



Registry Reports

Quarterly Newsletter for ARDMS Registrants

Fall-Winter 2009

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

ARDMS WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR PATTY PRINCE, RVT, RDCS, RT

I have been an ARDMS Registrant for nearly 30 years. During this time, I have seen tremendous advancements in the field of sonography. It has also been exciting to watch ARDMS grow from the small organization of the 1970's into the globally renowned standard for sonography credentialing it is today.

For the next two years, I have the honor of serving ARDMS as the Chair of the Board of Directors. In this capacity, I have three main objectives. The first is to uphold the mission of ARDMS, which is to promote quality care and patient safety through our credentialing and continuing competency programs. Secondly, to assure that ARDMS's nearly 65,000 Registrants have an organization that they can be proud of and that works to assist them in managing their credentials and continuing competency requirements. My third objective is focused on the future growth of ARDMS. It is in this area that I wish to share with you a few of the exciting projects underway at ARDMS.



International Testing: ARDMS is working with our testing vendor, PearsonVue, on a major test delivery platform transition that will allow us to administer our credentialing examinations in test centers around the world. Currently, ARDMS offers testing in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and Accra, Ghana West Africa. In 2010, based on demand, ARDMS will expand the delivery and administration of its credentialing examinations to more countries within Africa and the Middle East and specifically in Indonesia, Australia, China, India, Trinidad, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and possibly Singapore.

Development of a Musculoskeletal (MSK) Examination: The ARDMS Board of Directors recently approved the development of a MSK examination. In 2010, the procedures and protocols to begin building the MSK examination will start in earnest. I have appointed a task force comprised of immediate past-chair Steven Leers to lead a group

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this Issue:

Letter From Past Chair	2
Testing Center Update	2
Connecticut Law Prohibits "Keepsake" Sonograms	3
Spotlight on a Sonographer: Nadira Kawall	4
Ultrasound Pioneer: Dr. John J. Wild	4
CME Period Reminder	5
2010 Renewal Reminder	5

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

www.ARDMS.org

Admissions to Test Centers

Once an individual has been approved to sit for an examination, he/she will need to contact the ARDMS testing vendor, PearsonVUE, to schedule an appointment. There are specific requirements for admission to the testing centers, please review the following information to avoid any delays in taking your examination. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the ARDMS office.

- The name noted on the required forms of identification MUST exactly match the name listed on the ARDMS Examination-Confirmation Letter.
- You will be required to present two current, valid signature IDs – one must be your non-expired government issued photo identification with signature.

(Continued on page 2)

Farewell Letter from the Chair

With a mixture of relief, humility and pride, I end my 2007-2009 term as Chair of ARDMS. I have also looked back retrospectively at the last 15 years of my involvement with ARDMS. During that time, dramatic changes have occurred in testing, credentialing and sonography and ARDMS has matured into a respected international organization now credentialing nearly 65,000 Sonographers and physicians.



During my time with ARDMS, the exams have evolved from pencil and paper examinations with Polaroid images to secure computer based exams with motion video and advanced item types which can measure performance rather than rote memorization. The item writing process has gone from a group process to an on-line authoring process. The exam application process is now entirely on-line. Registrant database offers extensive information about credentials, dues, interactions and CME records. Physics examinations in general ultrasound, vascular technology and cardiac sonography have been amalgamated into the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) examination which is the gateway to the RDMS, RDCS, and RVT ARDMS credentials.

The Registered Physicians in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) credential is the first ARDMS examination evaluating physician interpretation and has been recognized by ICAVL, vascular surgeons, cardiologists and radiologists. International interest, especially from China, has brought the RPVI credential to the forefront. ARDMS has also begun exploring the development of a musculoskeletal ultrasound examination.

The CME program has been well established, and is now monitored by an audit process which has been highly successful. A new program in maintenance of competency, or recertification, is in the planning process. Legislative initiatives at the state and national level have kept ARDMS involved on many fronts.

