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, RDMS, AC, FASE
Bonita Anderson, MAppSc, DMU, AMS, AC, FASE
Dennis Atherton, RDCS, RCT, RRT, AC, FASE
J. Todd Belcik, BS, RCS, RDMS, AC, FASE
James Bergfeld, RDCS, AC, FASE
Lisa Bienvenu, RDCS, AC, FASE
Michelle Bierig, MPH, RDCS, AC, FASE
Paul Braun, RDMS, RVT, RCIA, AC, FASE
Merri Bremer, RN, RDCS, AC, FASE
T.M. Patrick Connolly, RDCS, CCI, AC, FASE
Lindsey Couture, RCS, RDMS, AC, FASE
Melissa Dickinson, RDCS, RCS, AC, FASE
Jessica Granthom, RDCS, AC, FASE
Joy Guthrie, PhD, RDMS, RDMS, RVT, AC, FASE
Jeff Hill, BS, RDMS, AC, FASE
Kenneth Horton, RDCS, AC, FASE
Celeste Kessler, RDCS, RDCS, AC, FASE
Chris Kramer, BA, RDCS, AC, FASE
Joe Kreeger, RDCS, RDCS, AC, FASE
Amie Majerus, BS, RDCS, RDCS, AC, FASE
Marli McCulloch, MBB, BS, RDCS, AC, FASE
Robert McDonald, RDCS, RDMS, RCCE, AC, FASE
Rick Meese, RDCS, RCS, RDCS, AC, FASE
Bradley Mehl, RDCS, RVT, RDMS, RT(R), AC, FASE
Carol Mitchell, PhD, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, RT(R), AC, FASE
Jennifer Neary, RDCS, AC, FASE
Troy Olsen, RDCS, AE, PE, AC, FASE
Richard Palma, BS, RDCS, RCS, APS, AC, FASE
Margaret Park, BS, RDCS, RVT, AC, FASE
Narayana Prasad, MS, MBBS, RDMS, RC, RDMS, RVT, RVS, AC, FASE
Marsha Roberts, RDCS, RCS, AC, FASE
Brad Roberts, RDCS, AC, FASE
Elaine Shea, APS, RDCS, AC, FASE
G. Monet Strachan, RDCS, AC, FASE
Brandon Sullivan, BS, RDCS, RCS, AC, FASE
Kelly Thorson, RDMS, AC, FASE
Pamela Tocco, MHS, BS, RDCS, RVT, AC, FASE
John Toptine, RC, RDMS, ACS, FASE
Matt Umland, RDCS, RDMS, FASE
Julie White, BS, RDCS, RVT, RDMS, AC, FASE
Rita Wisinski, RN, RDCS, RVT, ACS
Tina Yost, RDCS, AC, FASE
Karen Zimmerman, BS, RDCS (AE, PE), RVT, AC, 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 Wiegers, 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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