

# ARDMS 40th Anniversary

*1975 - 2015*

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ARDMS promotes quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals.



# ARDMS Board of Directors 2015

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## Past Chairs, Board of Directors

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Joan P. Baker, RDCS, RDMS (Founder and First Chair).....	1975 – 1976
Carolyn L. Gegor, CNM, MS.....	1976
Janet Bolin-Simonetta.....	1976 – 1977
Joan C. Korfhagen, RDCS, RDMS.....	1977 – 1979
Bonnie L. Bartley, RDCS, RDMS.....	1979
L. E. Schnitzer.....	1979 – 1981
Louise A. Berlin.....	1981 – 1983
John Forsythe, RDCS, RDMS, RVT.....	1983 – 1985
Larry Waldroup, RDMS.....	1985 – 1987
Cynthia Burnham, RVT, RN.....	1987 – 1989

Andrea C. Skelly, PhD.....	1989 – 1991
Fred Anderson, PhD .....	1991 – 1993
Mary Beth Geagan, RDMS, RVT.....	1993 – 1995
Anne M. Jones, RDMS, RVT, RN.....	1995 – 1997
Marie De Lange, RDCS, RDMS .....	1997 – 1999
Cathy A. Babiak, M. Ed, RDMS .....	1999 – 2001
Kari E. Boyce, PhD, RDCS, RDMS .....	2001 – 2003
Paul A. Cardullo, MS, RVT.....	2003 – 2005
Diane Kawamura, PhD, RDMS.....	2005 – 2007
Steven A. Leers, MD, RVT .....	2007 – 2009
Patricia M. Patterson, RDMS, RVT .....	2009 – 2011
Kevin D. Evans, PhD, RDMS.....	2011 – 2013

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dale R. Cyr, MBA, CAE.....	1998 – Present
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All photos in this book were taken by staff and volunteers throughout the years.

Although every effort was made to verify dates and make the information available as accurate as possible, we cannot make any guarantees about the accuracy and completeness of the contents of this book.

# INTRODUCTION

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From our modest emergence in 1975 to our current status as the premier credentialing organization for medical professionals practicing sonography, we have held steadfast to our mission: to promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals. Since the very beginning, volunteers have worked collaboratively with staff to build the credibility and reputation that makes us – and keeps us – the gold standard in ultrasound credentialing. ARDMS is in the enviable position it is today because of the foresight and dedication of many people over the past four decades.

We would not be who we are without a path-blazer and her colleagues to whom we give our utmost thanks. Joan Baker led a group of hard-working idealists who dedicated themselves to “giving birth” to ARDMS, the organization that would set the standards of competency for sonographers. It was a labor of love, and countless patients and their families have been the fortunate beneficiaries.

To steer an organization forward during times of major change requires extraordinary leadership skills. The vision, courage, and management of our Boards of Directors have kept ARDMS growing and innovating even as the world has evolved in profound ways. Revolutions in computer technology, changes in clinical practice, and increasing medical needs around the world over the past 40 years necessitated the continual adaptation of ARDMS. We thank our Board Chairs and Members for their outstanding navigation skills in keeping our work current and relevant and for raising our profile and value in the medical community.

Quite literally, the mission of ARDMS could not be achieved without the commitment and passion of our subject-matter volunteers. We offer profound thanks to the sonographers and physicians who, collectively, have written hundreds of thousands of exam questions (we call them items). Over the years, many volunteers have continued along the exam-development journey by serving on exam-development task forces, reviewing items, setting the passing standards for exams, and working on exam forms. We turn to these volunteers first when we have openings on task forces and committees, and we are grateful that they graciously accept whenever they can.

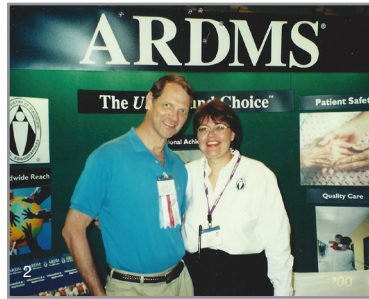
It is an exciting time at ARDMS! Even as we look back on the past 40 years and congratulate and thank all those whose efforts brought us to this point, we are determined and eager to continue moving forward. With clinical diversity and globalization as the catalysts, we are embracing opportunities to improve patient care in a variety of medical settings in the United States and around the world. To do so, we are leveraging technology and building new programs and partnerships.

