“Welcome” to our new Clinical Sites!

Bay Area Heart Clinic, UT Fetal, TCH Katy, TCH Sugarland, TCH Woodlands, Memorial Hermann in Pearland, and Valley Baptist Medical Center, in Harlingen.

Special Thanks!

We would like to thank ALL our dedicated preceptors and educators who instruct our students. In-services were also provided by several, including: Dr. Tung and Dr. Kee’s lectures, and Ann Kiliany of St. Luke’s - All-day Vascular Interpretation Blow-Out.

We greatly appreciate you all!

Congratulations to the Following Students!

DCVS Scholarships

Steven To ...........................................Vascular
Chelsea Ziegler .................................Adult Echo
Ji-Won Song.................................Pediatric Echo

HSNIVT Scholarship
Bertrand Ebang

Congratulations, Amy!

Amy Vaughan-Harshbarger, sophomore Adult Echo student, attended the Definity Contrast meeting in October. Amy was the only student Definity invited to the meeting, which was held aboard a yacht sailing out of South Shore Harbor.

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Class of 2014 Update

Three of the four Pediatric Echo graduates are registered and employed. Six of the seven Adult Echo graduates are registered and employed. Five of the seven Vascular graduates are employed and four of them are registered.
Above, freshmen students, Autumn Garcia, Saydi Wollney, Angela Kristof, Ji-Won Song and Samantha Tucker worked a fund-raising booth at the ACC Fall Festival.

Above, the smiling faces of sophomore Vascular students, Ha Vi, Brittany Grubbs and Marissa Aguilar greet patients at the ACC Fall Fitness Fair.

Fall is a busy semester for our students! They are taking classes and attending clinical rotations, health fairs, meetings, in-services, lectures, seminars, and community events. These events include: Alvin Community Center Back to School Fair, Patient Appreciation Health Fair at HealthWorks, ACC Fall Fitness Fair, ACC Pediatric and Fetal Symposium, and the Women’s Conference and Health Fair in Alvin.

Sophomore Vascular student, Dingzhong Yang, performs a Carotid screening at the Healthworks Health Fair.

Jessica Murphy and student Ambassadors, Ashley Mello and Saydi Wollney represented a group of faculty and students who took the Texas flag onto the field at a recent Texans’ game.

Above, Sophomore Vascular Students receive an in-service on Transcranial Doppler from Dr. Thanh Bui.

Above, sophomore Pediatric Echo students, Collette Mickens, James Cochran, Kourtney Brooks and Ashley Mello at the Fall Fitness Fair.
Pediatric and Fetal Echocardiography Symposium

In October, ACC DCVS hosted our first Pediatric and Fetal Echocardiography Symposium. It was a HUGE success! There were 121 physicians and sonographers in attendance. Pediatric, adult and fetal sonographers from as far as San Antonio and Beaumont attended. The attendees appreciated the hands-on scanning for pediatric echocardiography and fetal echocardiography. The ultrasound community was thankful for the support from Alvin Community College DCVS program. The symposium offered 14.5 CMEs to the sonographers who registered for both days. We are planning an Echo Conference in October of 2015, and are presently looking for sponsors, speakers and courses for that conference. Many thanks to our speakers, including Brandi Oubre, Dr. Henry Burkholder, Dr. Faustino Ramos, Dr. Pansy Tung, Dr. Patrick Kee, Julie Ray, Tom Cunningham, Jennie Zarasvand, Rashmi Patel, Dr. Jose Quinones, Dr. Monesha Gupta, Lynne Bruner, Jessica Murphy and Suzanne Poston. We would also like to thank our sponsors – GMI, Toshiba, Siemens, Hitachi-Aloka and Digisonics. We also appreciate the Adult Echo and Vascular student volunteers who helped make this event such a success.

Above: Dr. Jose Quinones, Sue Poston, Dr. Monesha Gupta and Jessica Murphy.

Above, Saydi Wollney scans a pediatric volunteer

Above, Suzanne Poston, Dr. Monesha Gupta and Jessica Murphy with the 2015 Pediatric Echo class: Autumn Garcia, Angela Kristof, Alexis Wittwer, Ji-Won Song, Saydi Wollney and Danielle Kemendo

Pediatric Echo student, Ji-Won Song, receives hands-on scanning instruction from some of the experts.
Bertrand Ebang, Vascular Sophomore,
Honors Student and HSNIVT Volunteer

Why did you choose ACC’s DCVS Program?
ACC’s DCVS program is, above all, a highly-recommended program for Cardiovascular Ultrasound. Approximately 70-80% ACC DCVS graduates staff the major hospitals in Houston. The quality of education and skill is unmatched by any other Ultrasound school in Houston.

