

ARDMS Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) Examination

In April 2009, ARDMS will launch the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) examination. SPI will meet the fundamental physical principles and instrumentation requirement needed to earn the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS), Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS) and Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT) credentials*. ARDMS will begin accepting applications for the SPI examination in February 2009.

Those seeking to earn an ARDMS credential (RDMS, RDCS, RVT) will be required to apply for and pass both the SPI examination and a corresponding specialty examination(s). Once the SPI examination has been passed, applicants may earn additional credentials without having to take another physical principles and instrumentation examination.

ARDMS has announced that students may apply for the SPI examination prior to graduation under the new SPI Requirement. The SPI Requirement, which will be featured in the 2009 ARDMS application scheduled for release in February 2009, will allow a student to apply if the following education and documentation requirements can be met:

Education: Successful completion of a general, medical or sonographic physics class/seminar/course.

Documentation Required with Application:

- 1) A transcript** reflecting successful completion of a graded general, medical or sonographic college, post secondary or higher education physics class (with a grade of C or above); or
- 2) A CME certificate denoting successful completion of a general, medical or sonographic physics seminar, physics review course, or physics correspondence course, signed by the Program Director, denoting a minimum award of 12 ARDMS-accepted CME credits. The certificate must meet ARDMS CME documentation requirements***.



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About the SDMS Sonography Mentor

The *SDMS Sonography Mentor* is published quarterly by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The electronic newsletter is designed for anyone involved in initial education or continuing medical education (CME) in the sonography profession including, but not limited to, educational program directors, course instructors, clinical instructors, and CME activity presenters.

Active ARDMS Registrants who hold the RDMS, RDCS and/or RVT credentials, do not need to take the SPI examination to maintain current credentials. Active Registrants only need to take the SPI examination if seeking a new credential. ARDMS policy does not permit a “grandfather clause” for active ARDMS Registrants or for those who have only passed one or more of the currently offered physical principles and instrumentation examinations - Ultrasound (UPI), Cardiovascular (CPI) or Vascular (VPI).

The SPI section of the ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org/SPI) features up-to-date information and helpful resources to assist you in preparing for the SPI examination. You may also sign-up to receive e-mail notifications about the latest SPI updates.

The following is a list of the current SPI articles and resources on the website:

- SPI Practice Examinations
(link: <http://www.ardms.org/default.asp?contentID=924>)
- SPI Content Outline
(link: <http://www.ardms.org/default.asp?contentID=278>)
- Overview of the SPI Examination
(link: <http://www.ardms.org/default.asp?contentID=901>)
- What the SPI Examination Means for You
(link: <http://www.ardms.org/default.asp?contentID=906>)

A letter from the program director is not required for students when applying for the SPI examination under the SPI Examination Requirement.

The Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) Examination Requirement was developed as a pathway for those who cannot meet the clinical requirements of the ARDMS prerequisites. Specifically, the SPI Examination Requirement allows students to apply for the SPI examination **prior to graduation**. The SPI Examination Requirement cannot be used when applying for a specialty examination (e.g. AB, OB, AE, VT). Please see the “Notes About the SPI Examination Requirement” section in the SPI Examination Requirement document.

* The SPI examination does not apply towards the Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) credential.

** Transcript requirements: Name of applicant must be printed on transcript and the class or course name must specifically indicate “Physics” in the title and be printed on the transcript. Supplementary information will not be accepted.

*** CME documentation (certificates, etc.) must include the following information: Name of participant, date of course or activity, ARDMS number (if applicable), ARDMS approved sponsoring organization (e.g. General Hospital and Medical Center), ARDMS approved provider organization (e.g. AMA cat.1, ASRT cat. A and A+, ASUM, CMECmte - CMA, CSDMS, CSVS, SDMS, SVU.) This list is subject to change. Please visit www.ARDMS.org for a complete list.), title of course or activity, and/or number of credit hours awarded.

NOTE:

The SPI section of the ARDMS website features up-to-date information and helpful resources to assist you in preparing for the SPI examination.

www.ARDMS.org/SPI

Mark your calendars!

February 9, 2009

ARDMS will begin accepting online applications for the SPI examination. Reminder, ARDMS is switching to all-online application processing in 2009.

April 2, 2009

ARDMS webinar on the new SPI exam. Register at <http://www.sdms.org/members/webinars>

April 4, 2009

Final day the Ultrasound (UPI), Cardiovascular (CPI) and Vascular (VPI) physical principles and instrumentation examinations will be administered.

