

# IN THE YEAR 2000, CARDUP WAS BORN

The concept of Canadian examinations and a national registry existed in the early 1980s. By 1999, the need for a Canadian registry became acute to address accreditation requirements, bilingual policies, and provincial regulatory issues. In addition, surveys of employers and others by the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS) conducted in 1993 & early 2000 indicated a 70% positive response for the development of a Canadian registry.

Prior to the creation of the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP) in 2000, the only credential available to Canadian sonographers was the American credential conferred by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS). ARDMS is a widely respected certification agency, but its standards are based upon the needs of the profession in the United States.

## CARDUP accomplishments since 2000:

## CANADIAN CREDENTIALS

**CRGS®**: Canadian Registered Generalist Sonographer

**CRCS®**: Canadian Registered Cardiac Sonographer

**CRVS®**: Canadian Registered Vascular Sonographer

### ARDMS CREDENTIALS DID NOT MEET 3 IMPORTANT CRITERIA:

1. A Canadian focus to ensure certification relevant to Canadian practice.
2. A practical examination to ensure that registered sonographers were clinically competent when entering the Canadian workplace.
3. A bilingual exam available to Canadian candidates in both official languages.

### MEETING CANADIAN NEEDS

ARDMS was approached with a request to develop examinations to address these Canadian needs. It was unable to accede to this request. As a result, CARDUP was created.

1. A nation-wide survey of Canadian employers
2. Canadian credentials for the generalist, cardiac, and vascular sonographer
3. A *National Competency Profile* for each of the three sonography specialties
4. A practical examination called the *Clinical Skills Assessment*
5. An Exam Committee to produce high-quality examination questions referenced to the National Competency Profiles
6. Bilingual knowledge-based written exams
7. A psychometric evaluation to ensure the statistical validity and defensibility of the examination



Celebrating  
20 years of sonography  
credentials in Canada

# THE VALUE OF CREDENTIALS



## **They validate knowledge, competencies, judgment, and clinical skills:**

Finding, hiring, training, and retaining qualified, high-quality medical staff can be a time-consuming task. Employers save valuable time and money by requiring a credential as an essential condition of employment.



**They set a clear path for career advancement:** Sonography is increasingly acknowledged as a profession and is gradually being regulated across Canada. Sonographers can increase their credibility and eligibility for promotions or new job opportunities by obtaining or enhancing their credentials.



**They support patient safety:** Credentials are a crucial component of the professionalization of diagnostic medical sonography. The requirement that sonographers practice only in the areas in which they can demonstrate the knowledge, skills and judgement is expected. Canadians expect that practitioners are qualified to complete the examination their doctor has prescribed.



## **They support risk management:**

Credentials help ensure consistent high-quality patient care and reduce the incidence of professional incompetency, misconduct or incapacity. Hiring credentialed sonographers can help prevent potential lost revenues and legal issues.

Sonography Canada credentials confirm an individual has the professional knowledge, competencies, clinical skills, and judgement to practice sonography to at least entry level. The successful completion of Sonography Canada entry-to-practice examinations as well as the Canadian Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA™) give an individual the right to append the appropriate professional specialty credential – CRGS®, CRVS® or CRCS® – to their name. These credentials are recognized across Canada and worldwide.



**Sonography Canada is the official credentialing body for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in Canada. We provide *Entry-To-Practice Certification Exams*, develop national *Professional Practice Guidelines*, and are responsible for the *National Competency Profiles*.**

Our mission is to foster best practices and promote the pursuit of excellence in sonography in Canada.

Sonography Canada was established on January 1, 2014 through the amalgamation of the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS) and the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP). We are the single national voice for the sonography profession in Canada

We are proud of the progress that has been achieved over the past 20 years. Looking to the future, we are working to broaden our certification program to include other specialty areas in diagnostic medical sonography.