Our investment in technology allows us to retain our high standards while being more efficient and creative in building and administering innovative assessments, managing Registrants around the world, and engaging many more volunteers. Our Innovation team is working on a Point-of-Care assessment and new ways of delivering exams in remote areas. Our Business Development department is reaching out to new markets, such as China and South America, where we can be of service. And while we have always been fortunate to recruit and retain the finest volunteers, we have begun a new Volunteer Engagement Program to expand our pool of volunteers so we are ready to pursue our new national and international endeavors.

Two-hundred sonographers took the first ARDMS exam in 1975. Today, 40 years later, approximately 93,000 sonographers and physicians have earned an ARDMS credential and are practicing in 70 countries around the world. An outstanding accomplishment by any measure!

Where will we be 40 years from now? We are embarking on a time of inspiring growth, and we have confidence that our incoming Board will guide us with the same clear, thoughtful, and dedicated work of those whose legacies we applaud today. Cheers to all who have helped shape ARDMS!

# 40 Years of Progress



- 1 – ARDMS Board in the 1990s
- 2 - Cathy Babiak and Dr. Steve Burnham at a vascular conference in 2000
- 3 – Ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new ARDMS office in 2002
- 4 – Dr. Wen’s visit to the ARDMS office in 2009
- 5 – ARDMS Volunteers at work at the VT Standard Setting in 2009
- 6 – Dr. Leers and ARDMS staff at the SVU/SVS exhibit in 2009
- 7 – ARDMS Volunteers celebrating at the 40th Anniversary
- 8 – Joan Baker gives a speech at the ARDMS 40th Anniversary

# Progress through Inspiration and Perseverance

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## **1975**

ARDMS is incorporated in June, 1975.

Two hundred candidates take the first credentialing examination in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, at the ASUTS/AIUM meeting.

## **1975 – 1978**

ARDMS' Central Office resides in rotating homes, staffed by family, friends, and volunteer sonographers.

## **1976**

Written and practical exams are administered at 10 different sites across the country.

## **1977**

The first regional testing and technical exams are administered in Philadelphia, Winston-Salem, Detroit, and San Francisco.

## **1979**

The first Central Office is established in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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The first steps on the road to today's 93,000 Registrants actually were taken six years before the founding of ARDMS. In 1969, ARDMS founder and first Chair, Joan Baker, joined with just five colleagues to form the American Society of Ultrasound Technical Specialists (ASUTS), later to be renamed the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SDMS). Baker later wryly observed that "we were all a bit lonely." Faced with the indifference of many physicians who thought ultrasound was too new a field to warrant a professional society, Baker and her colleagues prevailed through tenacity, and at its annual convention in 1969 the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) officially recognized the ASUTS.

These pioneers were motivated by far more than a desire for camaraderie. They knew one thing was keeping ultrasound from rapidly expanding; a lack of trained professionals with proven competence. For ultrasound to become the diagnostic tool that the medical profession and patients needed, it needed to become a profession in its own right. Through Baker's determination, and with the support of Dr. Gil Baum, the AIUM president at

the time, sonography was recognized as a profession by the United States Office of Education in 1973 after a lengthy hearing. Now the first members of the ASUTS were officially Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

In early 1975, Baker addressed the issue of exams for technical specialists and persuaded the physicians to reinterpret a grandfather clause officially establishing the ARDMS as a separate organization. ARDMS was incorporated in June 1975.

Now that there was a profession and a Registry dedicated to ensuring competency of its members, there needed to be standards. Developing standards was no small task; it took five years to draft standards, with the input of many different health organizations. At the same time, the National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies (NCHCA, now the Institute for Credentialing Excellence, or ICE), was being formed to develop standards of excellence for healthcare certification programs. As a charter member of NCHCA, ARDMS was able to help develop the NCHCA constitution and bylaws at its initial meeting in 1977, as well as write ARDMS's first standards to conform to NCHCA's regulations.

