



# Registry Reports

Quarterly Newsletter for ARDMS Registrants

## A Message From the Chair

The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) began as an organization serving North America (US and Canada) in the 70's. What many of you may not know is that while the ARDMS is a U.S. based organization, we actually have an extensive global presence with nearly 70,000 active Registrants representing more than 70 countries. The global expansion of the ARDMS is ongoing, and I want to share with you past and future plans to reach out to sonography professionals throughout the world.



### Musculoskeletal (MSK) Sonography Credentialing Examination - 2012

This new exam is in the process of being created and is expected to launch in 2012. MSK sonography is widely used throughout the world in place of x-ray, CT and MRI, and international interest in this new credential is expected to be considerable. For more information about the new ARDMS MSK examination, please see the article on page 5 or visit [ARDMS.org/MSK](http://ARDMS.org/MSK).

### Expanded Test Center Locations – 2011

Currently ARDMS examinations are administered in a handful of testing centers outside of North America. In 2011, ARDMS, in conjunction with our testing vendor PearsonVUE, will expand our international test administration centers into dozens of countries across 5 continents.

### World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) Conference – Bi-Annual

In August 2011, ARDMS will exhibit at the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) conference in Vienna, Austria. In 2009, I had represented the ARDMS at the conference in Sydney, Australia. The WFUMB meeting provides ARDMS an opportunity to gather with sonography professionals from around the world.

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## Advancements in Technology: RSNA Experience

ARDMS recently had the pleasure of interviewing ARDMS Chair-Elect and Associate Professor Kevin Evans, PhD, RT, RDMS, RVS, and one of his students, Kevin Volz, about their experience at the 2010 Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) meeting.

Kevin Evans has been a pioneer in the field of sonography for more than 27 years and has been instrumental in shaping the mission of ARDMS. He is also a dedicated researcher and educator in the fields of the Radiologic Sciences.

Kevin Volz is a BS student in the sonography program at the Ohio State University – College of Medicine, and is working on a research project with Evans. Volz plans to earn his RDMS and RVT credentials and after graduation will be entering OSU's graduate school.

### ARDMS: What was your overall RSNA experience?

**K. Evans:** Kevin V. and I spent a lot of time in the exhibit hall talking with major vendors and analyzing how the corporate world is steering our profession. We were amazed by the presentation of the GE design team, which included representatives from the United States, France and Germany. Their latest theme is facilitating the "patient's journey to good health." The French designer talked a lot

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## Winter 2011

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### **EUROECHO Conference – December 2010**

ARDMS exhibited at the EUROECHO conference for the first time in December 2010. I traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, for the meeting and worked alongside ARDMS staff at the exhibit booth to promote the RDCS and RPVI credentials. We met with current and prospective Registrants and strengthened our alliances with the European medical societies.

### **Piloting of the Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) Credential in China – Ongoing**

For several years, the ARDMS has worked with the Chinese Ultrasound Doctor's Association (CUDA) in Beijing to set a foundation for administering ARDMS examinations in China. In 2005 and 2008, ARDMS and CUDA piloted the RPVI credentialing examination at testing centers in China. ARDMS leadership has travelled to China for a series of meetings, and in the spring of 2009 Dr. Wen from CUDA visited the ARDMS headquarters office.



The cornerstone of all ARDMS international outreach efforts is to advance the organizational mission to “promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals.” Personally, I believe that excellence in patient care requires appropriate competency assessments for all health care professionals around the world.

Respectfully,

*Patricia Prince*

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

## **What's New at ARDMS.ORG?**

**Update to the Name Change Policy** - Due to heightened security measures for admission to the test centers, a previously accepted form of ID will not be accepted if the name on the ID does not exactly match the name on the examination-confirmation letter. If the names are different in any way (including a middle initial that appears on the ID but not in your record or vice versa), Visit [ARDMS.org](http://ARDMS.org) and select the Registrant Resources tab (on the right), click on “Manage Personal Information” for instructions on how to update your record immediately. The additional measures will help strengthen and ensure the validity of the ARDMS certification process and, as a result, all ARDMS credentials.

