



Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

**MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY**

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CARE Bill Update

Everyone is aware of the CARE bill (Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy) that has been in existence for several years. The passing of the bill has been turbulent to say the least and often due to governmental prioritizations. There appears to be great support from many of our representatives recognizing that minimum standards must be set for imaging personnel who hold great responsibility for the safety of patients and accuracy of outcomes. This is not about a certified person be better than non-certified, but rather a unity of entry level knowledge and clinical practice standards. Through experience, knowledge is enhanced greatly, but it must start at an entry level.

On Friday (June 8), the House Energy & Commerce committee held a hearing on the CARE bill. After being notified the hearing was scheduled, SDMS submitted a request to be included on the witness list (those selected to present testimony). Unfortunately, we were not selected but we were able to submit our testimony through a committee member to be included as part of the hearing. There were only four organizations selected to be a part of the witness list from numerous requests. ASRT (American Society for Radiologic Technology and ASRTO (American Society for Radiation Oncology) were the only professional associations.

The hearing was very short, as far as hearings go...approximately 45 minutes. ASRT's Sal Martino spoke passionately and delivered key points regarding the CARE bill. Essentially from the meeting, no harm was done and hopefully, the bill will gain the momentum needed to continue. This hearing has been a long time coming...12 years, actually. The next step will be a request for a Bill mark-up along with movement to begin on the Senate side.

*Tammy Stearns, MS, RDMS, RVT, RT(R)
Government Relations Committee Chair
Taken from SDMS Discussion Forum 6/11/12*

Further details can be found at: <https://www.asrt.org/main/standards-regulations/regulatory-legislative-news/2012/06/08/care-bill-discussed-at-congressional-hearing>



**MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY**

July 2012

MU Sound Byte

Misericordia University
Diagnostic Medical Sonography



Issue 5

Congratulations to the Class of 2012

On March 16, 2012 seventeen students graduated from the Sonography Program.

The celebration was held at Misericordia University's Insalaco Hall. University administration, faculty, and clinical instructors, celebrated with the graduates and their families.

This year two students received the Academic Achievement Award for academic excellence. Both had GPA's within one-hundredth of a point difference. The recipients were Allison Kenia and Kimberly Suchoski. Congratulations to both students as this is quite an accomplishment knowing the rigor of the sonography program.

This class is excelling in ARDMS exams. Sixteen of the seventeen graduates earned their RDMS within two months of graduation. Fifteen of the seventeen have earned both abdomen and OB/GYN specialty. Every exam that has been taken was passed successfully on

their first attempt. That is a total of 47exams with a 100% pass rate (16 SPI, 16 Abdomen and 15 OB/GYN). Currently, 14 of the 17 have secured employment either fulltime, part time or per-diem. The reputation of the program has allowed this success in a current tight job market.



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Fall Course Offerings

The Sonography Department is offering the following courses beginning August 25th.

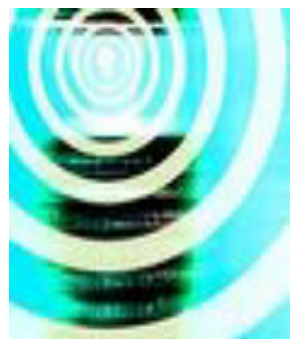
On-line; All coursework is completed from your home:

Advanced Vascular (3 credits) ; Breast Sonography (2 credits)

On campus courses include:

Physics with lab (3 credits) and Introduction to Vascular Sonography with lab (3 credits)

If interested in any of these courses, please contact the program at 570-674-6790 by July 15, 2012. Cost is \$350.00 per credit.



THANK YOU

The program is very fortunate to have tremendous support from the community over the years. This year, Geisinger Wyoming Valley has committed to donating a piece of sonography equipment, a Siemens Sequoia unit to the program to assist in updating our laboratory facility on campus. If your department is

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

upgrading equipment, please consider donating the old unit to the program to enhance student learning as well as student adaptability to the clinical setting. Alumni or individuals who donate to Misericordia University can designate their monetary contributions specifically to the Sonography Program. We encourage those who donate to do so

THANK YOU

in support of the program. If you would like information regarding monetary donations, of any amount, please contact Sheryl Goss.

