning in 1985, for the first 3 years the business was operated from a home office and courses conducted at area beachfront hotels. Loaned equipment was received through relationships with equipment sales representatives and local medical facilities. Combined with the marketing talents of her husband Gil and with great resourcefulness, The Gulfcoast Ultrasound Institute, became a reality. The school offered

classes in sonography with specialties in the areas of abdominal, OB/GYN, adult echocardiography, vascular, and registry preparation. Recognition for providing quality education combined with the increased demand for offering additional courses resulted in a move to a dedicated education facility in 1988. Courses were initially taught primarily by Lori but, she is quick to point out, the business has successfully grown over the years through established relationships with other sonography experts and equipment manufacturers combined with the dedication of staff, guest speakers and hands-on instructors who share in the mission of improving the quality of healthcare through increased knowledge.

Today, with over 24,000 physicians, sonographers and other allied health professionals who have attended the various CME programs, the school boasts 6,600 square feet of meeting space. Programs are offered in specialty areas of abdomen, OB/GYN, carotid, peripheral vascular and cardiac ultrasound. Specialty courses are also offered for advanced vascular and cardiac applications, registry preparation, emergency medicine, anesthesiology, critical care, musculoskeletal, fetal echo and vascular interpretation. On-site education is also available for groups on a request basis. Over 110 self-directed education products are offered including registry preparation materials, DVDs, textbooks, protocol manuals and case presentations. As of 2007, Internet accessibility was made possible and includes one-hour webinar lectures and live-interactive or on-demand registry reviews. The organization also has the distinction of being accredited by the ACCME to provide AMA PRA CAT 1 credits for all educational activities. Lori is a member of the AIUM, ASE, SDMS, SVU and SCCM and frequently lectures throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Lori is a prime example of that teacher everyone wants to have. She had a dream and despite many obstacles, made it happen. Her strongest desire and commitment has always been helping others in their advancement in sonography through education. As Lori stated, "Anyone can accomplish whatever they want in life by having faith, believing in oneself and putting forth the effort required to make it happen. Having a degree and certifications are essential, but neither entitle nor guarantee success. You must be willing to work hard to achieve a worthwhile goal. Sonographers play an important role to provide quality healthcare and the sonography profession offers many opportunities for those who are willing to make the necessary commitment." There is no doubt that she has made a remarkable difference for each healthcare professional who has walked her halls. What a brilliant example of dedication!

To nominate an ARDMS Registrant for the Spotlight on a Sonographer series, please send an e-mail to communications@ardms.org with the subject line Spotlight Nomination. In your e-mail, please provide your name, e-mail, and phone number along with the name of the Registrant you are nominating. Also, please include a few sentences about why you are nominating the person. Thank you!



51 Monroe Street
Plaza East One
Rockville, MD 20850-2400

ARDMS®
The globally recognized
standard of excellence
in sonography

Registry Reports

Steven A. Leers, M.D., RVT Chair
ARDMS Board of Directors

Dale R. Cyr, MBA, CAE, RDMS, RDCS, CEO & Executive Director

Jessica McLane Gann, Director of Marketing and Communications

Julia Lee, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Morgan Kreutz, Marketing and Communications Program Coordinator

Linda Kwiatkowski, Marketing and Communications Assistant

"Registry Reports" welcomes submissions from the field.

Send inquiries to registryreports@ardms.org

Fax: 301.738.0313

"Registry Reports" ©2008, Rockville, Maryland.

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

Conference Schedule

Noninvasive Diagnosis of Vascular Disease –
16th National Symposium
February 26–28, 2009
St. Louis, MO
www.stjohnsmercy.org

ARDMS publishes meeting and conference notices as an informational source only.

O N G O I N G

CME COURSE OFFERINGS

Burwin Institute. Breast sonography, echocardiography, vascular ultrasound. (877) 625-5297
www.burwin.com

PVICME. Training in vascular (including interpretation) and cardiac ultrasound. (425) 398-7772
www.pvicme.com

Davies Registry Reviews and Study Aids. Ultrasound education and test preparation. Books, videos, CD-ROMs and flashcards. (877) 792-0005
www.daviespublishing.com

ESP Ultrasound. Registry Review and continuing education. (281) 292-9400
www.esp-inc.com

Gulfcoast Ultrasound Institute. St. Pete Beach, Fla. (800) 619-1900
www.gcus.com

Independent Study Aid Courses. CME credits and Registry review courses. Vascular physics, vascular technology, obstetrics and gynecology, abdominal sonography. (800) 617-3389

Institute for Advanced Medicine. Interactive learning formats; live patient assessments; live events including seminars, symposia and courses; multimedia applications on CD-ROM and DVD; Internet-based materials; and print and journal-based CME. (919) 921-5700
www.iame.com

Jefferson Ultrasound Institute. Philadelphia, (888) 390-5051
www.jefferson.edu/jurei/

Keith Mauney & Associates Ultrasound Training Institutes. Hands-on training in adult & pediatric echocardiography, peripheral, carotid & vertebral, abdominal, pelvic, breast and endovaginal ultrasound. (800) 845-3484
www.kmaultrasound.com

VascularWeb. View the course catalog online. Free interactive studies. (520) 642-1303
www.vascularweb.org

Please note: there is insufficient space for a complete listing of all available ultrasound CMEs. See the CME providers' Web sites for additional ultrasound CME course offerings