**Press Release** - Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) Credential Required for the Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination Starting in 2014. Visit [ARDMS.org/RPVIVSB](http://ARDMS.org/RPVIVSB) to read the press release.

**Cast Your Vote** - Take the ARDMS bi-monthly poll by visiting [ARDMS.org](http://ARDMS.org).

**CME Audit Procedures** - Did your three-year CME period end 12/31/2010? Log on to [ARDMS.org/MYARDMS](http://ARDMS.org/MYARDMS) and click on the CME tab to check your current CME period. To check if your CMEs are ARDMS-accepted, visit [ARDMS.org/CME](http://ARDMS.org/CME). Remember, you must keep all of your CME documentation for at least 5 years in case you are audited.

**Volunteer with ARDMS** - We encourage ARDMS Registrants who wish to volunteer their wealth of professional knowledge and practice to the development of our exams to let us know by completing the volunteer interest survey at [ARDMS.org/volunteer](http://ARDMS.org/volunteer).

**Registrant Recognition Program** - Following your 30-year anniversary of being registered with ARDMS, we will send you a certificate of recognition and list your name on the Registrant Recognition page of the ARDMS website. Visit [ARDMS.org/recognition](http://ARDMS.org/recognition) to view the latest listing.

**ARDMS Pulse of the Profession** - ARDMS presents a video interview with two on-staff sonographers: Pat Grier and Justin Stevens. View the video by visiting [ARDMS.org/pulsevideo](http://ARDMS.org/pulsevideo).

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about making equipment smaller and non-threatening. They showed us design sketches of MRI units that were shaped like “loving hands.” The entire exam suite, including green equipment was designed to reflect peace and tranquility. This focus on how we can provide each patient with a restful exam experience seems to be a very European influence.

**K. Volz:** My experience at RSNA was fun and educational. I think attendees learned a lot about unfamiliar technological innovations. Also, this was an environment that none of us had experienced before. It was all very new and exciting for us!

**ARDMS: Do they foresee hand-held sales to continue at the existing pace, and for how long?**

**K. Evans:** Every vendor had a sophisticated laptop, a tablet ultrasound machine, or both. We “played” with them all, and one of the student’s favorites was the Toshiba tablet ultrasound machine. It’s marketed as a high quality Doppler that could perform any exam necessary. It has a very tiny curvilinear probe that attached to the laptop, which I could hold between 2 fingers. The frequency of all the transducers was broadband and shifted to very high frequencies. Musculoskeletal (MSK) images were demonstrated to all the customers that entered the Toshiba and GE booth. A great deal of design and marketing resources are being dedicated to developing laptop/tablet ultrasound machines.

**ARDMS: Who is buying these hand-held ultrasound machines?**

**K. Evans:** Traditional and non-traditional users and specialists in the non-traditional sectors. Interestingly the Phillips Medical representatives told us that their laptop and tablet are best used by ER physicians for FAST scans. This specialization limits the utilization of their product. Conversely, GE, Siemens and Toshiba made a point of showing us images with their hockey stick probes that were great for MSK, carotids and superficial structures. We also did a lot of elastography – VERY exciting!!



Picture above (left to right): Kevin Volz, Kevin Evans. Photo courtesy of Kevin Evans.

**ARDMS: Do vendors have a sense of whether more sonograms are being performed by sonographers or by other health professionals?**

**K. Evans:** We sensed a really European viewpoint that focuses more on the “end user,” and they often mentioned the physician. At the same time, there is very much a concern about US sonographers not having to reach or strain their bodies. Vendors are trying to make all instrumentation on the machines easier for the sonographers to reach. GE also did an extensive in-service training for the students on their Scan Assistant® and the ViewPoint v2 system. Their representatives mentioned how these products would allow sonographers to scan the patient and collect volumes of information, which could be processed into images at a later time. At one point, they took a volume clip and diced it into 20 static images. It was a very exciting demonstration!

**ARDMS: What was the most exciting/interesting part about the meeting?**

**KV:** I think that the most exciting part of the meeting was getting to see all the varieties of imaging and being able to learn about the products that the vendors were selling. I think it was also a very good bonding experience for the students and teachers, because we all traveled together, stayed together, and spent a lot of time with each other during those few days.

