



Registry Reports

Quarterly Newsletter for ARDMS Registrants

A Message From the Chair

Recently, the Spring ARDMS Board and Committee meetings brought together nearly 50 volunteers to discuss and brainstorm about what the next several years will hold for our organization. The enthusiasm and passion at the meeting was extraordinary and reminded me how fortunate ARDMS is to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who devote their boundless knowledge and time to the organization.



As the Chair of the ARDMS Board of Directors, I am often asked what the job entails. My foremost role as Chair is to work with the CEO and other Board members to uphold the [ARDMS mission](#). It is the ARDMS mission, which guides all our decisions regarding setting strategic goals, monitoring financial reports and establishing new governance rules. Each week I hold at least one conference call with the ARDMS CEO, Dale Cyr to discuss the most pressing issues of the organization. I meet quarterly, either by conference call or in person, with each of the Standing Committees, the Executive Committee and all of the members of the Board. I participate in the disciplinary process, reviewing cases prior to their being presented to the Discipline Hearing Panel. Finally, I also represent ARDMS at trade shows and events such as the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) and the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB).

Volunteers are the cornerstone of ARDMS' governance and examination development. Below is a description of volunteer positions. I invite you to listen to the [Volunteer Podcast](#) for more information on how to become a volunteer.

Item Writer: This is the introductory level of voluntary service for ARDMS. Item Writers compose items (questions) for the examinations. ARDMS provides new items writers with the necessary training and tools.

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Advancements in Technology: Decreasing Work-Related Injuries

At the St. Francis Medical Group, Indiana Heart Physicians Inc., in Indianapolis, Indiana, Echocardiography Sonographers have an added benefit. Thanks to Medical Director Richard J. Shea, MD, FACC, FACP, employees can now enjoy massages while at work. In 2010, ARDMS Registrant and St. Francis employee Mary Ellen Stewart, RDCS, wrote a report outlining the benefits of this program and its effect on employees. Mary's report recorded the number of visits to the Employee Occupational Health Center from 2003 to 2007. Over a course of four years, Mary saw that employees were visiting the Employee Occupation Health Center for an increasing number of work-related injuries, including neck, back and arm injuries sustained while scanning patients. Hospital administrators decided that they needed to find out why employees were suffering from these injuries and how to prevent them in the future. They brought in a physical therapy consultant to investigate the cause of the injuries. The Echocardiography Technicians recommended that weekly massages by a trained masseuse would help employees to perform better.

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(Advancements in Technology: Decreasing Work Related Injuries - Continued from page 1)



With the rallying support of Dr. Shea and Manager of Cardiovascular Testing Andy Self, Indiana Heart Physicians employees now enjoy a weekly massage by Cathy Burgler, former masseuse to the Indianapolis Colts. Cathy also teaches the staff different stretches and ways to sit or stand when performing a scan. Since the massage therapy program started in 2007, the number of employees visiting the Employee Occupational Health Center has decreased to zero. Other Echocardiography Technicians in the Indianapolis area who have heard about this program are inquiring for positions within the group. Unfortunately, they are being turned down because the practice has had a zero percent turnover rate since this program started!

Mary Ellen has seen an increase in employee morale and the quality of work that employees are able to produce because of the massage therapy program. She says, "My longevity in the echo field has been extended. Without this program I would not have been able to withstand this line of work, and I have been doing this for over 32 years." One of the lab employees, Loree Ross, RVT, added, "The massages leave you feeling rejuvenated and resets you for the next week."

(Letter From the Chair - Continued from page 1)

Item Reviewer: Item Reviewers edit and review items submitted by Item Writers, determining which ones will be added to a bank of test items (questions) for future examinations. ARDMS provides these peer reviewers with the training they need to be successful.

Exam Development Task Forces (EDTFs): EDTFs are panels of subject-matter experts who oversee the development of all ARDMS credentialing examinations. EDTF members, elected to 3-year terms, are instrumental in the development, review and editing of examination questions. The EDTFs are comprised of sonographers, vascular technologists, physicians and scientists. Each EDTF member is knowledgeable in the subject area of the particular examination, and sonographer EDTF members must hold an ARDMS credential in the examination area.

Board of Directors: ARDMS is governed by a Board of Directors. All of the members of the Board, except for the public member, have served on one of the EDTFs. The Board is comprised of elected Registrants and physicians who have previously served as EDTF members.

