



Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) Registrant Spotlight

This section spotlights a CCI registrant for his or her accomplishments and dedication to the cardiovascular profession. Submissions may be sent to Christine Johnson via email at cjohnson@cci-online.org.

Patrick D. Coon, RCCS, RDCS, FASE

Patrick Coon entered the field of echocardiography from a very different field: the restaurant industry. While working as a chef in a restaurant, Patrick visited a friend who was working in the healthcare field. Patrick was ready for a change, and his friend suggested he meet with the Program Director at Eastern University. In 1996, Patrick received his Associate degree in Cardiovascular Technology from Eastern University in St. David's, Pennsylvania. He has been an echocardiographer since receiving his degree and is currently working at a private pediatric cardiology practice and Virtua Hospital in Voorhees, New Jersey.

After spending six years working in pediatric echo, Patrick ran an adult echo lab in Philadelphia for three years, and then spent six years working with Dr. Roberto Lang in Chicago. He led the echo lab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) working alongside Dr. Jack Rychik. His work experience in different settings from academic medicine, to research, to private practice, to managing large pediatric and adult labs have helped make him the professional that he is today. Patrick has been involved in many aspects of cardiac ultrasound from post natal examinations to placing pacemakers in adults.

Patrick was a part of the task force that developed the Registered Congenital Cardiac Sonographer (RCCS) credential. He was among the first to earn the credential in 2010 and is now a member of the Congenital Registry Exam Writing Committee. Patrick says, "The RCCS is a congenital exam and not a

pediatric exam. It includes a very special group of adult patients who are living with pediatric issues. This is the only registry that is congenital focused. Pediatric echo and congenital is a special niche." Patrick continues, "The field has very dedicated echocardiographers working on interesting and challenging cases, and anatomy and hemodynamics are important. You get to see your patients grow up."



Patrick lectures at many national and international meetings and is an active volunteer in the profession. He is the incoming Co-Chair for the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) Sonographer Council and is the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) representative.

Patrick's advice for entry-level cardiac sonographers or new graduates is to love what you do. "This is a great profession, and we are autonomous. We have lots of interaction with doctors and nurses," Patrick states. "Always learn at least one new thing a day. Don't be discouraged during the first few years; you will improve." ♥

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