



The Institute of Allied Medical Professions **NEWSLETTER** FALL 2006

What's Inside.....



IAMP Delray Beach student's Breast Cancer Fundraiser.



IAMP Queens Staff is a Dream Team.



Now available, IAMP Scrubs!

Editor: Amanda Lehner

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Granting a Change

by Karyn Vidal-Lee, Campus Director

The Commission on Independent Education has granted the Institute of Allied Medical Professions Delray Beach Campus the status of a degree-granting institution. We are proud to announce that we have started our first Associate of Applied Science in the Radiology and Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs on September 25, 2006. Congratulations to the staff and faculty for all their hard work on an accomplishment of this magnitude!

ABHES Visits the Atlanta Campus

ABHES (The Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools) visited IAMP Atlanta on August 23rd and 24th, 2006 for non-main campus inclusion. The review of educational and administrative procedures proved very useful to IAMP faculty and staff. There is no doubt that accrediting bodies like ABHES play an important role in the development of educational institutions. IAMP Atlanta would like to extend thanks to the ABHES site visitors for their time and insight.

Program Director's Meeting Held at IAMP Atlanta

The bi-annual meeting of IAMP Program Directors (all programs, all campuses) was held at the Atlanta campus on August 3rd and 4th, 2006. The Program Directors, President Thomas Haggerty, and Vice President of Operations, Nancy Baer, all met to review programs, revise curricula, and discuss strategy for the continued success of IAMP.

Scan - Scan - Scan

By Phyllis Greco, Director, Westchester Campus

IAMP graduates always say: they wished they scanned more when they had the chance. Starting Saturday, September 16, 2006 we have made scanning available to our students to fine-tune their skills under the supervision of a technologist. This opportunity will be available every other Saturday on a sign up basis only. All our students and new graduates are urged to take advantage of this valuable practice time. As always, there is faculty available on Fridays for anyone who wants to improve their skills. Sign up now and see the difference for yourself. The only way to improve your skills is to scan, scan, scan.

New Nursing Program

By Gladys Mercurio, BSN, BA, MS

We are proud to announce that IAMP Delray Beach campus received approval from the state of Florida in September for Practical Nursing program. The Florida Board of Nursing is scheduled for a site visit on Monday October 23rd. The interest and support from the community has been tremendous as we look forward to a new group of students to educate in the field of nursing. The front page of American Journal of Nursing states that "LPN's are being sort after to ease the nursing shortage". We are proud to do our part to meet the needs of the community.



Letter from the President

Dear IAMP Students and Staff,

I am pleased to say IAMP Delray Beach was approved by the Commission of Independent Education (CIE) to be a degree-granting institution. IAMP Delray Beach now offers two Associates of Applied Science in Radiography and Sonography. After several years of working towards this goal I am very excited by the opportunities these programs offer our students in Delray Beach.

This approval will no doubt increase the size and diversity of our student body and lend to the prestigious tradition of IAMP. I would like to personally congratulate IAMP Delray Beach School Director, Karen Vidal-Lee, and her staff. Thank you for your efforts. In addition to the degree granting approval, IAMP Delray Beach will be offering a new programs in Nursing and Nuclear Medicine.

In other IAMP news, IAMP Atlanta is eagerly awaiting accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). IAMP Queens has named Larisa Konshina as the new Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Director. As always, I am proud of IAMP as we continue to improve and grow.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Haggerty

Thomas J Haggerty

IAMP Queens

The rainy day on September 15, 2006 did not dampen the achievements of the new graduates from class ULEMD 4/11/05. We were honored to have Diana Ross RDMS, supervisor of the ultrasound department of the Brooklyn Veterans Administration Hospital, as our guest speaker. Congratulations Class, onward and upward.



Left to Right Standing:

Selwyn Basker, Amrit Pandya, Jing Lin, Danielle Mifsud, Nastassja Liddie, Ella Mushyakov, Joanne Vibert, Betty Aranda

On the evening of September 30, 2006, class ULEME 1/11/2005 received their certificates of graduation at commencement exercises at the newly renovated Queens Campus. Eight of the graduates received Honors and seven grads already have secured positions as sonographers! This class is to be commended on the consistent hard work and dedication they maintained throughout the course.

Queens Sonography Staff is a Dream Team

The Queens Campus is very pleased to welcome Larisa Konshina, RDMS, RVT as the new DMS Program Director. Larisa, a graduate of IAMP, has been teaching in both the day and evening program with great success.