Standing Committees: These committees are advisory in nature, unless by resolution the board directs a committee to take specific action. The standing committees are:

- Board Development
- Finance and Audit
- Certification
- Exam Development
- Legislative/External Affairs

If you are interested in volunteering your time to ARDMS, please log on to your [MY ARDMS](#) and fill out the Volunteer Assessment survey by clicking on the "Volunteer" tab. You can volunteer to be an Item Writer or Reviewer, which is a helpful first step to becoming more involved with the ARDMS. If you would like to become a member of an Exam Development Task Force (EDTF), you can self nominate, which involves an election process. Finally, only members of the EDTF can move to the Board of Directors and become members of standing committees. Your interest will be recorded in the ARDMS database, which is used to help ARDMS select candidates as needed.

Best Regards,

Patricia Prince

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

ARDMS's Partnerships for the CME Credit Reporting Program

Renewed alliance will .

To simplify the Continuing Medical Education (CME) audit process for Registrants, ARDMS has re-established automatic CME reporting processes with [Chrestomathic Press, Inc. \(CPI\)](#), in addition to the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography tracker program (ARDMS.org/sdmstracker) that will help ARDMS Registrants organize and maintain a comprehensive record of earned CME credits. CME's earned via either organization are now automatically reflected on your ARDMS transcript. ARDMS encourages Registrants to routinely visit [MY ARDMS](#) to view their current transcript.

Registrants may find that some of their CME credits are not reflected on their ARDMS transcript. Registrants are asked to make sure that the information provided to the CME providers exactly matches the information ARDMS has on file. You can update your contact information by logging in to [MY ARDMS](#). For name change requests, visit ARDMS.org/Registrants and click on [Manage Personal Information](#). Then, simply follow the instructions on the page.

In the future, many, if not all, sonography CME providers will be able to send confirmation of Registrants' participation in CME activities to ARDMS electronically.

Simply access your [MY ARDMS](#) account to review your CME transcript activities and verify your three-year CME period.



The Future of ARDMS Credentials

ARDMS has surpassed more than 70,000 active Registrants! It is no surprise that demand to find the most qualified, competent and highly skilled sonographers is growing as ultrasound is becoming the diagnostic imaging method choice in many fields of medicine. This leaves healthcare institutions and stakeholders in the field competing among themselves for training and developing top quality sonography professionals.

In addition to most hospitals and employers requiring ARDMS credentials, the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC), the American College of Radiology (ACR) and recently the American Board of Surgery (ABS) have all recognized ARDMS credentials as one of the pathways of documenting professional competency and knowledge in the field of sonography.

Here are the most recent developments:

Newly Amended Standard: All Technical Staff Must Obtain Vascular Credential by 2017 - Adapted from the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL) [website](#).

Registered Physician Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) credential to be required in 2014 for applicants to the 2014 Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination - Adapted from the ABS [website](#).

ARDMS is committed to keep you abreast of future developments as we all continue to fulfill our mission of promoting quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals.

ARDMS WHO'S WHO: Dagoberto Navia

ARDMS Credentials: RDMS, RDCS, RVT

Registered Since: 2008

In this edition of *ARDMS Who's Who*, ARDMS had the pleasure of interviewing Dagoberto Navia, RDMS, RDCS, RVT. Dagoberto came to the U.S. in 2004 from Cuba and began his journey in ultrasound. Upon graduating from his ultrasound program, he earned three ARDMS credentials in less than two years, and has been a recognized and exemplary sonographer. He is eager to continue learning and growing within the sonography field, and plans to earn his Breast Specialty in the coming year. A colleague described him as “a dedicated person who has jumped the language barrier and shows great dedication to and for our field”.



ARDMS: How did you get started in the field of Sonography?

D. Navia: I started in 2006 as an ultrasound tech for an outpatient clinic here in Miami, doing all types of ultrasound and learning new techniques every day. I knew it was something I wanted to learn more about, so I decided to begin my formal education.

ARDMS: What have been your biggest challenges of pursuing a career in Sonography?

D. Navia: I would have to say that expanding my clinical knowledge and honing my skills to maximize patient satisfaction and safety have been my biggest challenges. I am always eager to learn new things and a better way of doing a scan or using a machine. It's very important to me that I provide a peaceful and relaxing environment for my patients so they feel comfortable and safe while receiving care.

ARDMS: Who has been the biggest influence during your career?

D. Navia: I would not be where I am today without the support and encouragement of Ms. Consuelo Garcia, RDMS, RDCS, RVT. She has an admirable dedication to her work and a commitment I strive for. Over the years I have learned so much from her and feel that her dedication to the field of sonography has been an important driving factor in my career.

