



# Registry Reports

Quarterly Newsletter for ARDMS Registrants

## Message From the Chair

As I begin my second year as chair of the ARDMS, I would like to update you on a couple of “works in progress”.

I know and understand that many of you are nervous or upset about recertification. Because the first exam will be given in 2019, there are some facts of which we are uncertain. However, there are a couple of things that I can tell you.

As I said, the first exam will be given in 2019. We know that it will be an “open resource” exam, meaning that you will have the time and ability to research the questions and answers. The reason for this is that it is meant to ensure that everyone recertifying has knowledge of current day practice.

The exam will not be given in a testing center. You will be able to take it at home. You could have your friends over and make it a “recertifying party.”

At the recent SDMS meeting in Denver, I heard that some Registrants were concerned that it was going to be too easy and others feared that it would be too hard. We know that it will test current day knowledge, so if you are up to date in the specialty for which you are taking the exam, you should have no problem passing the exam. Yes, you will have to test in each specialty. There will be NO CHARGE for the first time you take the exam.

The question came up about whether sonographers will still need to get CME’s and recertify. The answer to that is yes. When we get CME’s, they don’t have to be in every area that we are certified. Recertification will evaluate our knowledge in each specialty for which we are registered/certified. The bottom line here is that the mission statement of the ARDMS is about patient safety. I’m sure that you don’t want to hear about my experience of re-entering the RVT world, but it strengthened my belief in recertification. Recertifying will mean that the person who takes care of us and our family are up to date with current day practice. For updates on recertification, please visit and bookmark [ARDMS.org/Recertification](http://ARDMS.org/Recertification).

On a different subject, we are in the process of creating an exam for Musculoskeletal (MSK) ultrasound. The United States is behind the rest of the world in this area, but we are currently evaluating the MSK sonography leaders in the United States to build the best Exam Development Task Force possible for this exam. The interesting thing about this exam is that it will be an exam for physicians and sonographers, it will incorporate “principles and instrumentation” into the exam, and it will be given to a varied group of health-care specialists who have not previously been thought of as sonographers, such as Rheumatologists, Physical Therapists, Physiatrists, Podiatrists, etc. For more information on MSK, please visit and bookmark [ARDMS.org/MSK](http://ARDMS.org/MSK).

In conclusion, we recently held our annual fall meeting which was held in Washington, DC. I would like to thank all of the subject matter experts that volunteered their time and expertise to the very productive meeting. We (the ARDMS) would not survive if not for the help of volunteers. I would also like to welcome the following new members to the board of directors and introduce the new board officers.



## FALL 2010

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Send inquiries to [communications@ardms.org](mailto:communications@ardms.org)

ARDMS  
51 Monroe Street, PE 1  
Rockville, MD 20850-2400

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

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Kevin Evans, PHD, RT, RDMS, RVS  
Chair-Elect  
Term: 2010 –2011



Gail Hadley, RN, RVT, FSVU  
Vice Chair  
Term: 2010 – 2012



Thomas Shipp, MD  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Term: 2010 – 2012

**Members - Board of Directors****All Terms: 2010 –2013**

J. Oscar Barahona, RDMS  
RDMS/RDCS Position



Phillip Carlock  
Public Member



Paul Wagner, RVT, RDMS, RDCS  
RVT Position



Erika Mann, MD  
Non-Cardiac/Non-Vascular Physician Position

I also want to extend my sincere thanks to the Board members who ended their terms at the conclusion of the Fall Board meeting; Steven Leers, MD, RVT (Past Chair), Robert Patterson, MD, RVT (Vice Chair), Robert McDonald, RDCS, RCS (Secretary/Treasurer) and Jinny Gender (Public Member).

Respectfully,

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

## ARDMS EARNS ANSI REACCREDITATION

In early September, the American National Standards Institutes (ANSI) Executive Standards Council approved the reaccreditation of the ARDMS. You may be aware that as an accrediting organization, ARDMS also strives to maintain a standard of excellence and growth under the ANSI/ISO 17024 certification. The reaccreditation is required every five years and is comprised of document review and an on-site audit.

The ANSI/ISO 17024 certification oversees global standardization of the certification community by enhancing public safety and protecting consumers. In order to stay accredited under this standard, members such as ARDMS must be compliant with strict rules and regulations.

The ANSI/ISO 17024 certification gives ARDMS a clear advantage in being a model for setting high standards in sonography. It creates domestic and global networking opportunities, because most countries recognize the ISO standard as the model for quality organizations. By keeping current with the ANSI/ISO standards, ARDMS is able to fulfill its mission.

## Sonography State Licensure Update

In the past few years a handful of states --Oregon, New Mexico, West Virginia and New Jersey -- have proposed or passed sonography licensure laws. Now that this precedent is established, ARDMS anticipates that other states will soon follow suit and enact similar laws.

