

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASE Congratulates Members Who are Among the First to Achieve the Advanced Cardiac Sonographer Designation

Morrisville, NC, July 22, 2015—The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) applauds the recognition of its members who have achieved the new Cardiovascular Credentialing International's (CCI) Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography (ACS) designation. This exam was developed with senior leaders from the ASE community serving on the writing and development committee.

ASE is pleased to recognize 43 members who received ACS credential during the pilot program:

David Adams, RCS, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Bonita Anderson, MAppISc, DMU, AMS, ACS, FASE

Dennis Atherton, RDCS, RCT, RRT, ACS, FASE

J. Todd Belcik, BS, RCS, RDCS, ACS, FASE

James Bergfeld, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Lisa Bienvenu, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Michelle Bierig, MPH, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Paul Braum, RDCS, RVT, RCIS, ACS, FASE

Merri Bremer, RN, RDCS, ACS, FASE

T.M. Patrick Connolly, RCS, CCT, ACS

Lindsey Couture, RCS, RDCS, ACS

Melissa Dickinson, RDCS, RCS, ACS

Jessica Granthom, RDCS, ACS

Joy Guthrie, PhD, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, ACS

Jeff Hill, BS, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Kenneth Horton, RCS, ACS, FASE

Celeste Kessler, RDCS, RCS, ACS

Chris Kramer, BA, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Joe Kreeger, RCCS, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Amie Majerus, BS, RDCS, RCS, ACS, FASE

Marti McCulloch, MBA, BS, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Robert McDonald, RDCS, RCS, RCCS, RCIS, ACS, FASE

Rick Meece, RDCS, RCS, RCIS, ACS, FASE

Bradley Mehl, RDCS, RVT, RDMS, RT(R), ACS, FASE

Carol Mitchell, PhD, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, RT(R), ACS, FASE

Jennifer Neary, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Troy Olsen, RDCS (AE, PE), ACS

Richard Palma, BS, RDCS, RCS, APS, ACS, FASE

Margaret Park, BS, RDCS, RVT, ACS, FASE

Narayana Prasad, MS, MBBS, RDCS, RCS, RDMS, RVT, RVS, ACS, FASE

Marsha Roberts, RCS, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Brad Roberts, RCS, ACS, FASE

Elaine Shea, APS, RCCS, ACS, FASE

G. Monet Strachan, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Brandon Sullivan, BS, RDCS, RCS, ACS, FASE

Kelly Thorson, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Pamela Tocco, MHS, BS, RDCS, RVT, ACS, FASE

John Toptine, RCS, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Matt Umland, RDCS, ACS, FASE

Julie White, BS, RDCS, RVT, RDMS, ACS, FASE

Rita Wisinski, RN RDCS RVT, ACS

Tina Yost, RDCS, RVT, ACS

Karen Zimmerman, BS, RDCS (AE, PE), RVT, ACS, FASE



ASE has played an integral role in the development of the cardiac sonographer field. It published a [white paper](#), *Advanced Cardiovascular Sonographer: A Proposal of the American Society of Echocardiography Advanced Practice Sonographer Task Force*, in the *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography* in December 2009 that helped guide the development of the ACS credentialing program. The conclusion of this white paper indicated:

“The need for ACSs has emerged because of the technologic advances, procedure volumes, and continued need for proper supervision in the field of echocardiography. The Advanced Practice Sonographer Task Force supports the development of an advanced practice clinical sonographer. This role, known as an ACS, would require completion of a recognized ACS educational program with specific educational requirements, including didactic instruction and a formal internship.”

An ACS is a sonographer practicing at an advanced level in a cardiovascular ultrasound laboratory to ensure quality echocardiographic examinations are performed. Their role is multi-faceted. Specific responsibilities include teaching and training less experienced staff sonographers to assess cases thoroughly and accurately using appropriate echocardiographic methods, providing continuing education and training on new echocardiographic methods and protocols, and reviewing studies to ensure completeness and accuracy. The ACS role is designed to work under the direct supervision of a physician echocardiographer and function at a high level to improve the quality and efficiency of the lab.

ASE’s president, Susan Wieggers, MD, FACC, FASE, stated that she “believes the recognition of senior level sonographers is important to the field.” The ASE’s membership has many individuals that are an integral part of the echocardiography lab and provide their expertise in innumerable ways including teaching fellows and new sonographers, assisting with research and conducting management-level duties. She noted that, “the echo team is just that, a body that needs all parts functioning together at peak capability to deliver high quality care to patients. These ACS-level individuals can strengthen the team by providing another level of expertise and assistance in the lab.” ASE supports the educational pathway to this new credential, while also recognizing the senior members of the field who have earned this designation through years of experience on the job.

ASE has been a consistent advocate for advancement and quality in the field of cardiac sonography and was the founder and initial organizational sponsor of the Committee on Accreditation – Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography (CoA-ACS), which provides a professional career educational ladder. The CoA-ACS developed the *Standards and Guidelines for Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography*, reviews programs that wish to provide advanced education, and formulates accreditation recommendations which are then considered by CAAHEP. Schools wishing to apply for ACS programmatic accreditation should contact the CoA-ACS (www.coaacs.org)

As the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging, the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines. Comprised of over 16,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, and scientists, ASE is a strong voice providing guidance, expertise, and education to its members with a commitment to improving the practice of ultrasound and imaging of the heart and cardiovascular system for better patient outcomes. For more information about ASE visit <http://www.asecho.org/>.

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