The Queens evening staff has been an intact and blossoming entity for four years. Dunstan Abraham PA-C, RDMS, Kalani Fernando, Rena Kayne RDCS, RVT, Sandra Morales -RDMS, Charles Odwin PA-C, RDMS and Halgh Weekes RDMS have done a terrific job training our students to be professional sonographers. Recently, Adrian Anthony RDMS, RVT, RDCS has joined the team. With this team - we could win the World Series of Ultrasound!



Left to Right: Sandra Morales RDMS, Charles Odwin PA-C, Dunstan Abraham PA-C, RDMS, Kalani Fernando, Rena Kayne RDCS, RVT.

IAMP Westchester

On June 22, 2006 Commencement Exercises were held for the January 18, 2005 evening class at the Harvest - on - Hudson. Our Alumni speaker was Larry Dell'Aquila RVT, graduating class January 2005. Larry gave the class inspiring words of wisdom. Kimberly Abruzese gave the Graduates' Commentary; which was eloquent and heartfelt. Good Luck with your new careers. We will miss you all.



Front Row L - R Felisha Ali, Luz Mendez, Blanca Marrero, Vijaya Nelli

Back Row L - R Deepa Varghese, Salvatore Sta. Maria, Bernadette Riordan, Anna Hernandez, Nicole Russo, Erin Ellsworth, Kimmie Picariello, Rafael Cruz, Kimberly Abruzese, Roberta Guarino, Julie Varga, Teresa Maxwell

On August 11, 2006 Commencement Exercises were held for the March 7, 2005 day class. Our Alumni speaker was Larissa Gorn RDMS, graduating class of June 2001. Larissa spoke about the importance of being registered and her experiences since graduating IAMP. Stephanie DeFlippis gave the Graduates' Commentary; which gave hope and encouragement to her fellow graduates. Good Luck to all.



Front Row L - R Leith Colton, Jean Marie DeRosa, Lejda Balla
Second Row L - R Jennifer Paduch, Michelle Kalmanson, Stephanie DeFilippis, Maneesha Mehta, Danielle D'Amico, Megan Beirsto
Back Row L - R Keeya Murray, Dina Breda, Phyllis Perez, Svetlana Racheva, Kate Kossari, Jenene Bavaro, Missing Marissa

Welcome New Class

By Phyllis Greco, Campus Director

On July 31, 2006 IAMP welcomed the first Diagnostic Ultrasound Class to begin their studies at our new campus on the beautiful grounds of Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, New York. Students came ready to learn with great enthusiasm, and were eager to start scanning. The staff and faculty look forward to helping them pursue the career that they so desire.



L - R Rosemary Wesolowski, Toni-Jo Pizzolo, Denise Petak, Danka Freue, Gina Guiliano, Voula Artoglou, Maureen D'Aprile, Instructor - Deborah Ridolfo RDMS

2nd Row L - R Deana Diaz, Viviana Santiago, Milagros Perez

3rd Row L - R Denise Jamieson, Allesandra Ierna, Marianne Schulze, Galina Yanovskaya, Susan Cobb, Ray Aquino, Jeffrey Lasker, Ashley Varghese

Back Row L - R Reyner Pereyra, Julissa Martinez, David Sanchez, Lauren Schwandt, Morgan Murphy

Congratulations to IAMP Graduates for passing ARDMS exams.

Erin Ellsworth (Physics) 2006 Graduated 6/22/06

Christy Dinapoli Irizarry (Abdomen) 2006 Graduated 7/31/00

Jose Martinez (Abdomen) 2004 Graduated 9/10/04

Please contact Phyllis Greco (914) 345-0900 when you have passed an exam. We are proud of your accomplishments and hard work.

STAFF PROFILE



A Positive Force

Debbie Ridolfo has a lot to be proud of. Not only is she an accomplished ultrasound instructor but above all she has achieved an enviable feat; she truly loves her job. "What I love most about teaching is having the opportunity to make an impact on people's lives." Debbie said.

Like many sonographers Debbie discovered the profession later in life. After working for years as a Medical Assistant she displayed the skills to advance in the medical field. She attended ultrasound school in 1990, worked hard, and by 1992 she was working clinically at a hospital during the day and teaching at night.

