ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DCVS

Presents the Graduating Class of 2014!
Congratulations!

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Class of 2014 Awards

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Vascular
Back: Mary Foster, Joseph Pieper, Anne Burke, Twilah Jansen
Front: Sarah Wright, Jessica Harley, and Safa Bakhet

Pedi Echo
Left to right: Klanci Hobbs, Heather Fontenot, Veronica Castaneda and Mollie Schoenhals

Adult Echo
Back: Dingzhong Yang, Stacie Thompson, Jessica Greak, Nastassija Actie, Rebecca Gonzales
Front: Donna Ly and Melissa Watkins
Student Spotlight
Jessica Harley

From an interview with Jessica Harley, sophomore Vascular student, following her recent bone marrow donation procedure.

When did you first hear about the Bone Marrow Registry program?
When I attended Lamar University campus, a representative spoke to my class about donating.

Why did you decide to join the marrow registry?
The woman who spoke mentioned that there was a shortage in black donors, and I felt obligated to help.

Was signing up difficult? What did the process involve?
Signing up was not difficult. I just filled out an application and cotton-swabbed my mouth.

How long were you on the registry before you received notification of a potential match?
I was on the registry for almost 3 years before I became a match.

What was it like when you found out that you were a match for a patient in need of a life-saving transplant?
Honestly, I was nervous. I never thought I would become a match. I was sitting in class when I got the phone call. But I know how hard it is to find a perfect match, so I decided to go ahead with the process.

Did you have to go through additional testing to determine if you were a good match for the recipient? Can you explain what that involved?
I had to get my blood drawn to ensure that I was a perfect match. It took about 10 minutes to fill what seemed like 20 blood vials.

What kind of pre-donation steps did you have to take?
It took about a month to determine I was a perfect match for my intended recipient. I had a complete physical, which included a long questionnaire about my lifestyle, a urine test, and an additional blood draw.

Can you briefly explain the actual donation process?
It was actually a fairly quick process. I went in as an outpatient and they administered IV anesthesia. I was asleep before reaching the operating room. A needle was guided through the back of the pelvis and two small holes were made to extract the marrow. It took almost an hour to complete. The amount donated is based on the weight and height of the donor and the recipient. I left outpatient surgery the same day, after a brief recovery. I was pretty sore for the first three days.

What were you told about your recipient, and were you allowed to contact them?
All I know is that my recipient is 20 years old and that she has sickle cell anemia. I am not allowed to contact her until a year from now.

Would you donate again for this person or for someone else, if necessary?
The process was not that bad, so I would do it again for her. I was told that there is a possibility that she may need a little more after the initial batch has been transplanted. What I went through is nothing compared to what she has gone through and I am blessed to be able to help someone in such a special way.

What would you say to anyone considering signing up for the bone marrow registry?
I say “do it!” You are literally giving someone the gift of life for a week of your own time. I had my first surgery for someone I do not even know, and it was well worth it. Plus, the recipient pays for everything – I just gave my time and my marrow.

As a vascular sonographer, will the knowledge you gained influence your career?
This event will definitely influence my career. It reminds me that I went into healthcare to help others. What better way to help someone with sickle cell anemia than to donate marrow? Sickle cell anemia can cause strokes in black children due to the sickle shape of the blood cells, which blocks passageways and causes pain. I already knew about this disease; I just had no idea about donating marrow to cure these children and young adults. This lets me know that there is hope!

For more information about becoming a bone marrow donor, call (713) 791-6697. You may register in person at any of the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Centers, or online at www.BeTheMatch.org
**Spring Events**

This semester, our students are busy with classes, Physics projects, clinical rotations, health fairs, meetings, lectures, seminars, community events and scanning, scanning, scanning! In February, our students attended AISD Health Fairs at Rodeo Palms Jr. High and Friendswood High schools. Students volunteered for Career day at Alvin Junior High and for an Elementary school tour in March. Several students attended the March Aortic Symposium. In April, students attended the Siemens Event, Echo boot Camp, GHSE meeting, Santa Fe Health Fair and the ACC Open House. In addition, several students will be attending the Edelman Review in May, in Dallas.

**Houston Aortic Symposium in March**

Above: Prentis Reedy, Yan Siu, Jason Phillip, Nastassija Actie, Jessica Greak, Safa Bakhet and Bertrand Ebang

Below: Vascular freshmen, Steven To and Ha Vi

Above, Freshmen Prentis Reedy, Jason Phillip and Rubina Asif, with the phantom they created for their Physics project.

**Multitasking**

Above: Sarah Wright, Vascular sophomore, practices scanning, while her husband, John, feeds their son. Nice ergonomics, Sarah!

**Class of 2015 Awards**

Congratulations to Freshmen Ha Vi and Ashley Mello, recipients of the DCVS Institutional Scholarships!

Congratulations to Kourtney Brooks, Pedi Echo freshman, who won the $1,000 scholarship from Angleton Danbury Medical Center!
ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We have been reaccredited in Adult Echocardiography and in Vascular Sonography and newly accredited in Pediatric and Fetal Echocardiography. One of the benefits of reaccreditation is that our students may now take their registry examination BEFORE they graduate. Several Echo and Vascular students have already taken their registry exams and now are credentialed before they graduate!

Alvin Community College’s DCVS Pediatric Echocardiography program became the first in Texas and one of the first in the country to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Our site visit by the JRC-DMS representatives’ was in April of 2013 and we received notification of the accreditation status in January of 2014.

According to DCVS Program Director, Jessica Murphy, “It is a great relief to have this completed, and it will ensure that our program is nationally visible. It was a lot of work but it was worth it."

Special Thanks

We would like to thank ALL of our dedicated preceptors and educators who instruct our students. Many provided in-services:
Liza Sanchez of MD Anderson: Stress Echo;
Patty Gallego of GE: Contrast;
Dr. Tung of UT Physicians: Right Heart Function;
Juanita Jimenez of Covidien Medical: Venous Reflux and Interventions;
Sue Poston: Dyssynchrony and CRT

CCI Educators’ Forum

For the 2nd year in a row, ACC DCVS faculty members have been chosen to attend the CCI Educators’ Forum in Las Vegas. In April, Jessica Murphy attended the conference, where educators and clinical instructors met to share new approaches and experiences. This year, the main focus of the conference was item-writing and technology.

PEDIATRIC ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY LECTURE SERIES

1.5 CMEs for each class

Lectures are 1.5 hours each and held every other month on Mondays, 6-7:30 pm

April 14, 2014
“L-Transposition of the Great Arteries”
Jennie Zarasvand

June 9, 2014
“Systemic Venous Anomalies”
Dr. Monesha Gupta

LOCATION
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 calling or emailing:
Jessica Murphy, BS, RRT-NPS, RDCS, RVT
ACC DCVS Program Director
281-756-5650
jmurphy@alvincollege.edu

SDMS SPEAKER

DCVS Clinical Director, Sue Poston, AAS, RDCS (AE, PE), RVS, has been chosen to speak at the annual SDMS conference in September. She will be speaking on “Congenital Heart Disease, from Fetus to Adult.” She will also be relating her experience as a NASA Sonographer.

2014 Upcoming Events

Graduation! May 13
SDMS Louisville, KY. Sept. 25-28
Pediatric / Fetal Echo Symposium Oct. 10-11
Vascular Symposium TBA

Alvin Community College DCVS Program 3110 Mustang Rd. Alvin, TX 77511 281.756.5625