

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2015

## **Society for Vascular Ultrasound Awards and Fellow Elevations at 2015 Annual Conference at the Paris Las Vegas Resort & Convention Center**

**LANHAM, MD, August 5, 2015** – During its successful and highly engaging 2015 Annual Conference, July 16-18, in Las Vegas at the Paris Resort & Convention Center, the Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU) elevated three members to Fellow. In addition, SVU presented several awards to designate fine service to the organization and to the vascular ultrasound profession. Other awards recognized strong presentations given at the Annual Conference.

### **FELLOWS**

The Fellows Subcommittee, chaired by Vice President Joseph P. Hughes, made the recommendation to elevate Patrick Washko, BS RDMS RT RVT, Stephanie Wilson, RDMS RVT and Diana Neuhardt, RVT RPhS to SVU Fellow. The SVU Board concurred with the decision and Mr. Washko, Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Neuhardt were announced as the newest SVU Fellows at the 2015 SVU Annual Conference.

Mr. Washko is the Coordinator and Technical Director at REX Hospital (UNC Healthcare). Mrs. Wilson is the Coordinator, Vascular Sonography at South Hills School of Business and Technology. Ms. Neuhardt is the President of CompuDiagnostics, Inc.

### **2015 SVU SERVICE AWARDS**

**Certificate of Appreciation** had two sets of recipients this year: **Michael Lilly, MD MA RVT** and members who helped in creating the SVU mobile App, *iSVU*. Michael has a consistent and decades-long leadership and mentorship with the society. He has been one of the most consistent integrators of the role of a physician working alongside the technologist and a proponent of the relationship between the two being mutually beneficial. The members who helped create *iSVU* include Karen Burns, MBA RN RVT,

Stephanie Wilson, BS RDMS RVT FSVU, Patrick Washko, BSRT RDMS RVT FSVU, William LeClair, AS RVT, Dawn Stirrat, Steven Knight, BSc RVT RDCS, Paula Heggerick, BS RVT RPhS FSVU and Kelly Estes, RVT RDMS RDCS RT(R). Each one has spent numerous volunteer hours working on this app to ensure it is easy to use and includes the most up to date SVU Professional Guidelines. The Certificate of Appreciation is given to individuals or groups in recognition of creative endeavor or outstanding achievement in promoting noninvasive vascular technology.

**Distinguished Service Award** recipient was **Patricia Marques, RN RVT FSVU**. Patricia has contributed incredible time and service to SVU over decades, consistently taking on the most demanding jobs in our Society. She works tirelessly to make SVU stay on a strong course.

### **2015 SVU SCIENTIFIC AWARDS**

**Professional Achievement Awards** recipients were **Colleen Douville, BA RVT** and **Joseph Hughes, RVT FSVU**. Colleen has worked tirelessly in the past 25 years in research, education and patient care using her expertise in neurovascular ultrasound. She has been published in numerous ultrasound related journals and has made many contributions to ultrasound books. She is passionate about her work and continues to advocate for utility of ultrasound as a diagnostic tool for neurovascular diseases. Joseph is very much involved in promoting vascular technology education to both technologists and the doctors. Countless professionals benefit from his passion, dedication and commitment to the vascular field. His untiring and unselfish focus towards educating hundreds of professionals and molding them into critical thinkers in our field. *This award was sponsored by HPSO.*

**Pioneer Award** recipient was Eugene Zierler, MD RPVI. The Pioneer Award is an acknowledgement of an individual's significant contribution to the scientific field of vascular diagnostics. The award was given to Dr. Zierler for his outstanding pioneering scientific contributions to the noninvasive vascular diagnostics profession. After earning BA and MD degrees from Johns Hopkins, Dr. Zierler completed his residency at the University of British Columbia. His career has been almost entirely at the University of Washington, where he started in 1978 as a researcher in the laboratory of Dr. D. Eugene Strandness, Jr. A Strandness protégé and colleague for more than two decades. Dr. Zierler maintained Dr. Strandness' legacy after his death in 2002 by continuing his biennial symposium and by editing two updates of the classic textbook *Strandness's Duplex Scanning in Vascular Disorders*. Dr. Zierler had significant roles in much of the early development of duplex scanning with pioneering work on the use of ultrasound for the evaluation of carotid artery disease. His first publication on the topic was in 1980. He has since been prolific with his contributions to the scientific literature, having authored 86 peer-reviewed journal articles, 50 book

chapters and numerous other publications. Zierler is internationally recognized for his work in education, accreditation and credentialing of sonographers and vascular laboratory physicians. He has served the ARDMS and the IAC in significant leadership roles. Dr. Zierler is currently Professor of Surgery and the Director of the D. E. Strandness, Jr. Vascular Laboratory. He has been a member of SVU since 1984, currently serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Vascular Ultrasound and has participated as a faculty in numerous SVU Vascular Interpretation Skills courses.