“Growing pains” might not begin to describe what it was like to live through rapid expansion and limited communication, with all the work done by volunteers outside of their full-time career responsibilities. Janet Bolin-Simonetta noted some of the multiple challenges:

- *No funds other than fees and donations*
- *A new “office” address every time the Chair changed*
- *Data limited to hard-copy files, with no experts in how to create electronic files*

For those early dedicated volunteers who were determined that the Registry continue to grow, “failure was not an option.” Hundreds of volunteer hours were spent asking prospective helpers to act as examiners and asking them to get family members or friends to volunteer as scanning subjects, receptionists, proctors, and couriers.



By 1979, ARDMS had a positive cash flow and had held its first regional exams. Bolin-Simonetta, Chair at that time, believed that providing the opportunity for a larger number of candidates to be tested, without having to incur the expenses of traveling to a single national site, gave ARDMS credibility. A growing number of Registrants meant a growing need for organization. In 1979, an executive secretary was hired and the first Central Office was established in Cincinnati. In 1995, the ARDMS National Office moved to Rockville, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C., and today has 78 staff members in 13 departments.

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*“ You have to create the occupation. Then you have to create the accreditation, the standards, and the exam to show that people are achieving the standards. That’s how the Registry was formed. It could have been anybody. It just happened to be me who was there to do it. ”*

**– Joan Baker**



*“ Thank goodness for physicians and technologists who cared about our future and for all our friends and families who became drivers, travel agents, patients, and anything else we needed! ”*

**– Janet Bolin-Simonetta**



*“ In 1973 I gave a talk about the first echo of a fetus in Ann Arbor at an AIUM meeting. I expected only a few people to come, and there was standing room only! ”*

**— L. E. Schnitzer**

# Progress through Recognition and Collaboration

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*In 1984, the ARDMS became recognized as the primary certification for sonography.*

ARDMS's status as a charter member of the NCHCA set the tone for collaboration with many other organizations with an interest in ultrasound. Sonography is unique in its broad applications to many physician specialties: surgery, pediatrics, OB/GYN, cardiology, vascular surgery, and radiology. ARDMS established its reputation and earned respect by recognizing each of these areas and their respective expertise in sonography. ARDMS's collaborative efforts have always supported its mission to promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals. These milestones show ARDMS's commitment to working with other organizations, and how ultimately these efforts led to the highest respect and recognition for ARDMS credentials throughout the ultrasound profession.

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## **1983**

The Society of Non-Invasive Vascular Technology (SNIVT) signs an agreement endorsing the ARDMS exam for certification. Requirements are adjusted to allow Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) accredited program graduates to be eligible for the Registry.

## **1984**

The Chair of the American College of Radiology endorses the ARDMS as the most appropriate certifying body for sonographers for a period of two years.

## **1985**

ARDMS earns a class "A" status from the NCHCA for five years, achieving credibility as a certifying agency.

**1987**

The ARDMS changes its bylaws to permit non-sonographers to serve as officers, allowing physicians, scientists, and engineers to sit on the Board of Directors.

**1989**

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) formally recognizes the ARDMS credentials and assists in making improvements to both the cardiac and vascular examinations.

**1990**

ARDMS is accepted as the credentialing body for cardiac sonography following the first Cardiovascular Principles and Instrumentation exam and the subsequent creation of the RDCS credential.

The ARDMS makes recommendations to the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories to define their credentialing requirements, leading to a greater number of vascular exam candidates, including physicians.

**1996**

The first ARDMS simulation pilot study is conducted during the SDMS annual meeting with overwhelmingly positive feedback, and the information is used to design future pilot studies.

**1997**

The RVT credential receives formal endorsement from the Society of Vascular Technology (SVT), making ARDMS's credential the premier credential for vascular technologists. Subsequently, SDMS and the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) formally endorse ARDMS.

