The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Foundation provides educational and scientific research support to the medical community and general public as it relates to diagnostic medical sonography. Founded in 2009, the SDMS Foundation is affiliated with the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS).

$58,376
distributed through programs that benefit the sonography community.

$20,750
83 Certification Exam Grants

$15,873
5 Research Grants

$7,500
3 Scholarships

$1,000
1 International Assistance Grant

$2,880
18 Hardship Grants

$10,373
Grant to The Ohio State University for research on WRMSDs in sonography

NEW FOR 2021
Cheryl L. Boodt, BS, RDMS, RVT, recipient of the SDMS Foundation’s 2021 International Assistance grant, didn’t start out to become a sonographer. She entered the field in her forties as a second career that included her zestfully teaching sonography to others. Two days after her retirement from Holland Hospital in her hometown of Holland, Michigan, Cheryl and husband, Tom, boarded a plane to Nairobi, Kenya in 2019. She had decided to combine her skills and love for sonography with her childhood dream to be a medical missionary. They flew into the unknown, unable to fully grasp the impact they would make in meager, joy-filled villages and mission hospitals 7,700 miles from their home.

That first trip – to work at 126-bed African Inland Church (A.I.C.) Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya – was something of a medical missionary litmus test. Would what they saw capture their dedication, bringing them back on future visits? It did. Initially, Cheryl spotted the need to teach medical staff how to order scans and to create protocols for sonographers to have a more systematic approach in searching for pathology. Seeing a few needs was like opening a door to a hallway of doors, each revealing other exciting ways to bring sonography learning and skills to eager, hardworking clinical teams.

But it wasn’t principally the needs – an obvious shortage of doctors, equipment, and financial resources for healthcare – that would call them back. It was the people, so high-spirited, filled with life and enthusiasm. “Many of my African colleagues are trilingual, do X-rays and ultrasounds, build their own dwellings by hand, and have mastered much in their lives,” Cheryl said. “I am humbled by them.”

An unexpected change in plans

They returned to A.I.C. Kapsowar Hospital in January 2020. It was the start of a three-month stay until a threat came from a neighboring country. A security alert went out to the “mzungu,” a Swahili word used for English-speaking people. Other medical missionaries fled within 24 hours, scuttling back to the U.S. Not Cheryl and Tom. They got transferred to A.I.C. Litein Hospital, five hours’ drive south. Twice the size of Kapsowar Hospital, Litein Hospital’s cry for help was larger. For more than two months in 2020 and from May to June 2021, the Boodts worked with their African colleagues at Litein Hospital.

Kenyans have adapted differently to life than many people in more well-developed countries where fulfilling personal and business needs is a matter of picking up a telephone or going online to place an order. While Kenya is the most economically developed country in east-central Africa, more than one-third of its people live below the international poverty line. Still, from scarcity, generosity has bloomed. Hospitality is deeply ingrained in the culture. Kenyans joyfully invite newcomers to
share a meal in their home or an outdoor celebration. They are happy to make do with what they have.

Applying this spirit to healthcare technology is more daunting than a festive meal. “A.I.C. Litein Hospital had only one very outdated ultrasound machine. It had only an abdomen probe with grayscale, no color flow. Six or seven radiographers and sonographers used this single machine for 20 scans a day of every type,” she said. Cheryl’s and Tom’s dedication surged. Cheryl arranged for a Butterfly IQ (a device designed for point of care ultrasound that plugs into a smartphone) to be temporarily sent to Litein Hospital and they provided the down payment for a new Siemens NX ultrasound machine with four transducers. Meanwhile, Tom took on more complex projects in his specialty areas of construction and organization, basking in the affection of villagers who called him “grandpa.”

A truly collaborative effort brought many more enhancements. Cheryl not only worked with one of the senior team members for training in echocardiography, paying to send her to school in Nairobi, she got additional training herself during time back home.

The dream goes on

Upgrading equipment, designing protocols, teaching vascular ultrasound and introducing echocardiography, among many other accomplishments, are substantial contributions. However, they may be only the foundation of what Cheryl dreams is possible.

“If God wills it, I would like to do more ultrasound education in Kenya, maybe a sonography conference for all the mission hospitals. I want to teach more point-of-care ultrasound and send a second sonographer to echocardiography school in Nairobi,” she said. Those are some of Cheryl’s unopened doors, and she relishes opening each as a step to the next opportunity. But one of her highest hopes is not in Africa at all but for her sonography family in the U.S.

“I hope all sonographers and sonography students will pursue international service and the vitality it can add to their careers,” said Cheryl. She has learned – and wants others to know – how sonography can transform people who were once worlds apart but now deeply invested in each other’s lives and future.
The SDMS Foundation has committed to financially support the second phase of a research project titled: Documenting the progression of acute to chronic work-related musculoskeletal injuries: A pilot survey of sonographers, vascular technologists, and physicians. The project will be a longitudinal study to document improvements and/or detriments.