What do you like best about the program?
Besides the benefit of obtaining an Associate’s degree, students can sit for their Registry exams prior to graduation. This enables them to enter the work force with their credentials. Also, the instructors are experienced, skilled and reputable individuals in the diagnostic imaging field.

What is your favorite modality and why?
I love the vascular module; I think it’s fascinating studying the entire peripheral vasculature of the body systems. Mastering the anatomy and physiology is key to better help the physicians manage patients’ care.

Tell us a little bit about your honors project. Why did you decide to do an honors project?
My honors projects is geared at educating the entire community about ultrasonic imaging intervention in care and management of children with sickle cell. Currently, 1 of every 500 African American children is suffering from sickle cell anemia. These children sometimes end up with complications resulting from their condition, due to lack of knowledge about the benefits of Doppler monitoring.

What is your research about?
My research focuses on using ultrasound (Transcranial Doppler imaging) to monitor children suffering from sickle cell anemia, to better manage and treat sickle-cell anemia crisis.

Who are you working with to complete the research and the honors project?
I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Jeanne Patton, Director of the Vascular Lab at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Her 30 years of experience and knowledge in vascular ultrasound and Transcranial Doppler will be evidenced in my research paper. Mrs. Patton has been very helpful and resourceful throughout my project.

What have you learned by participating in this research and project?
I have developed an in-depth knowledge and dexterity in performing Transcranial Doppler procedures. Besides the anatomy, I have mastered clinical hemodynamic criteria for cerebral perfusion. This project has enabled me to better understand the care of sickle-cell anemia patients and cerebral hemodynamic pathophysiology.

Tell us about your volunteer work with HSNIVT’s database and webpage (www.houstonsnivt.org)
I am building a HSNIVT (Houston Society of Non-Invasive Vascular Technology) website for the vascular community. This website includes a variety of current technology which other major organization websites have incorporated. The website is community-driven; members’ ideas will be considered and incorporated to achieve a more information-based website. In addition, the HSNIVT website will have a discussion board forum where members can discuss current events, studies, and share information.

In the past, managing HSNIVT members has been accomplished manually, which is why Jessica Murphy suggested the database development. Members now have the ability to be reminded about membership status and due dates for renewal. The database system does this automatically. We have many more fun things to add to this database engine!

What advice do you have for future vascular students?
Vascular imaging is fun and interesting. I would advise students to study more anatomy, while paying particular attention to the pathophysiology. As a part of the health care team, understanding of assessment findings is very important to the physician and to the patient.
From an interview with Liz Tenny, 2011 Vascular Graduate

In what ways did the program prepare you for your future as a sonographer?
ACC offered small classes with staff who are knowledgeable, experienced, and approachable. We had plenty of opportunity to practice scanning and ask questions. More importantly, we learned how to understand vascular hemodynamics, and to interpret and clearly express our findings. That is important now because I often work independently while the doctors are in surgery, and can determine whether my findings constitute an emergent situation, or what follow-up studies may be useful. Learning in the clinical setting was important to me also, and I had great instructors there as well.

Did you encounter any struggles while in the program and how did you overcome them?
I think most everyone struggles with new material at first. Scanning did not come naturally to me, but with ample lab time, and timely, quality feedback from my teachers, I learned to produce clear, diagnostic images.

Where are you working now and in what capacity?
When I graduated in 2011, I moved to Oakland, California and worked at Highland Hospital (the county's Level I Trauma center) for nearly three years. We did not have a readily available reading doctor, so hospital staff acted mostly on my preliminary findings. Things became real, very quickly. At that time, I was performing an average of 10 scans during my 8-hour shift. I also provided coverage at a Kaiser Hospital Vascular Surgery clinic, which opened another door into understanding vascular diseases. This August, I moved to Mountain View, California, and am working in a Palo Alto Medical Foundation surgery clinic, and enjoy it immensely. I work with brilliant, creative surgeons, and they trust me to modify orders to best fit my patients' needs and determine when my patients need immediate attention. Being an outpatient clinic, my workload is kept at a more predictable 8 cases per 8-hour shift.