**2001**

ARDMS launches The Breast Cancer and Women's Health Foundation which convenes in person for the first time.

ARDMS and SDMS together announce a new Continuing Medical Education (CME) Tracker to easily report continuing medical education credits.

**2004**

ARDMS joins the National Aneurysm Alliance.

## **2005**

ARDMS is awarded a five-year renewal of the RDMS, RDCS, and RVT credentials by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (formerly NCHCA).

ARDMS credentialing programs earn ANSI-ISO 17024 accreditation for certifying bodies from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Accreditation is granted through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

## **2007**

ARDMS invites the SDMS, Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU), AIUM, ASE, Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CSDMS), and American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) to meet as a Community Advisory Work Group to discuss the ARDMS recertification process.

## **2011**

The Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery decides to require the ARDMS RPVI credential as part of the application process for the Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination.

ARDMS re-establishes automatic CME reporting processes with Chrestomathic Press, Inc.



*“ When I was Chair, I wanted to be a liaison, to promote understanding about what each of the professional organizations did, and to dispel misconceptions about ARDMS and about how ARDMS testing impacted different specialties. Ethical practice, patient care, and patient safety were areas of common ground we could work to agree on. It’s important that accreditation of educational programs was represented in discussions, so I attended a lot of meetings. ”*

**– Andrea Skelly, PhD**



*“ Many of the sonographer members held strong reservations about electing a non-sonographer as Chair, which was understandable, as most were trained as nurses. The evolution of more and more MDs choosing to obtain the ARDMS credentials undoubtedly helped. ”*

**– Fred Anderson, PhD**



*“ Recertification was a requirement for us and was greatly feared. Involving the Community Advisory Work Group early on allowed us to ease any fears and include the concerns of the Work Group as we began to discuss the recertification process. ”*

**– Steven Leers, MD**



ARDMS is represented at sister organizations.

# Progress through Examinations and Education

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As ultrasound techniques advance, specialized credentials, up-to-date examinations, and continuing education are needed to guarantee quality care and patient safety. For forty years ARDMS has been dedicated to adding credentials and improving exams that result in sonographers providing safe and high-quality patient care. Upon completion of a sonography education program, earning credentials is the next essential step to becoming the best possible sonographer. The continuing medical education credits that all Registrants must earn to retain their credentials safeguard a vital part of the ARDMS mission: the continuing competency of ultrasound professionals.

## Ensuring Quality

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### **1980**

The Continuing Medical Education (CME) program is developed and implemented.

### **1984**

Examination validity is addressed through the Registry's first Job Task Analysis Survey.

### **1987**

Item-writing sessions are held by each specialty committee.

### **2000**

The five-year rule goes into effect: Candidates must pass the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) examination and the corresponding specialty examination within five years to earn a credential, regardless of sequence.

### **2003**

Applicants are now required to submit an ARDMS clinical verification form in addition to the educational, clinical, and documentation requirements as listed in the prerequisites.

## 2005

ARDMS converts to a CME audit system to verify compliance with CME requirements.

## 2012

ARDMS launches a Recertification Assessment Program, with the first examinations to be offered in 2019.

## Credentials and Certifications

In 2009, the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) exam replaced the Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation (UPI), Cardiovascular Physics and Instrumentation (CPI), and Vascular Physics and Instrumentation (VPI) examinations. Corresponding specialty examinations have been established throughout ARDMS's first 40 years, and new specialties are still being launched:

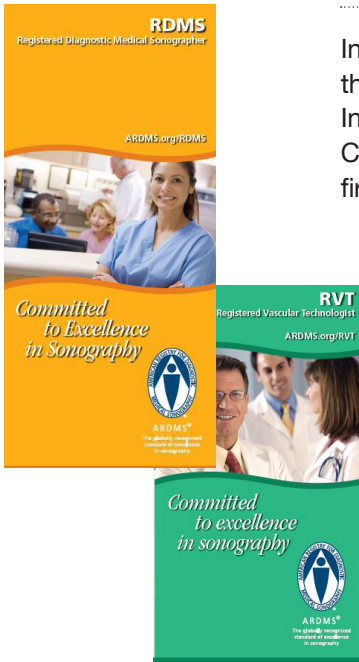
### *For Sonographers*

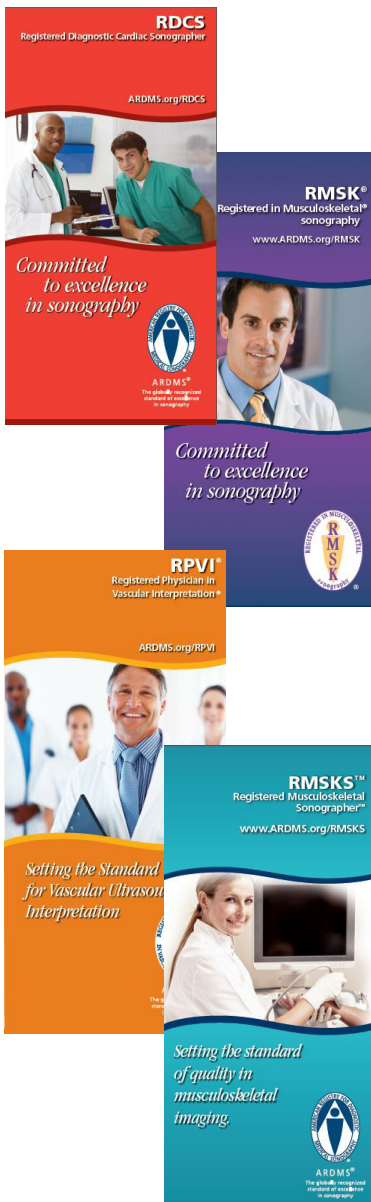
#### **1975 • RDMS®: Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer®**

- 1975: Abdomen (AB)
- 1975: Neurosonology (NE)
- 1975: Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN)
- 2001: Breast (BR)
- 2004: Fetal Echocardiography (FE)
- 2015: Pediatric Sonography (PS)

#### **1983 • RVT®: Registered Vascular Technologist®**

Vascular Technology (VT)





**1990 • RDCS®: Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer®**

- 1975: Adult Echocardiography (AE)
- 1975: Pediatric Echocardiography (PE)
- 2004: Fetal Echocardiography (FE)

**2015 • RMSKS™: Registered Musculoskeletal Sonographer™**

Musculoskeletal Sonographer (MSKS)

*For Physicians*

**2005 • RPVI®: Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation®**

- 2005: Physicians' Vascular Interpretation (PVI)
- 2014: RPVI China: Exam offered in Simplified Chinese

**2012 • RSK®: Registered in Musculoskeletal Sonography®**

Musculoskeletal Sonography (MSK)

*For Midwives*

The first Midwife Sonography Certificate examination will be administered in spring 2016.





*“ I had the privilege of writing the first physics exam. ”*

**– L. E. Schnitzer**



*“ Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, applicants had to complete a different “principles and instrumentation exam” along with a specialty exam for each of the three main credentials: RDMS, RDCS, and RVT. Given the breadth of sonography, we needed to instead encourage registrants to earn multiple credentials to represent their clinical areas of professional practice. This change (to one SPI exam) has saved Registrants fees on principles and instrumentation exams and encouraged all Registrants to earn multiple specialty credentials. As a sonography program director, this structure helps me encourage my students to earn multiple credentials across the RDMS, RDCS, and RVT specialty areas. ”*

**– Kari Boyce, PhD**

# Progress through Technology

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Innovations in technology have advanced not only ultrasound, but also the credentialing of the sonographers who practice it. Computerization has made it easier for applicants to practice and prepare for exams and for Registrants to maintain their hard-earned credentials. These technological milestones have supported ARDMS's mission.

## **1976**

Hundreds of hours are spent telephoning prospective helpers to act as examiners and asking them to get family members and friends to volunteer as scanning subjects, receptionists, proctors, and couriers.

## **1977**

Joan C. Korfhagen alphabetizes all the files, cross-references them with each Registrant's registry number, and duplicates the information to reorganize records as they are transferred from Chair to Chair.