ARDMS: What do you like most about working in Sonography?

D. Navia: My favorite, albeit most challenging, part of my job is working with patients. Every day I am able to do a job I love and help people. No two patients are the same and it challenges me to be a better sonographer and a better person.

ARDMS: What advice would you give to those considering a career in Sonography?

D. Navia: Dedication. Sonography requires consistent education and skills application, as it's a highly competitive field with new technology and advancements emerging all the time. It also requires patience and environmental adaptation. That being said, I feel that it is one of the best healthcare fields for professional growth.

ARDMS: How do you keep up-to-date with industry changes/news in Sonography?

D. Navia: I mainly use the ARDMS website (ARDMS.org). I am able to access news and information about new technology and procedures relating to Diagnostic Ultrasound. I also find it helpful to check other ultrasound organizations websites, like AIUM or SDMS.

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 with the subject line: ARDMS Who's Who Nomination.

Recertification...Continued Commitment to Excellence

To find the latest news about the Recertification Assessment Program:

- ◆ Visit and bookmark ARDMS.org/Recertification.
- ◆ Print, read and share the [Recertification brochure](#).
- ◆ Listen to the [Recertification podcast](#).
- ◆ Check for updates in ARDMS newsletters *Registry Reports*, *NewsWire* and *Notes for Educators*.
- ◆ Review the Recertification Assessment Program fast facts below.

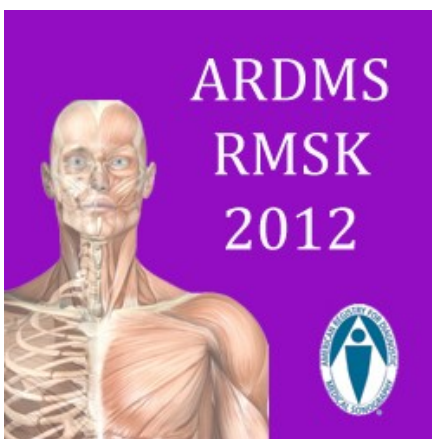
Fast Facts About Recertification:

- ARDMS credentials will be valid for 10 years
- All Registrants will be assigned a 10-year period
- Online examinations (not at a testing center)
- Specialty content only, no general physics
- Required standard for ARDMS organizational accreditation
- Examinations to begin in 2019
- No charge for 1st attempt for each specialty
- Open book/resource
- Approximately 50 questions

Each Registrant who holds an active ARDMS certification as of December 31, 2011 will be assigned the 2012 – 2021 10-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.		

Registered Musculoskeletal (RMSK) Sonography Credential Development Update



In 2012, the RMSK credential will be offered to an elite group of sonographers, physicians and specialists and will raise the standard of musculoskeletal sonography practices worldwide.

Listen to the [MSK podcast](#) and share the link with your colleagues and friends.

Here are some important RMSK development benchmarks:

1. Content outline will be available in mid 2011
2. Questions/Items for the examination will be developed and reviewed throughout 2011
3. The RMSK pilot will be administered in early 2012
4. The MSK examination will be released globally in late 2012.

To explore the development process of an ARDMS examination visit ARDMS.org/ExamDevelopment.

To receive updated news about the development of an ARDMS RMSK credential, log on to ARDMS.org/RMSK.



What's New at ARDMS.ORG...

CME Audit Reinstatement Procedures - The deadline to submit your documentation has passed (April 30, 2011). Results of the audit will be released via postings on your [MY ARDMS](#) page and an official notification sent via first-class mail by June 30, 2011. If you did not comply with the CME audit or did not submit your documentation by April 30, 2011, please follow the [CME audit reinstatement procedures](#) by August 1, 2011. Remember, you must keep all of your CME documentation for at least five years in case you are audited.

Sign-up for ARDMS Newsletters - ARDMS offers Registrants two e-newsletters, *Registry Reports* and *NewsWire*. If you are an educator, you can also sign-up to receive *Notes for Educators*.

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.

Registrant Recognition Program - Following your 30-year anniversary, ARDMS will send you a certificate of recognition and list your name on the Registrant Recognition page of the ARDMS website. [Click here for the latest listing](#).

Cast Your Vote - Take the ARDMS bi-monthly poll.

ARDMS Pulse of the Profession - ARDMS presents a video interview with two on-staff sonographers: Pat Grier and Justin Stevens.

2011 ARDMS Exhibit Schedule

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
November 18	Advances in Vascular Imaging and Diagnosis (AVID) , New York

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