Have you or are you planning on cross-training into other specialties or continuing your education in any way?
Part of the deal in moving to PAMF was on-the-job training in echocardiography. There are more moving parts in the heart than the vascular system, and I have a lot to learn. I hope to become echo-certified in a few months.

Are you pursuing advancement in your profession, and if so, in what way?
While I was an ACC student, I wrote an article on Takayasu's arteritis that was published in the Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. I hope to publish a second piece on a current arteritis patient.

From and educational and professional point of view, what advice would you give a new student in the DCVS program?
Be patient, practice, and know your anatomy. Take advantage of every opportunity to scan. Just scan the way your preceptors and teachers ask you to - you can do it your way after you graduate. Sonography is a great career, and is becoming more utilized in many fields, including point-of-care, musculoskeletal and transcranial specialties. Be ambitious! Choose and create a work environment that allows you to be productive and happy.

Did You Know?
In the 1930’s, Dr. Karl Dussik, a Viennese neurologist, first used ultrasound in medical diagnosis by trying to locate brain tumors. His venous ultrasound procedure, (hyperphonography) sent an ultrasound beam through the skull, producing an A-mode image. He was first to locate abnormalities in the head, tissue, and body fluids. His method used a transducer on each side of the patient’s head and submerged in water. The patient’s head was also partially under water! They transmitted sound waves toward the patient at a known rate. The echoes were then recorded on heat sensitive paper. These were among the first ultrasound images and the first images used to diagnose brain tumors.

(Delivered from THE HISTORY OF by INGE EDLER and KJELL LINDSTROM, Ultrasound in Med. & Biol., Vol. 30, No. 12, pp. 1565)
PEDIATRIC ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY LECTURE SERIES continues
1.5 CMEs for each class
Lectures are 1.5 hours each and held every other month on Mondays, 6-7:30 pm

COURSE CALENDAR 2015
2/9/15 - Fetal Echocardiography, David Boudreaux, RDCS (PE, FE)
4/13/15 – Adult Congenital Defects, Pansy Tung, MD
7/13/15 – Atrioventricular Canal Defects, Emily Lawrence, MD

LOCATION
Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute
3rd Floor, Conference Room A&B, HVI 3.103
6411 Fannin Street
Houston
Memorial Hermann Hospital
Texas Medical Center

This lecture series is FREE.
Space is limited; please RSVP by phone or email: Jessica Murphy, BS, RRT-NPS, RDCS, RVT
ACC DCVS Program Director
281-756-5650
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STUDENT SONOGRAPHY CLUB

The student sonography club, SASS, (Student Association of Specialized Sonography) is raising money to send students to Dallas for the SDMS Conference in 2015. Currently, they are participating in a Tupperware Fundraiser, from which the club will receive 40% of the total sales. To contribute to this fundraiser, please visit: http://order.tupperware.com/pls/htprod_www/!tw$x$eparty_ctl.p_guest_welcome?pv_eparty=350957675c70fc74cf11e518fd0d8117

Above, Sue Poston gives a talk at the SDMS Conference in Louisville, Kentucky

FACULTY AT SDMS Annual Conference

ACC DCVS faculty members, Jessica Murphy, Sue Poston and Dina DuBose, attended the annual SDMS conference in Louisville, Kentucky in September. They attended many engaging courses which covered education, adult echocardiography, and vascular ultrasound. Clinical Director, Sue Poston, was an invited speaker at this year's SDMS conference. She gave two different talks during the three-day conference. The first talk was titled, “Congenital Heart Disease, from Fetus to Adult”. In the second talk, Sue shared her experiences as a NASA Sonographer. In addition to bringing home a lot of valuable information, Program Director Jessica Murphy won a jar of money at the exhibit hall! Next fall the SDMS conference will be in Dallas, Texas. We hope to see you there!

GHSE/HSNIVT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION MEETING

Don’t miss this year’s combined society meeting. It will be held on Thursday, December 4th, 6 pm, at the Houston Marriott in the Medical Center. Please join us for education, fun and networking!

Speakers are Dr. Vijay Nambi of the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Hospital and Dr. Karla Kurrlmeyer of the Houston Methodist Hospital.

Please RSVP: Sue Maisey: smaisey@stlukeshealth.org

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