In 2005 Debbie was nominated by her students as the Who's Who in Best American Teachers. Shortly thereafter IAMP was thrilled to have Debbie join its staff at IAMP Westchester as the DMS Program Director. Debbie was happy to return to the area as she grew up in Portchester, New York. Since moving to IAMP she has been inspired by the student body.

"The students at IAMP are hungry for knowledge and dedicated to becoming successful sonographers." Debbie said. She also enjoys the students who are career-changers and going through a transition in their lives. Since Debbie also went through a career change, she is a comfort to those who have anxieties about changing professions.

In her 10 plus years of teaching Debbie has seen many students. She believes that it takes a specific skill set to be a sonographer. Debbie explains, "When considering sonography as a career you have to ask yourself if you have the skills it requires. I believe these skills are a combination of cognitive and psychomotor skills. Moreover you have to like to hit the books, interact with people and work with your hands. It is important to strike that balance."

Although Debbie has been teaching at IAMP for a year, she has known IAMP Westchester's Admissions Rep, Anne Doughlin, for many years. They were co-workers at a different ultrasound school years ago, and are now excited to be coworkers once again. "It is nice to work with someone with her level of professionalism. Also the students are lucky to have a teacher that is so passionate about ultrasound. Debbie

is someone who maintains very high standards for her students and in turn produces quality graduates." Anne Doughlin said.

Being a busy full-time instructor at IAMP, Debbie's free time is limited. However, after talking with her it becomes clear that her second passion is the beach. Any free time Debbie has is spent relaxing by the shore, reading a book. After she enjoys a long career as a teacher Debbie plans to spend her retirement with her feet in the sand.

Until then she can be found at IAMP Westchester doing her best to make a difference. She is all working on a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Fordham University. Debbie's plans for the future are to keep on being a good teacher and friend. "My goal is to be a positive force in people's lives."

Debbie Ridolfo Fills in the Blanks

My personal hero is: my mom.

I would rather be: on the beach.

I love it when people: laugh

I hate it when people: lie

When people aren't looking I'm: daydreaming.

If I was given a second chance I would have: been a doctor.

My favorite quote is: "Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being." - Anais Nin

I could never be an: accountant

Upcoming CME Conferences...

Title: Echocardiography for the Sonographer
Venue: Jefferson Ultrasound Research & Education Institute
City, State: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Start Date: 11/16/06
End Date: 11/17/06
URL: www.jefferson.edu/jurei
Contact: Donna Dowling, 215-955-8533

Title: Principles of Ob/Gyn Ultrasound
Venue: Jefferson Ultrasound Research & Education Institute
City, State: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Start Date: 1/11/07
End Date: 1/13/07
URL: www.jefferson.edu/jurei
Contact: Donna Dowling, 215-955-8533

IAMP Delray Beach

In the Name of a Cure

Under the leadership of Chrissy Murrey, a Diagnostic Medical Sonography student at the Delray Beach campus IAMP students, staff, and faculty of IAMP held a fundraiser in honor of Chrissy Murray's mom, Debbie Lawson, who recently passed away from breast cancer.

"I was devastated by the recent loss of my mother, Mrs. Debbie Lawson, to Breast Cancer. I was overwhelmed by the outpour of love and support from my fellow classmates, faculty and administration of IAMP. In the honor of my mother's name, together we raised money for the continuing search for a cure for Breast Cancer."

Being that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month IAMP pulled together to show their support by wearing something pink and by donating money to the fundraising efforts. Each person that donated received a pink ribbon. We are proud of all who participated and to be a part of the fight for a cure against Breast Cancer.



Off to a Great Start

By JoAnne Lyons MS RT (R) (M)

Radiologic Technology Program Director

IAMP Florida campus began a new Radiologic Technology Program on September 25, 2006. We begin the course with Anatomy and Physiology I. At the end of this component the students will be given the opportunity to attend and participate in an autopsy through the Palm Beach County Coroner's Office. We are fortunate to have a County Coroner's Office that highly supports education. The coroner and technologists allow students to closely observe, hold and weigh organs, and actually see pathologies throughout the body. The students walk away with a wealth of knowledge from this autopsy experience.

The week after the students began attending classes we purchased a Bennett X-ray unit. This unit has a free floating table, upright chest buckey and is capable of being fully energized. This will give students hands-on positioning experience before attending their clinical externship this coming January.