April 6, 2009

Administration of the SPI examination begins.

Individual Credit System

SDMS has told you about the new *SDMS CME Management System* that CME providers use to apply for CME activities, but what you may not know is that individuals have a new way of applying for CME credit, too. The SDMS Individual CME Credit Request System now allows individuals to apply for college course and author/editor credit online.

1. Go to <http://cme.sdms.org/individuals>,
2. Choose the type of credit.
3. Click *Submit* to access the online application.
4. Fill in the brief *User Information* and the *Credit Information* sections.
5. Click *Submit* to go to the payment screen. *Author/Edit and College Course credit are free to SDMS members. Non-members pay a fee of \$125 per application; the fee can be paid online using a credit card, or a check can be mailed to SDMS.*
6. Confirmation with all the details of your application, including a list of anything that needs to be mailed to the SDMS will be received.

NOTE:

- Applications for Author/Editor credit require a copy of the work.
- For College Credit applications, a course description and school transcript must be submitted and must be applied for within 1 year of completing the course.
- After the application is approved, a link to the CME certificate is sent via email.

In the past, speakers also had to apply for CME credit individually. Under the new *SDMS CME Management System*, speakers are given credit for SDMS-approved activities by the CME provider. Speakers are added to the roster with participants, allowing them to receive their CME credit(s) much faster.

The SDMS' new online CME system make it faster and easier than ever to apply for CME credit. Go to <http://cme.sdms.org/individuals> to apply for your individual CME credit today!

SDMS CME Tracker – What's Being Tracked?

Are you having a difficult time keeping track of your CME credits? It is now easier than ever with the *SDMS CME Tracker System*. The *SDMS CME Tracker System* has recently expanded, and by July 1, 2009 will track all CME credits issued by all SDMS-approved CME providers.

What is currently being tracked? All CME credits that are issued for activities that are approved through the new *SDMS CME Management System* will automatically be tracked in the *SDMS CME Tracker System*. While all SDMS CME credits are recorded, only SDMS CME credits for



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current SDMS members will automatically be reported to the ARDMS.

What is not being tracked? The *SDMS CME Tracker System* does not track CME credits for activities that are not approved through the new *SDMS CME Management System*. CME credits approved through other CME approval organizations (ASE, AIUM, SVU, ASRT, AMA, etc.) are also not tracked.

Call for Committee Members!

Earn free CME credit and support the SDMS at the same time. The SDMS CME Review Committee is looking for volunteer reviewers. What does the SDMS CME Review Committee do?

Every time self-instructional activities are submitted for CME credit, they are sent to a member of the SDMS CME Review Committee for evaluation. Types of self-instructional activities include books, DVD's, flashcards, audio CD's, online webcasts, home study programs and online articles, each with a required post-test. Once the committee member has reviewed the assigned activity, the review is submitted online and the committee member is automatically awarded CME credit for the time spent reviewing the activity.

This is a great way to earn free CME's from the SDMS and be a part of the largest sonography association in the country. All committee members must be current SDMS members.

Please contact Amy Westerman, Director, Education and Meetings at awesterman@sdms.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Don't Forget About Your Roster!

Just a reminder to the CME providers: Don't forget that you only have 30 days from the date your activity ends to get all of your participants on your roster. After 30 days, you can still resend certificates, but you won't be able to add or edit participants. No exceptions!

- Tip #1** Use the CME Participant Roster available in the Downloads section of the *SDMS CME Management System* to help ensure you get all the required information from your participants.
- Tip #2** Tell your participants that they must have all of the required information to you no later than 2 weeks after the activity if they want to receive CME credit.
- Tip #3** Tell your participants to let you know if they haven't received their certificates within 3 weeks after the activity. That way if there is an incorrect email address you can fix it before the 30 day deadline.
- Tip #4** Remind participants to give you their SDMS number and ARDMS number. The SDMS number will auto-populate most of their information, making adding them to your roster much faster; if you provide their ARDMS number, the credits will automatically be reported to the ARDMS for them.



New SDMS Webinar Series is a Hit!

SDMS's newest benefit, the *SDMS Webinar Series* is a success. Over 1000 SDMS members have attended a FREE SDMS webinar and completed their post-test to receive SDMS CME credit. This new member benefit offers free live monthly webinars with knowledgeable speakers presenting a variety of topics. Log on and register today.

