



**ASE** American Society of  
Echocardiography  
*Heart & Circulation Ultrasound Specialists*

## Support of Lab Accreditation Solidified with ASE/ICAEL Partnership

*Sale of ASE's Echo ToolBox™ Accreditation Tool to ICAEL Facilitates Advances*

MORRISVILLE, North Carolina – December 29, 2009 – The American Society of Echocardiography (**ASE**) announces the sale of its *Echo ToolBox™* (ETB) accreditation tool to the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (**ICAEL**). By acquiring ETB, the ICAEL will be able to utilize the popular policy wizards, tips and other tools that have been valuable in helping echo labs standardize their policies and protocols to meet the accreditation standards for the performance of quality echocardiography studies. The incorporation of these tools into the soon-to-be-released ICAEL Online Accreditation application format will enhance the user's ability to navigate quickly through the application and demonstrate compliance with the ICAEL Standards.

Debuted in 2007 as a collaborative effort of the ASE and the ICAEL, ETB has served as a low-cost, web-based resource for laboratories preparing to apply for accreditation and reaccreditation. More than 270 laboratories have used ETB to facilitate their applications and progress toward applying for ICAEL accreditation. During the transition of ownership, the ASE will assist the ICAEL with supporting these labs and will continue to provide staff support to the current ETB users through April 1, 2010. ETB users should not notice any change in service during the transition. After that date, the ASE will continue directing new labs and individuals directly to the ICAEL. The ASE strongly believes that the best way to raise the quality of cardiovascular services and promote excellence in the field is to support lab accreditation.

“The ICAEL's acquisition of the Echo ToolBox™ will now provide a more efficient avenue for laboratory accreditation. This will be a clear benefit for those seeking to demonstrate their commitment to excellence in echocardiography. We appreciate ASE's strong continued support of the accreditation process,” remarked ICAEL President Geoffrey A. Rose, MD, FACC, FASE.

**About ASE**

*The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is a professional organization of physicians, cardiac sonographers, nurses and scientists involved in echocardiography, the use of ultrasound to image the heart and cardiovascular system. The organization was founded in 1975 and has more than 14,000 members nationally and internationally. For more information on ASE, visit [www.asecho.org](http://www.asecho.org) or ASE's Public Information site, [www.SeeMyHeart.org](http://www.SeeMyHeart.org).*

**About ICAEL**

*Committed to balancing the changing needs of both the echocardiography community and the general public, the ICAEL was created in 1996 by uniting physicians and sonographers from its sponsoring organizations. The ICAEL is dedicated to promoting high quality echocardiographic diagnostic evaluations in the delivery of health care by providing a peer review process of laboratory accreditation. To date more than 4,000 echocardiography laboratory sites are accredited by the ICAEL. While participation in the accreditation process is considered voluntary, a multitude of private insurers, as well as Medicare carriers, have instituted policies linking reimbursement to the accreditation status of the laboratory. To learn more about ICAEL accreditation, visit [www.icael.org](http://www.icael.org).*

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