The ARDMS Legislative Committee, along with the Sonography Licensure Coalition, which comprises seven organizations including ARDMS, closely monitors state licensure activities to uphold the best interest of the profession.

### ARDMS Position on Licensure Requirements:

The ARDMS mission is to “promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals.” ARDMS supports sonography licensure laws that recognize appropriate national credentialing programs, identify CME requirements, charge affordable fees and are overseen by a regulatory group that includes sonography professionals. Ideally, such laws would be instituted at a federal level, as state-by-state requirements may vary. However, historically, licensure laws are more likely to be passed at the state level. “Ultimately, ARDMS seeks to have all sonography professionals meet a quality standard such as obtaining ARDMS credentials,” said Dale R. Cyr, ARDMS CEO and Executive Director.

### How Licensure Differs from Certification:

Licensure laws require that an individual practicing a specific profession has met, and will maintain, entry-level standards. States typically require certification from a nationally recognized organization as part of the licensure process. These laws are enacted to protect the public from persons who are untrained and unqualified to practice a specific line of work. Fees for licensure are typically paid to the state.

Certification is a voluntary process and documents that an individual has met specific requirements and has the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform within a profession. Certifications are typically conferred by private organizations/societies after an individual has completed a course of study and passed an examination process or other specified criteria. To maintain certification, an individual is typically required to pay a fee, demonstrate ongoing competency and complete continuing education.

### What Does the Future Hold?

The general expectation is that other states will follow the lead of Oregon, New Mexico, West Virginia and New Jersey, and explore enacting their own sonography licensure laws. ARDMS, in conjunction with other sonography organizations, will stay abreast of state licensure efforts and will provide Registrants with updates via the ARDMS website and e-newsletters such as *Registry Reports* and *NewsWire*. Additionally, since certification is often a component of state licensure, ARDMS encourages Registrants to assist non-credentialed colleagues in seeking certification. Please see the “[Championing the Cause of Credentialing](#)” article for tips and guidance.

### Update on Current State Licensure Efforts:

**Oregon:** The Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) began formally licensing Sonographers on July 1, 2010. Any person who operates sonographic equipment in the state of Oregon must be licensed. For more information about the Oregon state licensing requirement, please visit [www.oregon.gov/OBMI](http://www.oregon.gov/OBMI).

**New Mexico:** Although a sonography licensure law was passed in 2009, the rules and policies governing the law are still being drafted. At present, no date has been set for implementation.

**West Virginia:** The West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners are currently drafting a bill. In September 2010, the Sonography Licensure Coalition<sup>1</sup> (SLC) submitted edits and changes to the proposed draft of the bill. A revised version of the bill is expected to be introduced during the 2011 West Virginia Legislative Session and the SLC will continue to closely monitor the developments.

**New Jersey:** The bill initially proposed in January 2010 and assigned to the NJ Senate Commerce Committee for review, did not receive favorable support from the sonography community and it appears that the New Jersey government has halted efforts to its passage.

<sup>1</sup> Sonography Licensure Coalition Member Organizations: American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), American Society of Echocardiography (ASE), Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI), Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU), Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) and the Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals (SICP).

## ARDMS WHO'S WHO: Kerry Weinberg, RDMS, RDCS

In this edition of *ARDMS Who's Who*, ARDMS is honored to highlight one of its long-standing volunteers and a present board member, Kerry Weinberg. Kerry's many accomplishments in her clinical and educational career include receiving the Squibb Award for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement. She has contributed to numerous publications and has been a faculty member of the Sonography Program at the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies since 1990. She serves on the ARDMS Board of Directors and was recently reappointed to another year term as the Chair of the ARDMS Disciplinary Hearing Panel.

This past summer, Kerry found herself in a school setting that she wasn't quite used to in the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh. ARDMS recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Kerry to learn firsthand about her summer adventures in Bangladesh.



*Scanning with students in Bangladesh. Photo courtesy of Kerry Weinberg.*

### **What kind of work were you commissioned to do?**

I applied for a program that was part of General Electric's new [healthymagination](#) initiative in which they partnered with Grameen Bank of Bangladesh to break the barriers of inequality in health at birth and reduce maternal deaths. My specific role was to provide on-going training in the use of obstetrical imaging technology to eight paramedics in remote areas of Bangladesh.

### **What were your goals for the trip?**

The overall goal of the program is to reduce maternal and infant mortality which runs high in rural parts of Bangladesh. I was eager to partake in this program to provide training for accurate diagnosis in identifying risks in pregnant women, that would ultimately result in saving lives.

### **Describe your typical day in Bangladesh:**

We would start the day with a 1-2 hour trip to the clinic where we conducted the training. We dived in to the curriculum right away and started practicing scanning. Since I was aware of the varying education levels, we tried to make sure the students got the big picture. There would be a lecture in the morning and scanning of patients in the afternoon. We would review issues and the day would end at 5pm followed by a long trip back to our accommodations.