**ARDMS: How has attending RSNA prepared you for becoming a sonographer?**

**KV:** I believe that attending RSNA was extremely beneficial for my becoming a sonographer. It gave me a lot of exposure to a variety of products, and taught me a great deal about different modalities of imaging. Also, each student had to complete a buying assignment in which we had to pick a product, learn about it, and make a good and informed decision about what we were buying and why. I was able to practice doing something that I will someday be doing in the field.

**ARDMS: What advice do you have for up and coming sonography students?**

**KV:** Learn as much as you can! Sonography is a very exciting and quickly changing field that has many possibilities.

## ARDMS WHO'S WHO: Paul Lucas, MD, RPVI

As the number of RPVI Registrants reached 1,000, we thought it would be appropriate to highlight one of the RPVI Registrant physicians, Dr. Paul Lucas. He is the Director of Mercy Vascular Lab, where he supervises three Mercy Vascular Lab locations in the Baltimore, MD, area.

ARDMS had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Lucas at his work environment and meeting the staff at Mercy Vascular Lab.

### What are some of the key objectives every employee strives to achieve?

The key objective our employees strive to achieve surround one ideal: to provide the highest quality of care using the most current techniques set forth by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL) and the ARDMS. This is done through staying on top of the industry trends by attending conferences on the newest techniques, reviewing literature and performing case reviews in weekly meetings as well as our journal club. We also update protocols for the vascular lab by annually integrating current trends.

### Describe the reporting relationships at Mercy Vascular Lab.

As far as our reporting relationship, I like to supervise with an open door policy. I am always available to discuss problems, new techniques, and current machines, as well as difficult cases, at any time. We hold a weekly conference to review cases and address new techniques or protocols. All of our surgeons have a hands-on approach to teaching, and our techs and other staff can easily approach the surgeons for assistance, questions or concerns. We have integrated our practice with this hospital-based lab to serve our patients' medical problems. In most cases a patient can be tested and see a surgeon on the same day, which is convenient for those who have trouble getting around.

### Describe your commitment to credentialing in the field of vascular ultrasound for both sonographers and physicians.

I feel it is extremely important for our sonographers and surgeons to be credentialed, as well as our vascular laboratory sites, because this is how we keep abreast of changes within the industry. We have a high level of commitment to creden-

tialing because, in a sense, it forces us to continually review new information and strategies to provide the highest standard of care at Mercy Hospital.

### What your mission statement?

The Vascular Lab follows the Mission Statement of the hospital set forth by the Sisters of Mercy, which include six main values – Dignity, Hospitality, Justice, Excellence, Stewardship and Prayer. If we treat everyone following these values, we will be successful in our mission to help.

### What is your patient and practitioner philosophy?

Our patient and practitioner philosophy is actually quite simple. Deliver the highest quality of care while treating each patient as an individual. Many patients have the same vascular afflictions; however, their bodies respond quite differently and thus treatment is individualized. We not only take care of the "technical" end of treatment; we also address how the patient deals with their vascular condition and assist, or lead them to those who can assist, to improve their situation.

### Why is it important to obtain the RPVI credential?

The RPVI credential is extremely important; it demonstrates a level of consistency for those interpreting the studies, and thus consistency in our results. I think it makes us all more proficient in our work, and I believe that in the near future Medicare will mandate that all interpreting physicians be credentialed just as labs are now.



**Pictured above from left to right:** (Top row) Paul Lucas, MD, RPVI, FACS, Rebecca Wilson, Paul Geary, RVT, Jian Cai, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, Ludmila Nodel, RDMS, RVT, Tom Clausson, RVT, Tonya Teller, RVT, Helen Costanzo. (Bottom row) Danielle Ofsowitz, Erin Corvell.