#### **D.E. STRANDNESS, MD SCIENTIFIC AWARD**

The **D.E. Strandness, MD, Scientific Award for Excellence in Vascular Research** was presented to **Eileen French-Sherry, MA RVT FSVU**, for her paper on "Combination of Duplex Ultrasound Data Improves Positive Predictive Value for Carotid Stenosis > 70%." This annual award is in honor of the "Father of Noninvasive Diagnosis", D.E. Strandness, MD, who died in 2002. *This award was sponsored by Parks Medical.*

#### **ORAL CLINICAL PRESENTATION AWARD**

**Jean Alessi-Chinetti, BA RVT RDMS** received the **Excellence in Oral Clinical Presentation Award** for her scientific paper on "Association of Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction with the Dicrotic Notch of the CCA."

#### **MEMBER FIRST-TIME PRESENTER AWARD**

The recipient of the **Member First-Time Presenter Award** is **B. Tonia Maddock, BS RVT RDMS** for her paper on "Gaseous Microembolic Signals (MES) Seen in Patient with Severely Calcified Native Aortic Valve: A Case Report."

#### **CLINICAL CASE STUDY POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD**

**Besnike Ramadani, BS RVT** received the **Excellence in Clinical Case Study Poster Presentation Award** for her poster on "Decreasing the Angle of Insonation from 60° to 50° Decreases Inter-Tech Variance in Carotid Artery Ultrasound Exam Velocity Measurements." *This award was sponsored by DataStar Systems, Inc.*

#### **PHYSICIAN PRESENTER AWARD**

The **Physician Presenter Award** was presented to **Sergio Xavier Salles-Cunha, PhD RVT FSVU** for his paper on "Ultrasonographic Tissue Characterization of Kidneys in Patients with Unilateral Renal Artery Stenosis." *This award was sponsored by Greater Boston Vascular Technologists.*

#### **STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD**

**Andrea DiCarlo, RDMS** received the **Student Poster Presentation Award** for her poster on "Pseudoaneurysm of the Hepatic Artery." *This award was sponsored by Inside Ultrasound.*

#### **ALEX CHAO, MD/YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD**

**Sophia Lin** received the **Alex Chao, M.D. – Young Investigator’s Award** for her paper on “Non-Invasive Vascular Testing for Diagnosis and Management of Hypothenar Hammer Syndrome.” *This award was sponsored by Salient Imaging.*

#### **ORAL CASE STUDY PRESENTATION AWARD**

**Alana Roland, RVT FTP** received the **Excellence in an Oral Case Study Presentation Award** for her paper on “Type III Popliteal Entrapment Syndrome in a Young Athlete.” *This award was sponsored by Pegasus.*

#### **STUDENT ORAL PRESENTER AWARD**

**Emily Walder** received the **Student Oral Presenter Award** for her paper on “Tumor Thrombus Arising from Osteosarcoma.” *This award was sponsored by North Jersey Vascular Association.*

#### **SCIENTIFIC POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD**

**Sergio Xavier Salles-Cunha, PhD RVT FSVU** received the **Excellence in Scientific Poster Presentation Award** for his poster on “Technology Dependence of IMT Ultrasonographic Measurements.” *This award was sponsored by North Carolina Vascular Association.*

SVU encourages sonographers and vascular technologists to join us at the 2016 SVU Annual Conference, August 11-13, in Chicago, IL. For more information on SVU and its educational meetings, please visit [www.svunet.org](http://www.svunet.org).

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Founded in 1977, the Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU) is the only professional organization completely dedicated to the advancement of non-invasive vascular technology used in the diagnosis and treatment of vascular disease. SVU is comprised of more than 5,600 vascular technologists, physicians, and other allied health professionals. SVU offers vascular ultrasound educational programs, webinars, publications, networking opportunities, and legislative/regulatory advocacy representation. SVU publishes the *Journal for Vascular*

*Ultrasound*; a unique and well-respected quarterly scientific journal dedicated to vascular ultrasound, and *e-Spectrum*, a monthly electronic newsletter. Visit SVU at [www.svunet.org](http://www.svunet.org).

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