SDMS FOUNDATION IN 2022

In 2022, the SDMS Foundation will fund the following programs that benefit the sonography community.

- **$30,000**
  - 120 Certification Exam Grants
- **$30,000**
  - 105 SDMS Educational Grants
- **$8,500**
  - 3-4 Research Grants
- **$7,500**
  - 3 Scholarships
- **$1,000**
  - 1 International Assistance Grant
- **$1,920**
  - 12 Hardship Grants
- **$30,000**
  - 120 Certification Exam Grants
- **$30,000**
  - 105 SDMS Educational Grants
- **$8,500**
  - 3-4 Research Grants
- **$7,500**
  - 3 Scholarships
- **$1,000**
  - 1 International Assistance Grant
- **$1,920**
  - 12 Hardship Grants
- **$30,000**
  - 120 Certification Exam Grants
- **$30,000**
  - 105 SDMS Educational Grants
- **$8,500**
  - 3-4 Research Grants
- **$7,500**
  - 3 Scholarships
- **$1,000**
  - 1 International Assistance Grant
- **$1,920**
  - 12 Hardship Grants
Launched in 2020, the SDMS Foundation Emerging Leaders Program identifies and mentors future leaders in the sonography field. Participants virtually attend a variety of leadership education opportunities and engage in meaningful dialogue and projects related to the future of the profession and leadership volunteerism. At the end of the program, one participant is selected to represent the cohort at the fall SDMS and SDMS Foundation Board of Directors Meetings and the SDMS Annual Conference.

Nadia Chupka, BS, RDMS, RVT was chosen to represent the 2021 Emerging Leaders cohort. Nadia is currently working as a staff sonographer at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Prior to her sonography education, she received her Bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in neuroscience. Her love for anatomy and biology led her to an interest in imaging, where she ultimately found her passion for sonography. Nadia graduated from the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences (MCSHS) Sonography Program in May 2018. She currently practices and is registered in Abdomen, OB/Gyn, and Vascular. Nadia is passionate about caring for her patients and being an integral member of the Mayo Clinic team.

2021 SDMS FOUNDATION EMERGING LEADERS COHORT

- **Elizabeth Barr**, Long Island University
- **Lauren Blankenbeckler**, Clemson University- Cardiovascular Imaging Leadership Concentration
- **McKensi Cabot**, RDMS, NMSU/ Dona Ana Community College
- **Allyson Carter**, The College of Health Professions
- **Valeria Corral**, Central New Mexico Community College
- **Moyosore Idowu Fawole**, RDMS, CNA, Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
- **Brianne Gillooly**, Kaiser University
- **Kelsey Girard**, MCPHS University - Worcester
- **Morgan Hutcheson**, St. Philip’s College
- **Bailey McMillen**, BHS, RDMS, RDMS, RVT, University of Missouri
- **Syrenthia Tennyson**, BS, RDMS, The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- **Julia Turner**, Spokane Community College
SDMS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE SDMS FOUNDATION
AND THE SONOGRAPHY COMMUNITY.
The SDMS Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of our generous donors. * indicates a donation between $100 - $249. ** indicates a donation over $250.

THANK YOU!

CORPORATE DONORS

CIVCO Medical Solutions
Kyoto Kagaku
Mindray North America
Parks Medical Electronics, Inc.
Trajecsys Corporation

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to Dr. Kevin and Kathy Evans for their ongoing support for the Evans Undergraduate Research Grant.

Prashant Bhatt
Gail L Bidak, RDMS, RVT
Andrew J Biundo, BA, RVT
Beverley J Bishop, RDMS, RVT
Luminita Blaga, RDMS, RVT
Sheryl L Blooming, RDMS
Kwasi Boakye
Patricia E Boden
Tammy S Bojanowski, RDMS, RVT, RT(R)
Jay Bolnick
Paulette Bona
Cheryl L Boodt, BS, RDMS, RVT
Mugdha M Borkar, RDMS, RVT
Anne K Boster, RDMS, RVS
Cynthia S Botvin, RDMS, RVT, RT(R)(M)
Ellen M Bowman, EdD, RDMS, RDCS, RT(R)(M) *
Michelle L Boyce, RDMS
Kimberly G Boyd, RDMS
Patty Braga, MS, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, RT(R) *
Balaji R Brahmandam, RDMS
Helena Brea, BS, RDMS, RVT
Marla M Bridgford, RDMS, RDCS
Robert E Britton, RDMS, RVT
Elena Brodsky
Marsha K Brody, RDMS
Kim Brost, BS, RDMS, RDCS
Krista L Brouillard, RDMS
Kellie L Brown, RDMS, RVT *
Lamont Brown, MD, RDMS, RVT, RPVI
Tamela S Brown
Taryn R Brown
Lori A Brummer, RDMS
Luz M Bruno, RDMS, RVT
Donica U Bryant, BS, RDCS
Steven S Budd, RVS
Cristi M Bures, BS, RDMS, RVT
Megan E Burke, RDMS, RT(R)(CT)
Tina M Burl, RDMS