Throughout this process, the ARDMS has remained committed to its Registrants and applicants in providing access, support, job information and individualized service. This will always remain the focus of the organization as it continues to evolve along with the practice of sonography.

It has been an honor for me to serve ARDMS during this exciting time of change and this service has been some of the most rewarding of my career. Join me in welcoming Patty Prince as she assumes the Chair position. Patty is poised and ready to continue moving ARDMS towards its future goals.

Steven A. Leers

Steven A. Leers, MD, RVT
Former Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors

Testing Center Update

Beginning in January 2010, the ARDMS testing vendor, PearsonVUE, will be implementing the use of erasable note boards and eliminating scratch paper in all test centers.

There are two main reasons for the implementation of erasable note boards as the standard in all testing locations – consistency and security.

Admissions to Test Centers

(Continued from page 1)

- Failure to present acceptable identification will prevent you from being allowed entry into the test center to examine and you will forfeit your seat and entire fee.

For a list of accepted and non-accepted forms of identification, please visit the ARDMS website at www.ARDMS.org/AcceptedID.

- Candidates should bring the ARDMS Examination-Confirmation Letter to the test center as the ID and password on the letter will be needed to log in at the testing site.
- Candidates *cannot* bring anything into the testing room including books, paper, calculators, phones, electronic devices or other materials. All personal items must be checked at the door.
- Candidates will be provided with a white board, if needed.
- Please arrive to the test center at least 30 minutes prior to your examination start time to allow appropriate check-in time.

Letter from the Chair ... (Continued from page 1)

of international recognized MSK subject matter experts to assist ARDMS in working through the complexities of developing an internationally recognized MSK examination and assessment that will be for sonographers and physicians. As with all new ARDMS tests, the development of the MSK examination will take several years.

Advanced Item Types: The Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) test was the first ARDMS examination to feature Advanced Item Type (AIT) questions that better assess a candidates practice setting skills, knowledge and abilities. The AIT's currently feature a static image of an ultrasound console. In the coming years, the AIT questions will be incorporated into other ARDMS examinations and test-takers will be able to manipulate the console controls to answer the questions. (See a sample AIT at: <http://www.ardms.org/default.asp?contentID=924>)

Recertification: As you know from our prior publications, the organizations that accredit ARDMS are requiring the development of a recertification assessment program. Over the next few years, the parameters of this new program will be taking shape. I, along with the ARDMS recertification task force, will be working hard to assure that the program meets the mission of ARDMS, has a simple meaningful approach, and is easily affordable for ARDMS Registrants.

Those are just some of the exciting projects underway at ARDMS. I want to thank former Chair, Steven Leers, MD, for his exceptional leadership and vision during his 2007 to 2009 term. Steve, and so many other volunteers, have given countless hours to ARDMS and helped make it the incredible organization it is today.



Patricia Prince, RVT, RDCS, RT

Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors

Read the press release announcing Patricia Prince's appointment as Chair of ARDMS Board of Directors by going to www.ARDMS.org.

Connecticut Law Prohibits "Keepsake" Sonograms

Connecticut House Bill 5635, an Act Concerning Sonography Procedures for Medical and Diagnostic Purposes, was signed into law by Governor M. Jodi Rell effective July 1, 2009. The new law limits obstetrical ultrasound procedures to only those ordered by a licensed healthcare professional and are needed for a medical or diagnostic purpose.

The bill passed due to a growing use of ultrasound for entertainment "keepsake" purposes. Evidence to support the passing of the bill included DVD recordings of the procedures and "family viewings." One woman reportedly had 19 non-medical ultrasounds taken during the course of a pregnancy.

Governor Rell pointed out the hazard in abusing the diagnostic procedure when used excessively for extended periods of time saying, "... ultrasound is a form of radiated energy--and any such energy has the potential to affect human tissue."