The program sincerely appreciates EVERYTHING that you do for the students.

First Bachelor of Science Diagnostic Medical Sonography Graduate

The department is extremely proud to announce that our first student enrolled in the Bachelor’s Sonography degree graduated May 19, 2012. **Jennifer Windt, RDMS** was a 2008 graduate of our certificate program and is employed by Wyoming Valley Health Care System. In fall 2009, she began her coursework towards the newly implemented BS degree.

Congratulations to Jennifer on her success!

Here are some thoughts regarding her experience here at Misericordia.

My motivation for pursuing my BS was job advancement. I feel without having my BS there might someday

be an opportunity that I would have possibly missed out on. I also wanted to have my BS before it became a requirement of my current job. I wanted to be able to do it at my own pace. My experience at MU was a pleasant one. I took all except one class on-line and I was able to work at my own pace. I feel I excelled in on-line classes because the classroom can sometimes be stressful, but with on-line classes, you are in the comfort of your own surroundings. The advantage of having my BS is that it was one of my personal goals and it gives me a great feeling of accomplishment. My recommendation for other sonographers is to not wait get it done. I feel getting my BS was easier than achieving my RDMS.



“Having my B.S. degree was one of my personal goals and gives me a great feeling of accomplishment”

Clinical Associate Benefit Offerings

With the addition of the Bachelor of Science degree in Sonography and the Advanced Sonography courses being offered online, we hope you will take advantage of Misericordia University’s offering of free tuition for up to six credits per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30th).

The benefit can apply to all undergraduate or graduate level courses and does not need to be sonography related courses. In order to qualify for the benefit, the sonographer must be credentialed (RDMS or RVT) and work with our students on a

regular basis. The management of the credits is at the discretion of the JRCDS approved Clinical Instructor and Department Director in the event multiple sonographers want to take courses. Contact Karen Klimas at 570-674-8013 with any questions.

Clinical Instruction CMEs

Once again this year, the program will be offering SDMS continuing education credits in appreciation for Clinical Instructorship. The maximum number of credits is six per year. The cycle is from January 1 to December 15th. New forms have been e-mailed out to clinical instructors. Please feel free to make additional copies as needed. When submitting, be sure to include the log of time spent with the student(s) and the evaluation form. Be sure the student verifies and signs the form for each block of time spent instructing the

student. Upon receipt of these documents, you will be issued your CME certificate via e-mail. Please note, the ARRT does NOT accept clinical instructorship credits. They are accepted by the ARDMS.

What Constitutes Instruction?

Following SDMS CME policies, instruction is defined as:

1. Observing the student perform the examination or part of the examination and offering technical tips and protocol suggestions.

2. Reviewing the images with the student after the examination and discussing pathology, pathophysiology, anatomy, differential diagnosis, expected clinical manifestations, technique or laboratory values of certain conditions.

Note: Time spent “in the room” with the student and not providing instruction is not considered educational and is not eligible for CME credit.

SDMS National Conference- Seattle Washington

The SDMS annual conference is September 20-23th with pre conference tutorials on Thursday September 19th. The location is the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington.

This conference offers several specialty tracks in which the attendee can attend any presentation within any specialty.

It is a great opportunity to refresh one’s knowledge in the areas that are less practiced or hear the latest uses of sonography in your specialty. An abundance of CME’s can be earned in these three/four days.

SDMS Foundation offers \$500.00 grants for those who desire to attend, but may not receive funding from

employers. Please keep this in mind for 2013 when the conference is held in Las Vegas.



Accreditation Update

As we prepare in anticipation for our site visit in fall of 2012 or spring 2013, the program’s advisory board and department faculty are reviewing both program and University goals to ensure that they are attainable and appropriate. One topic addressed is level of supervision. The two levels are direct and indirect.

Direct supervision refers to the sonographer working directly with the student to review the requested exam as well as patient condition to determine student knowledge and ability. The sonographer is in the room with the student and must review and approve images upon completion of the study for submission. This is best practice for students who have not completed a

competency in that exam area.

Indirect supervision refers to once the student meets the appropriate criteria to be deemed competent in a certain examination/ study, the sonographer is not required to be in the room with the student, however, must check images prior to dismissal of the patient from the department.