### **What are some of the challenges that you faced?**

As I stepped out of the plane onto a flat asphalt platform, I was hit with a heat wave that did not quit until I boarded the plane back to the U.S. Although the time we spent in training went

by fairly quickly, the days were long, hot and humid. The obvious shock of a different culture and environment also took some time to get used to. Our van trips to and from the clinic were comprised of bumpy roads, twists, turns and exhausted naps from the intensive day. Although I had to adjust my ways of thinking and my daily routines, the students we taught were faced with harder obstacles. For one, in order to do the program, the women left their families for a week.

### **How does the use and knowledge of sonography differ in Bangladesh?**

Sonography is typically performed by physicians and used for focal examinations. One of the topics we covered was the importance of ultrasound ergonomics. Many of these women travel to places only reachable via a combination of unpaved roads and rickshaws while carrying 'portable' sonography equipment and a printer. I was so impressed with their dedication and commitment to the providing obstetrical sonography examinations in addition to their demanding patient work load.



*Practicing ergonomics with students in Bangladesh. Photo courtesy of Kerry Weinberg.*

### **Would you recommend a similar experience to others?**

I would definitely recommend exploring opportunities that get you out of your comfort zone. This kind of experience lets you gain a different perspective and a new appreciation for the profession. My time in Bangladesh pushed me to let go of any preconceptions and left me to simply go with the flow. I am looking forward to continuing my time with the program. The next step would be reviewing the images that the women actually took to ensure the quality and add to the curriculum.

## Your Guide to the ARDMS Recertification Assessment Program

ARDMS will continue to keep Registrants and the Sonography community informed regarding the ongoing developments of the recertification assessment program. To find the latest news about the Recertification Assessment Program, visit the [ARDMS Recertification Program page](#) of the website. Also, visit and bookmark [ARDMS.org/Recertification](http://ARDMS.org/Recertification) for the latest program updates. Finally, review the Recertification Assessment Program fast facts below and watch for updates in ARDMS newsletters *Registry Reports*, *NewsWire* and *Notes for Educators*.

- 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 examination for each specialty.		

### Does your three-year CME period end 12/31/2010?

To check your current CME period, log on to [ARDMS.org/MYARDMS](http://ARDMS.org/MYARDMS) and click on the CME tab.

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.

## Musculoskeletal (MSK) Sonography Credential Development Update

In the [Winter edition of Registry Reports](#), ARDMS' Chair, Patricia Prince, shared with you the process ARDMS undertakes to develop a new examination. ARDMS and its volunteers are working diligently on the development of the new MSK sonography credential and are pleased to provide the links and resources below to keep you informed. Also, be sure to visit and bookmark [ARDMS.org/MSK](http://ARDMS.org/MSK) for updates!

### Here are some important benchmarks and resources:

- 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. If you are interested in taking the MSK JTA survey, please [click here](#).
- 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.
- If you would like to be updated on news and events as they emerge relating to the development of the ARDMS MSK credential please [click here](#).

## ARDMS Announces GI Bill Reimbursement Program for United States Armed Forces Veterans

Examination fees for all ARDMS examinations, with the exception of the SPI examination\*, have been approved for reimbursement under the GI Bill sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please [click here](#) to visit the GI Bill website to learn more.



Please note that the reimbursement is provided directly to the veteran through the GI Bill program; therefore, all requests for, and questions about, reimbursement must be directed to the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#).

\* The SPI examination is currently pending approval for reimbursement; upon approval, a notification will be posted on the [ARDMS website](#).

## ARDMS Launches Facebook and Twitter Sites!

In a recent survey, ARDMS asked the sonography community if they would like to see an ARDMS page on Facebook and Twitter. Over 90% of those surveyed said yes! ARDMS is pleased to announce our Facebook and Twitter pages to the sonography community. We encourage Registrants to “like us” on Facebook and “follow us” on Twitter for events, news and information, policy updates, new programs and much more!



## Breakdown of the Sonography Community

Many organizations, including ARDMS, serve the needs of Sonographers, vascular technologists and other professionals dedicated to the advancement of ultrasound. It can sometimes be confusing trying to remember the wide variety of missions, journals, education programs, accreditations and other resources each of the organizations provide. Therefore, ARDMS is offering a [“cheat sheet”](#) of various organizations and their functions. Please be aware that this list may not be a full representation of all the sonography-related organizations.

## Remember to pay your 2011 renewal fee by Dec. 31!

ARDMS is now accepting online payments. Quickly, easily and securely pay your 2011 annual renewal fee by logging on to [ARDMS.org/MYARDMS](http://ARDMS.org/MYARDMS).



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