IAMP Atlanta



Pictured left to right: Linda Simoneaux, Carrie Ciccarello, Kathleen Brooks, Kimberly Crowe, Brittney Dean, Allison Piltz.

Medical Assisting Class in the Lab

Pictured above is MAATD 4/17/06 in the new Medical Assisting Lab. They'll be going on clinical externship soon - we all wish them luck!



Radiography on the Rise at IAMP Atlanta

The Radiography Program at IAMP Atlanta welcomed their second Radiography class on September 26, 2006. The original Radiography students hosted a meet and greet party to welcome the new class aboard. Since the two Radiography classes will practically never cross paths, it's essential that the two meet and talk about their experiences thus far.

Eleven students remain in the original class and Terry Benson reports a solid positive response from the clinical sites. Terry states:

"I look forward to a strong second year with the first class, as we move into some of my favorite courses, Physics and Radiobiology. Who knows, maybe these will become their favorites as well. The 18 new students have begun classes in Patient Care, Anatomy, and Positioning. These early sessions always remind me why I got into education to begin with. It's all about helping to pass the torch into the future, and I still enjoy seeing students get excited about the profession. I hope, with the help of the second year Radiography class, that the new class will quickly be convinced that they have chosen the right path."

In the next several months the first class, now in their second year, will finish up their competencies and move into specialty areas such as CT and MRI. The new class will no doubt enjoy the privileges of having 11 mentors from the first class. What could be better than that?

A Growing Problem

By Deborah Ridolfo, RDMS

Program Director, IAMP Westchester Campus

Technologists in Imaging Departments across the country are noticing what sonographers have known for years. Obesity is interfering with obtaining optimal images and leading to inconclusive diagnostic exams. Incomplete exams related to obesity also can lead to very serious consequences such as misdiagnosis or failure to diagnose at all.

In a society that places a high premium on slender body type, one would think that obesity would not be the problem it is but that is just not true. It is of epidemic proportions in this country and there seems to be no end in sight. Obesity is more than a cosmetic problem. It has been linked with serious diseases such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer and even dementia. People are defined as obese if their body mass index (BMI) is 30 or greater. This amounts to weighing about 30 pounds more than their ideal weight. Those who are morbidly obese weigh at least 100 pounds or more above their ideal weight and have a BMI of 40 or greater.

Obesity is interfering with a radiologist's ability to properly diagnose and effectively treat medical conditions in patients using ultrasound, X-ray, CT, MRI and even mammography. According to the CDC, obesity has grown dramatically in the last 20 years. Dr. Raul Upport, a radiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital has conducted studies on the effects of this epidemic. His team searched through 5 million radiology reports, searching for the phrase: exam "limited by body habitus." What they found was disturbing. Obesity doubled the number of inconclusive diagnostic exams over a 15 year period to almost 20%. This happened despite advances made in technology and newer equipment.

Then they examined each modality separately. The modality that had the most difficulty in diagnosing effectively was abdominal ultrasound, followed by chest X-ray, abdominal CT, abdominal XR, Chest CT and then MRI.

"In daily practice, you start to see a problem in imaging with weights as low as 250 to 300 pounds." Dr. Upport states. As weight increases, the problems get progressively worse.

Ultrasound is the modality most affected by obesity. Thick layers of fat attenuate the sound and make it difficult to obtain good beam penetration resulting in degraded image quality. Ultrasound's resolution is dependent on frequency. Higher frequencies however do not have adequate penetration depth and cause scattering of the sound beam thus making it harder to find what you are looking for.

Sonographers know this problem all too well. While technologists in other modalities leave the room while images are taken, sonographers have an intimate connection with the patient. In

order for the transducer to be as close to the structure being imaged as possible, sonographers have to exert much physical force through many layers of tissue in order to obtain the needed images.

More and more sonographers are complaining of musculoskeletal injuries of the hand, wrist and shoulder that are a direct result of scanning obese patients on a daily basis.

Radiology professionals now recognize this as a significant problem that needs to be addressed. As hospitals consider imaging equipment upgrades, obesity and imaging in equipment designed to accommodate larger patients must now be a factor when they consider making a purchase.

Health care costs have skyrocketed and most health care providers agree that costs are reaching these levels partly because hospitals and imaging departments need to invest in new equipment and technology that can accommodate our "growing" population.