## **1979**

The University of Cincinnati's Computer Department is hired to handle electronic scoring and recordkeeping, and the selection of examination centers is computerized for the 1979 exams.

## **1991**

The first computer-based examination is administered in May.

## **1997**

The VT and OB/GYN specialty exams are computerized.

## **1998**

Eight out of the 11 examinations are administered as computer exams.

**1999**

The first ARDMS website is developed.

ARDMS launches its first electronic and global Registrant survey online.

**2000**

ARDMS starts using ASI, Inc., as its new testing vendor, to meet the organization's technical requirements.

**2001**

ARDMS introduces an online examination tutorial so candidates can familiarize themselves with the various screens and tools they will encounter during the test.

ARDMS and SDMS announce a new CME Tracker to easily report continuing medical education credits.

**2002**

For the first time, Registrants are asked to pay their renewal fees online.

**2005**

The UPI, CPI, and VPI practice exams are available online.

**2007**

A new ARDMS website is launched.

**2009**

ARDMS moves to an all-online application process.

PearsonVUE implements a palm vein recognition scan as a requirement to safeguard the integrity of ARDMS examinations.

**2010**

Interactive *How to Apply Guides* are available online.

ARDMS launches Facebook and Twitter sites.

ARDMS introduces MY ARDMS.

## 2011

To simplify the CME audit process, ARDMS re-establishes automatic CME reporting processes with Chrestomathic Press, Inc., in addition to the SDMS tracker program.

## 2012

The SPI and MSK exams begin featuring Advanced Item Type questions, such as semi-interactive consoles and hotspots, to more closely simulate a hands-on testing environment.

## 2014

Picture Archive and Communication Simulation (PACSim) items first appear on the PVI exam.

## 2015

An updated website is launched.



“ This field has changed since I began working as a clinical sonographer. I began doing articulated B-scanning on a Picker ultrasound unit in 1979. I have had to relearn the science and art of sonography at least three times in my career, so it will be paramount for every newly credential sonographer to keep learning and practicing the newest innovations that are introduced by equipment manufacturers. I remember the first ATL UltraMark 4 unit that we purchased and I was told by our Radiologist not to use it unless I had used the articulated B-scan on the patient. Many of our staff didn't use the real-time unit; it was “too much extra work”. I was the only one who worked to use the ATL UltraMark 4 unit and practiced doing real time sonography. I would read journal articles about how others on the West Coast used real time to image their patients. This is a model for newly credential sonographers to use as they consider contrast media, elastography, and 3-D vascular sonography. ”

– Kevin Evans, PhD

# Progress through Volunteering



In 2014, ARDMS announced the launch of an enhanced Volunteer Engagement Program at the SDMS Annual Meeting. Yet, volunteers have been the backbone of ARDMS since 1975, earning the credibility and reputation that made us – and keeps us – the gold standard in ultrasound credentialing. 2014 statistics prove that ARDMS volunteers show no signs of slowing down after 40 years!



## 2014

- Volunteers spend approximately 8,620 hours participating in the development of examinations.
- 2,180 volunteers participate in Job Task Analysis surveys, write items, review items, serve on special committees and task forces, and fill top ARDMS governance positions.
- Volunteers review more than 2,000 items for use on ARDMS exams at 12 Item Development Workshops (IDWs) held over four weekends.
- 41 volunteers participate in two workshops to learn how to write high-quality items and easily submit them online.



Exam-development volunteers participate in reviewing questions and setting standards.

## 2014

- Three new volunteer positions debut: ARDMS Ambassadors, Content Contributors, and Mentors to Item Writers.
  - Three new volunteer positions are created to help develop Point-of-Care Assessments:
    - Template Developers
    - Scenario Authors
    - Image and Video Contributors
- 



*“ You’ll learn so much more by being involved in the profession. There are so many rewards to being part of the bigger picture. ”*

**– Andrea Skelly, PhD**



Our ARDMS volunteers work hard and have fun.

# Progress Internationally

ARDMS's mission expands globally. Below is a summary of the Registry's international involvement.