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), "using ultrasound equipment only through a prescription ensures that pregnant women will receive professional care that contributes to their health and to the health of their babies, and that ultrasound will be used when medically indicated."



The ARDMS Legislative and External Affairs Committee will continue to monitor the developments of the legislative activities and provide updates via the [ARDMS website \(www.ARDMS.org\)](http://www.ARDMS.org), and in future editions of *Registry Reports* and *NewsWire*.

Spotlight on a Sonographer: Nadira V. Gayah-Kawall



ARDMS Registrant: Nadira V. Gayah-Kawall, RDCS, BSc, MSc (Ultrasound)

ARDMS Registrant since: 1996

Current position: Departmental Director/Technical Instructor, Trinidad

How did you get started in the field of Sonography?

I was born in Trinidad. After migrating to Canada in 1989, I wanted to get into a field that was new to Trinidad in the event that I ever decided to go back. At the time, echocardiographers were in high demand in Toronto. I was working at the Toronto Western Hospital and I decided to pursue the program at Michener Institute. After finishing school and heading into the workforce, there were times when I found myself working 10-12 hours a day because of the great demand both in the hospitals, clinics and private cardiologists' offices. I knew then, while this job was challenging, it was rewarding and something that I had a passion for. Having attended Medical School at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, sonography was exciting as observing the human organs by ultrasound was very different from studying from textbooks.

At the time in Trinidad, the field of echocardiography was just opening up. However, there was limited human resources, outdated equipment, and no structure to proper training and reporting. When the Hospital in Trinidad offered me employment I used this as an opportunity to make a difference, so I went back to Trinidad to work as a sonographer in the teaching hospital of the Medical School. It was hard to see casualties due to wrong diagnosis and poor reporting. I saw an opportunity for training and educating others to become good Sonographers. I wanted to use the knowledge I gained from studying in Canada and working in a hospital set-

ting to train others how to scan properly and read sonograms.

What was your biggest challenge of being a sonographer and educator in Trinidad?

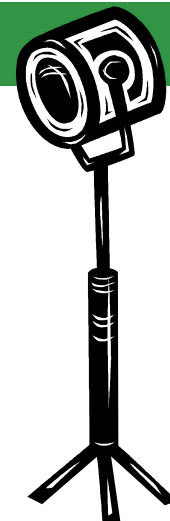
Gaining recognition from the local physicians was one of the toughest things I had to go through. The sonography profession was not widely recognized when I first started working in the hospital, not many saw the potential and importance of having training in sonography. The field was monopolized by Radiologists at the time with few Sonographers. I founded Trinidad Institute of Medical Technology, a diagnostic medical clinic and together with Burwin Institute trained approximately 30 Sonographers. One of the hardest things I had to do was to educate other medical professionals on the importance of proper diagnostics and scanning. Of course, lack of technology and advancement in medicine was beyond my control. Over time, as general ultrasound became higher in demand, I was able to graduate more students and all students were able to find jobs.

What paths did you take in opening the Trinidad Institute of Medical Technology (TIMT)?

I was excited to offer didactic training and utilize the knowledge I gained. I contacted trainers and fellow ARDMS Registrants who have mentored me to come to Trinidad. The first flagship program in Echocardiography was taught by Cris Gresser, Cairrine Sloggett and Alan Crooks. TIMT graduated eight students who were trained and were hired by several clinics.

What is next for you?

I will be pursuing my PhD in Ultrasound. I am seeing a trend in vascular disease ultrasound as detection of vascular disease is low due to lack of technology, training, and overall knowledge and importance of sonography. I will continue working on standardizing policies in Trinidad.



Ultrasound Pioneer - Dr. John J. Wild (1914-2009)



Photo adapted from www.lifeinlegacy.com.

ARDMS recognizes contributions from Sonographers and pioneers, such as Dr. John J. Wild, a leading developer of the use of ultrasound in cancer detection.