You can attend the webinar live or watch the recorded version at your convenience. When you register for the webinar, you will receive an email confirmation with the information you will need to log in to the webinar. You can download/print the handouts for the webinar from the Webinars page on the SDMS website before the webinar. If you choose to attend the live webinars you will be able to ask our experienced speakers specific questions about their topic during the presentation. Once the webinar has ended, you will take a short post-test to earn the free CME credit.

If you are not able to attend a live webinar, you can still earn the CME credit by viewing the recorded webinar and completing the post-test. All SDMS webinars are recorded and posted along with the handouts and the post-test on the SDMS website.

The following recorded SDMS webinars are currently available:

A Training Program – Orientation of Clinical Instructors
presented by Maureen McDaniel, MEd, RDMS, RDCS, RVT

Extremity Arterial Studies: Physiologic Testing vs. Duplex Sonography
presented by Marsha Neumyer, BS, RVT, FSVU, FAIUM, FSDMS

Sonographic Evaluation for Chromosomal Anomalies
presented by Charlotte Henningsen, MS, RT, RDMS, RVT, FSDMS

Cardiac Hemodynamics and Doppler Principles
presented by Joy Guthrie, DHSc, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, ROUB

So don't miss out any longer, to view these recorded webinars or to register for an upcoming webinar, go to:

<http://www.sdms.org/members/webinars>

Note:

The *SDMS Webinar Series* is a member benefit of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), and is open to all current SDMS members. The webinar is not available to non-members

To join SDMS, visit at: <http://www.sdms.org/membership/>



Upcoming Webinars

Image Optimization in Vascular Ultrasound

Presented by Cindy Owen, RT, RDMS, RVT, FSDMS

February 5, 2009

8:00 pm (Eastern); 7:00 pm (Central); 6:00 pm (Mountain); 5:00 pm (Pacific)

The Role of the JRC-DMS in the Process of Programmatic Accreditation

Presented by Kathryn Kuntz, Med, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, FSDMS

March 19, 2009

8:00 pm (Eastern); 7:00 pm (Central); 6:00 pm (Mountain); 5:00 pm (Pacific)

Renal Transplant

Presented by Salvatore LaRusso, Med, RDMS, RT(R)

March 26, 2009

8:00 pm (Eastern); 7:00 pm (Central); 6:00 pm (Mountain); 5:00 pm (Pacific)

ARDMS and New SPI Test Update

Presented by ARDMS

April 2, 2009

8:00 pm (Eastern); 7:00 pm (Central); 6:00 pm (Mountain); 5:00 pm (Pacific)

Pulmonary Hypertension

Presented by Margaret Park BS, RVT, RDCS, FASE

April 16, 2009

8:00 pm (Eastern); 7:00 pm (Central); 6:00 pm (Mountain); 5:00 pm (Pacific)

Abdominal Doppler

Presented by Jill Herzog Trotter BS, RT(R), RDMS, RVT

May 21, 2009

8:00 pm (Eastern); 7:00 pm (Central); 6:00 pm (Mountain); 5:00 pm (Pacific)

The Evaluation of Left and Right Sided Diastology by Echocardiography

Presented by Allen Borowski RDCS, FASE

June 11, 2009

8:00 pm (Eastern); 7:00 pm (Central); 6:00 pm (Mountain); 5:00 pm (Pacific)

Register for these great presentations today at:

<http://www.sdms.org/members/webinars>

Struggling with Objectives?

Many people struggle with writing objectives. But here are some tips to help you.

Identifying and properly stating objectives is arguably one of the most vital steps in planning an educational activity. Objectives help guide development of the educational activity. A useful objective will successfully convey its intent so that the participant will know what is expected at the end of the activity. The format for stating clear objectives includes three components that help an objective communicate its intent.

- Observable/measurable action (What is to be done)
 - Conditions under which the objective is measured (How it is done)
 - Measureable criteria (How well it is done)
- * *Conditions and measurable criteria should only be included if needed to improve the clarity of the stated objective.*

Behavioral verbs are the most important part of the objective. The participant's action/performance should be observable and measurable, so the objective should be written using verbs that describe that observable performance. You should begin each objective with an "action verb". Although frequently used, verbs such as "know" or "understand" or "learn" do not describe an observable behavior, they describe events that take place inside the learner and are not observable or measurable.



*Please see Appendix A in the **SDMS CME Policies & Procedures** for examples of action verbs and of properly written objectives.*



Miss an issue?

Past issues of the *SDMS Sonography Mentor* are archived online at:

<http://www.sdms.org/members/mentorarchive.asp>