## **1986**

The first examinations are administered to military candidates in Germany using the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support System.

## **1997**

ARDMS enables the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers to mail applications and accept fees in Canadian funds to better meet the needs of Canadian Registrants and candidates.

## **2005**

ARDMS begins delivering exams in Ghana, West Africa; and Hong Kong, China.

## **2007-2008**

ARDMS staff and volunteers travel to China to administer the RPVI examination and begin discussion of creating of a Chinese version of the RPVI examination, establishing a new collaborative approach with the Chinese Ultrasound Doctors Association.

## **2011**

ARDMS switches to a new testing platform through PearsonVUE that allows for the ability to test in new locations outside of North America.

## **2012**

Eight Registrants and one candidate volunteer their time and expertise with the American Society of Echocardiography's project ASE Global: Focus on India.

## **2014**

A Latin American Task Force is created to investigate and forge relationships so ARDMS can better understand sonography practice in Latin America.



Dale Cyr, R. Eugene Zierler and Kevin Evans in China.



ARDMS senior leadership explores opportunities to establish the organization's presence in China.

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*“ It was important to move ARDMS into the international arena. ”*

**– Cathy Babiak**



*“ My trips to China to meet with the ultrasound doctors there made me realize the Global significance of what we do, and the unique relationship we have between our physicians and sonographers, unique in the world. ”*

**– Steven Leers, MD**

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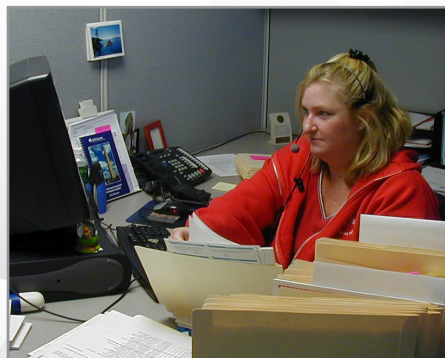


Volunteers on the Latin American Task Force have worked to further our global reach of assessments in Latin America.



## Progress Behind the Scenes

Long gone are the days of running ARDMS in its leaders' homes. From one part-time executive secretary in 1979 to a staff of over 78 in 13 departments, from hotel office space in Cincinnati, Ohio, to a national office outside of the Nation's Capital, the ARDMS staff are proud to share in the mission of promoting quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals.



The ARDMS staff is as dedicated and hard-working as always, but they do find time to enjoy each other's company.

# Progress in the Public Eye

In the late 1990s, ARDMS participated in several projects to educate the public on the value of ARDMS credentials.

## 1998

ABC's "Prime Time Live" airs a segment on ultrasound that informs the public about ARDMS credentials. ARDMS runs a one-page ad in *USA Today* to thank the news show for its coverage.

- *Redbook* and *American Baby* magazines and several newspapers also run stories emphasizing the importance of ARDMS credentials.
- A 30-second public service announcement is aired in 28 states.

## 2015

Today, the ARDMS website features an "Information for Patients" section to educate patients about sonography and why having a sonogram performed by an ARDMS-certified professional is in their best interests.



*“ Many patients will receive only one exam, and our expertise in identifying their underlying disease may direct their care and save their lives. ”*

**- Anne M. Jones**

THANK YOU, PRIMETIME LIVE FOR WARNING AMERICA...

On Wednesday evening, January 14, 1998, viewers of ABC's *Primetime Live* learned... perhaps for the first time... that if they or someone they know is about to undergo an ultrasound study, they should insist on the services of a registered sonographer.

—a doctor in ABC's companion piece, *Science*. "One of thousands of people who perform ultrasound... According to experts less than one half are registered."