Dr. Wild, who died recently in Minnesota at the age of 95, applied ultrasound technology used during World War II to develop the diagnostic ultrasound machine that would ultimately provide expectant mothers with the first image of their unborn children.

Dr. Wild's further work carried out with electrical engineer William Reid, led to the first sonography device capable of distinguishing between normal and cancerous tissue in the breast. The pair later developed the machine into the familiar hand-held scanner.

ARDMS CME PERIOD ENDS DEC. 31

You must earn a minimum of 30 ARDMS-accepted CMEs between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009.

You will be eligible for audit for the above-mentioned three-year CME period in March 2010.

Do not mail or fax CMEs to the ARDMS office. You must keep all CME documentation until you are audited.

If selected for audit, ARDMS will notify you via mail in March 2010. Notifications will also be sent via e-mail and posted on your personal page on the secure Registrant Resources section of the ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org/login). You are responsible for verifying whether or not you were selected for audit.

For additional details about the ARDMS CME Audit, please visit www.ARDMS.org/CMEaudit.

Advancements in Technology

ARDMS offers Podcasts and Videos at www.ARDMS.org.

Student SPI Podcast: [LISTEN NOW!](#)

Online Application Video: [WATCH NOW!](#)

CME Audit Podcast: [LISTEN NOW!](#)

Volunteer Podcast: [LISTEN NOW!](#)

2010 Renewal Payment Deadline is December 31, 2009



To pay online: Quickly, easily, and securely pay your 2010 ARDMS renewal fee using your Visa or MasterCard by logging on to your secured Registrant Resources page at www.ARDMS.org/login.

To pay by mail: Use the invoice that was mailed to you on October 15th or send check/money order to:
(Make checks payable to ARDMS)

ARDMS
P.O. Box 79914
Baltimore, MD 21279-0914

**Paying online
is fast, easy,
and secure.**

Cost of Annual Renewal Fee:

\$60 USD (Active Status)

\$90 USD (RPVI Active Status)

\$10 USD (Retired Status)

Revocation Policy Information:

To maintain Active status with ARDMS, payment must be received by the ARDMS on or before December 31, 2009 or your credential(s) will be revoked. To have your credential(s) reinstated, you will need to submit the annual renewal fee plus a \$150 USD reinstatement fee to be received on or before February 28, 2010. If you fail to do so, your credential(s) will remain revoked and you will be subject to ARDMS revocation policies and procedures as may be amended from time to time without prior notice. Non-compliance with the ARDMS revocation policies and procedures will result in the need to retake all necessary ARDMS examinations and pay all applicable fees to regain Active status.

Registrant renewal fees, application fees, dues, contributions or gifts to ARDMS are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes. These payments may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses under Section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code. ARDMS has been organized under Section 501(c)(6) of the IRC. The ARDMS tax identification number is 51-0184277. You may wish to consult your tax advisor for further assistance.

For more information about the 2010 Renewal period, log on to www.ARDMS.org/renewal.



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Registry Reports

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“Registry Reports” welcomes submissions from the field.

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

ONGOING CME COURSE OFFERINGS

For a complete list of ARDMS-accepted CME provider, go to www.ARDMS.org/cme.

Great Lakes Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Inc. Hands-on MSK ultrasound scanning training. SDMS CME credits: 8.0. www.musculoskeletalultrasoundinc.com
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](http://www.InstituteforAdvancedMedicine.com).
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/ultrasound

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.

www.ARDMS.org—Your online source..

Listen to the CME Audit Podcast
www.ARDMS.org/cmepodcast

Find out how you can become an ARDMS Volunteer
www.ARDMS.org/volunteer

Read about the latest news and trends in sonography
www.ARDMS.org/newswire

Pay your 2010 annual renewal fee
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Verify and update your personal information
www.ARDMS.org/login

Take the ARDMS Online Poll
www.ARDMS.org/polls

Apply Online
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Review ARDMS rules and policies
www.ARDMS.org/policies

And much more at www.ARDMS.org.