



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.

Linda Antonucci, RPhS, RVT, RDCS

Linda became interested in ultrasound while working as a receptionist for a group of cardiologists in the early 1980s. Since the group already had an echo tech, the senior physician suggested she study vascular so that both techs could eventually cross train one another. After graduating from Newark Beth Israel Hospital's vascular program, Linda worked in a hospital vascular lab to gain exposure to more advanced pathology, worked part time for the cardiology group, and full time at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Linda worked in the vascular field for five years and then went back to school to study echocardiography. In 1987 she received a call from Dr. Joseph Fretta, a physician who had learned a new technique in Europe for treating varicose veins. He explained it was a non-surgical treatment that would ablate the saphenous vein using chemicals. He offered to train Linda, and she jumped at his offer because she had witnessed the horrific results of the surgical treatments being offered at the time. She and Dr. Fretta performed ultrasound guided chemical ablation from 1987 to 1997, when thermal ablation techniques became the preferred treatment.

At the same time, Linda had the honor of working side by side with Dr. Lowell Kabnick, who was the first vascular surgeon to perform these breakthrough treatments. Almost 30 years later, Linda still works alongside Dr. Fretta and also lectures with Dr. Kabnick throughout the year.

Linda says, "The RPhS credential places me in a group of imaging professionals who practice advanced venous imaging diagnostics with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of venous treatments. I believe the RPhS credential is important for both sonographers and providers."

Linda has held many volunteer positions throughout her career and has lectured across the country. She has over 25 years of experience in diagnostic imaging, including working at the New Jersey Vein Center since its inception in 1987, consulting for new vascular laboratories, and teaching ultrasound nationwide. She is the technical director for New Jersey Vein Center and an independent consultant specializing in advanced venous diagnostics.

Regarding the use of ultrasound in phlebology, Linda says, "Most experts in our field agree that duplex ultrasound is the test of choice for the investigation of venous disorders. It is used to assess for Deep Venous Thrombosis, Superficial Venous Thrombosis, Deep Venous Insufficiency, and Superficial Venous Insufficiency. It is also used for the evaluation of patients contemplating vein therapy who are symptomatic, with or without visible varicosities, or asymptomatic with visible varicosities. It is used for Pre-op mapping, US-guided procedures, and all post-intervention evaluations. During the course of my day, whether I am performing the examination or instructing, duplex ultrasound is the sole tool I depend on."



Linda received her RVT and RDCS credentials fifteen years earlier than her RPhS credential, but she has chosen to place RPhS first after her name for two reasons.

"The Registered Phlebology Sonographer credential defines who I am in the field of ultrasound," Linda states. "It shows that I have chosen to place phlebology first by devoting the remainder of my career to the study and treatment of venous disease. Secondly, it places me in a group of imaging professionals who practice advanced venous imaging diagnostics with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of venous treatments. I believe the RPhS credential is important for both sonographers and providers."

Linda has been actively involved with the review course training lectures. She was chosen to sit for the pilot examination and was among the first to earn the credential in 2010. She was part of a group of subject matter experts who reviewed the RPhS Job Task Analysis (JTA) conducted in 2014.

Linda concludes, "On a professional level, credentialing ensures that registered operators exhibit a superior level of professionalism, which includes consistent, high-quality studies for the physician to interpret and an understanding of all aspects of patient care and safety. On a personal level, getting credentialed gives an operator a huge edge when seeking employment. Many health care facilities and medical practices specifically request registered operators when they are looking for new hires." ♥

From the The Pulse, 2015, Issue 2