***If you or someone you know would like to be featured in the ARDMS Who's Who series, send an e-mail to [communications@ardms.org](mailto:communications@ardms.org) with the subject line: ARDMS Who's Who Nomination.***

## Your Guide to the ARDMS Recertification Assessment Program

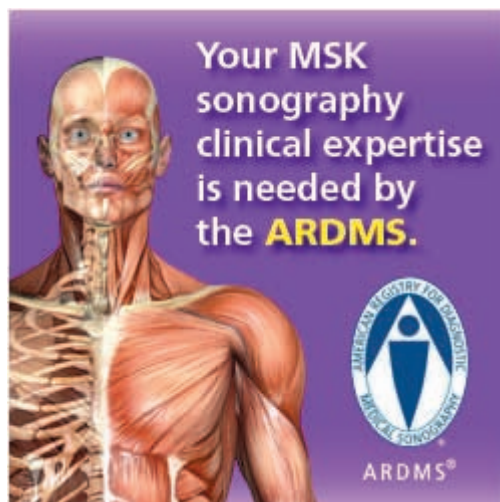
To find the latest news about the Recertification Assessment Program, visit and bookmark [ARDMS.org/Recertification](http://ARDMS.org/Recertification). Also, listen to the Recertification podcast by visiting [ARDMS.org/recertpodcast](http://ARDMS.org/recertpodcast), watch for updates in ARDMS newsletters *Registry Reports*, *NewsWire* and *Notes for Educators* and review the Recertification Assessment Program fast facts below.

- Examinations to begin in 2019
- No charge for 1st attempt for each specialty
- Online examinations (not at a testing center)
- Open resource
- Specialty content only, no general physics
- Approximately 50 questions
- Required standard for ARDMS organizational accreditation

Each Registrant who holds an active ARDMS certification as of December 31, 2011 will be assigned the 2012 – 2021 ten year recertification assessment period (see graph below).

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Recertification examinations will not be offered during the first seven years of the ten-year recertification assessment period. Registrants will not have to take any action during this timeframe. Registrants may take their recertification examination(s) between the seventh and tenth years of a ten-year recertification assessment period. All recertification examinations must be completed by the end of the tenth year.							During the last three years of a ten-year recertification assessment period, Registrants will be required to take and pass a recertification assessment for each specialty.		

## Musculoskeletal (MSK) Sonography Credential Development Update



The ARDMS Board of Directors approved the development of a MSK Sonography credentialing examination.

ARDMS invites you to share your clinical expertise in MSK sonography by participating in the ARDMS MSK Job Task Analysis (JTA) survey.

The results of the JTA survey will determine the content outline for the new MSK credentialing examination, which will be released worldwide in 2012. Take part in this exclusive opportunity to shape the MSK content outline and be a pioneer in raising the standard of musculoskeletal sonography.

To take the survey, visit [ARDMS.org/MSKJTA](http://ARDMS.org/MSKJTA) today.

**Listen to the MSK podcast by visiting [ARDMS.org/MSKpodcast](http://ARDMS.org/MSKpodcast) and share the link with your colleagues and friends.**

### Here are some important MSK development benchmarks:

- A group of medical professionals, from various disciplines, is working with ARDMS to develop a Job Task Analysis (JTA) survey which will determine the content outline for the MSK examination. Read the information listed above.
- The Content Outline for the MSK examination will be released in mid 2011.
- Questions for the examination will be developed and reviewed by subject matter experts throughout 2011.
- A pilot version of the MSK examination will be administered worldwide in proctored testing centers in early 2012.
- The formal version of the MSK examination will be released globally in proctored testing centers in late 2012.



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## Registry Reports is Going Green in 2011!

This will be the last mailed edition of *Registry Reports*. The next edition of *Registry Reports* will be sent to you electronically via e-mail.

To continue receiving the ARDMS quarterly newsletter, please log on to [ARDMS.org/MYARDMS](http://ARDMS.org/MYARDMS) and update or add your e-mail address or change your preferences to indicate that you would like to receive the *Registry Reports* via e-mail.

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## 2011 ARDMS Exhibit Schedule

- March 26 Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), Chicago
- April 4 American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), New York
- May 10 The Leading Edge in Diagnostic Ultrasound, Atlantic City
- June 11 American Society of Echocardiography (ASE), Quebec, Canada
- June 16 Vascular Annual Meeting (SVU/SVS), Chicago
- August 26 World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB), Vienna , Austria
- September 22 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), Atlanta
- October 15 American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), San Francisco
- October 18 Vascular Interventional Advances (VIVA), Las Vegas