Manufacturers have developed new and better tools to improve image quality. We have larger more powerful machines and larger tables that can handle weights up to 600 pounds. While this is certainly helpful, it is not a permanent solution.

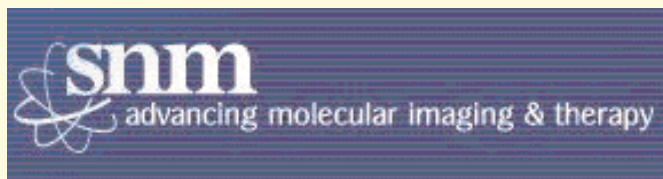
There are no easy answers but it would seem that the solution requires more than technological advances. One needs to get to the heart of the problem. A change in mindset and lifestyle are needed; a cultural revolution so to speak. Not an easy task.

PHOTO OP IAMP Scrubs are in!

IAMP is proud to announce that custom scrubs (i.e. school logo) are now available. Please see your campus staff for details!



Pictured above is Daniela McGee of ULEME 11-05.



New York Establishes Licensure for Nuclear Medicine Technologists

Posted August 14, 2006

New York state bill #A4882-B—an act to amend the public health law, in relation to the practice of radiologic technology and to repeal article 35 of such law relating to the practice of x-ray technology—was signed into law on July 26, 2006, by Governor George E. Pataki. The act will establish standards of education, training, and experience, and will require the examination and licensure of radiographers, radiation therapists, and nuclear medicine technologists practicing in New York.

"It is of great importance to SNM to increase the competencies of nuclear medicine practitioners and to promote new advances within the field," said SNMTS President D. Scott Holbrook. "A4882-B will help us with this goal by updating New York public health law to be more consistent with the scope of practice of nuclear medicine technologists."

"The passage of this legislation will finally bring about the recognition of nuclear medicine technologists as professionals in New York," said Ted Rubel, Greater New York Chapter/SNM leader and longtime supporter of A4882-B. "It will provide a working base for addressing issues confronting the technologist, and will establish an effective program that should evolve alongside future advances in technique and technology. Issues such as CT cross training and licensure are to be addressed as well."

With the exception of a few technical provisions, most of the changes in law resulting from the act will become effective on July 27, 2007.

"This was long and overdue, but very satisfying in the end," said Rubel. "The New York nuclear medicine community is enthusiastic and ready."

This article was obtained from The Society of Nuclear Medicine web site, <http://www.snm.org>

The Society of Nuclear Medicine is an international scientific and professional organization founded in 1954 to promote the science, technology and practical application of nuclear medicine. Its 16,000 members are physicians, technologists and scientists specializing in the research and practice of nuclear medicine.

On Becoming an Excellent Sonographer

By Kalani Fernando

IAMP Instructor

Staff Sonographer - Bronx Lebanon Hospital, NY

Many students of sonography have great expectations of securing their "dream job" upon graduation. Few, however, take the time and effort to consult with experienced sonographers regarding the ingredients for success. The following are four points for students to consider while preparing for a successful career in the field ultrasound.

Knowledge of Anatomy and Pathology:

Students must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of organs and structures within the human body, and how they relate to each other. Similarly, knowledge of how pathological processes can change the sonographic appearance of these organs is essential. This information forms the foundation for their base of knowledge.

Technical Proficiency:

The ability to maneuver the ultrasound probe in order to demonstrate normal anatomy or pathology is both a skill and an art. This must be developed and mastered. Careful observation of experienced sonographers along with months of intense practice is required for achieving technical proficiency.

Diagnostic Skills:

What distinguishes the sonographer from other imaging specialists is his/her ability to interpret images that are produced and to formulate an unofficial diagnosis. This is a crucial skill since the Radiologist is usually not present during the exam, and is guided by the impressions of the Sonographer. Both technical expertise and knowledge of anatomy and pathology are crucial for developing skills of interpretation.

Communication:

Sonographers are often required to communicate their unofficial impressions of an exam to radiologists, ultrasound colleagues and sometimes to the referring physicians. This communication can be in the form of an oral report or written notes. Students must develop the ability to write notes and give verbal reports in a manner that is accurate, concise and with confidence.

In conclusion, the field of ultrasound offers great opportunities in many diverse settings. However, like most professions, it is quite competitive. The above suggestions are what I believe to be some of the crucial skills, among others, which students must acquire and develop in order to become excellent sonographers.

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