

Distinguished Sonographer Award

Established in 1997, the Distinguished Sonographer Award is a means of recognizing and honoring current or retired AIUM members who have significantly contributed to the growth and development of medical ultrasound. This annual presentation honors an individual whose outstanding contributions to the development of medical ultrasound warrant special merit.



Charlotte Henningsen, MS, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, FSDMS, FAIUM

The medical ultrasound world owes thanks to the United States Air Force for the introduction of Charlotte Henningsen, MS, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, FSDMS, FAIUM, to imaging. Professor Henningsen began her career as an honor graduate of the Radiography School at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. Following her honorable discharge, she earned her bachelor's degree in radiologic technology from Midwestern State University and then a master's degree in human resources management from the Golden Gate University. Following positions in South Carolina as a radiologic technologist, a sonographer, and an assistant director of radiology, she traveled 4500 miles to Hawaii to serve as lead sonographer and supervisor of ultrasound education at the Tripler Army Medical Center before reversing that 4500-mile journey and ending her cross-country travels in Florida in 1991. She has held multiple positions at the Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, renamed the Adventist University of Health Sciences, where she now serves as both chair and professor of the Sonography Department and director of the Center for Advanced Ultrasound Education.

One might assume that someone who has experienced such a meteoric rise in her ultrasound career would have been so focused on work that she would have had little time or inclination to volunteer. In the case of Professor Henningsen, that assumption would be 100% false. Most ultrasound professionals join at least one educational association, but not only is Professor Henningsen a member of multiple societies, she also has been active and involved in many, serving in multiple leadership roles that help ensure her medical colleagues have access to the highest quality educational programming that will allow them to offer the best patient care. To highlight a few examples, she has served on the Advisory Board of the Central Florida Society since 1991. For the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), she has served as facilitator for various discussion forums, chaired multiple committees, held numerous liaison roles, served on its board for 10 years, and been president of both the SDMS and the SDMS Foundation. In addition, she has been active with the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography, serving on its Continuing Medical Education Advisory Workgroup, as an Exam Development Task Force member in neurosonology, on its Emergency Medicine Task Force, and currently on the Latin American Task Force. For the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), she has been a member of both the Membership and the Clinical Standards Committees, has served on the Board of Governors, has been involved in the Ultrasound Practice Forum, and is currently beginning her second term as second vice president.

Despite the time-consuming nature of association responsibilities, Professor Henningsen's dedication to education is unmatched, as her 15 pages of professional presentations will attest. These are in addition to the many lectures, courses, and labs she annually presents not only in the Sonography Department, but in the Departments of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia, and Physician Assistant, as well as for the Florida Hospital Emergency Medicine Residency and Fellowship Programs, Radiology Residency Program, and Surgical Residency Program. Oh, and that's in addition to the numerous committees she sits on for her institution.

The amount of teaching in which she engages is impressive in its own right, but it is the breadth and range of her ultrasound expertise that make Professor Henningsen's educational activities stand out. There are many highly skilled sonographers whose efforts on behalf of their patients should be lauded, but most focus on one area, such as obstetric ultrasound. Professor Henningsen is registered in abdomen, obstetrics/gynecology, neurosonology, breast, fetal echocardiography, pediatric sonography, and vascular, and the variety of her professional presentations reflects her broad range of knowledge.

It must be assumed that Professor Henningsen never sleeps because in addition to the activities cited above, she has also served as a journal reviewer and a book reviewer, has authored book chapters in numerous books, some of which are already in their third, fourth, or even seventh editions, has written journal articles, edited a National Certification Review, and authored the textbook *Clinical Guide to Sonography: Exercises for Critical Thinking*.

It will be difficult for any sonographer to top this year's Distinguished Sonographer awardee for skills, commitment, and dedication, but the AIUM looks forward to honoring those who follow in the footsteps of Professor Henningsen.