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

- **Only** The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) tests and awards certification in the areas of obstetrics/gynecology, medical general (B-Mode and abdomen), cardiac, and vascular ultrasound. No law exists to regulate 450,000 of the health-care profession.
- **Only** sonographers who have demonstrated that they meet ARDMS predetermined levels of formal education and on training and expertise are eligible to take the rigorous exams which, when passed, lead to certification.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:**

To ensure that your ultrasound study is performed by a certified sonographer:

- **STOP** at the center or laboratory where your exam is scheduled and ask for the credentials of the person who will be performing your study. Remember your procedure may call for any or all three certifications.
- **LOOK** for a certificate from the ARDMS on the wall. Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (RDMS), Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographers (RDCS), and Registered Vascular Technologists (RVT) will proudly display their credentials.
- **LISTEN**. When you meet the person performing your examination and ask again about their education, experience and background in ultrasound, listen to the answer.

While physicians interpret the results of ultrasound studies, the quality of that analysis relies upon the skill of the registered sonographer (the second line up of great "Kaiser" jokes is worth some "light" snort!).

**INSIST ON AN ARDMS CERTIFIED SONOGRAPHER.**

Although there are more than 300,000 ARDMS certified sonographers and vascular technologists, there are thousands of well-trained and experienced individuals who care and hope for their certification process. We urge qualified sonographers and vascular technologists to meet an immediately to begin the certification process. We urge the public to insist on an ARDMS certified sonographer.

The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers  
4900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210-3200  
http://www.ardms.org

# Progress through Leadership

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Good workers have jobs. Great workers have careers. Passionate workers – those who care deeply about their profession beyond their personal satisfaction – have vocations, and it’s this third group that gives a profession its leaders. Forty years of exceptional leaders have guided ARDMS. In their own words, past ARDMS leaders share their insights.



*“ Plan on being a lifelong learner. Always give your very best every day to your patients. They deserve it and you owe it to them. Have compassion, be a good detective, and never stop scanning until you are sure you have done the best you can to explain their symptoms. ”*

**– Joan P. Baker**



*“ I remember lectures from our early forefathers, telling us that the gallbladder could not be adequately imaged with ultrasound. What if we had listened? ”*

**– Janet Bolin-Simonetta**



*“ I didn’t train technicians; I educated sonographers. ”*

**– L. E. Schnitzer**



*“ My mother told me sonography ‘isn’t going anywhere.’ But I had a gut-level feeling that this would work. ”*

**– Andrea Skelly, PhD**



*“ Attending written exams each year brought home the importance of our work and how seriously the candidates took the exams. ”*

**– Fred Anderson, PhD**



*“ Work in a hospital or office with good experienced sonographers who know what they’re doing and good doctors who will teach you. Stay there at least a year, and then you’ll be confident. ”*

**– Mary Beth Geagan**



*“ Never compromise! Treat every patient with the dignity they deserve, and incorporate good ergonomics into every study. I feel very satisfied that I have lived the axiom ‘do what you love, love what you do’ and helped incorporate standards of excellence into our profession along the way. ”*

**– Anne M. Jones**



*“ My biggest hope for ARDMS is that anyone who performs ultrasound passes a credentialing exam in their areas of practice. Patient safety is most important. ”*

**– Cathy Babiak**



*“ Involvement with ARDMS exposed me to a breadth of sonography professionals – sonographers, physicians, and scientists – that I doubt I would have met in any other single venue. ”*

**– Kari Boyce, PhD**



*“ Align yourself with a physician/lab director with a passion for ultrasound and an appreciation for its importance to clinical practice. That’s how you’ll learn the most and be most valuable. ”*

**– Steven Leers, MD**



*“ I have this huge dream that all our sonographers and physicians who use ultrasound in their daily work will see the value of credentialing and also evidence-based practice. Our field is so dependent on published research and its influence on the way we should practice imaging and therapy. I hope that future sonographers will invest in continued education and become masterful in the use of evidence-based practice to give their patients the highest level of care. ”*

**– Kevin Evans, PhD**



Past Chairs of the ARDMS Board of Directors were honored at the 40th anniversary celebration for their vision and leadership.

# Progress by Numbers

*Rise in Registrants*

**1976:** 400 Registrants



**1987:** 11,000 Registrants



**1998:** 35,000 Registrants



**2006:** 50,000 Registrants



**2011:** 70,000 Registrants



**2015:** 93,090 Registrants

