Presentation title: Diagnostic Medical Sonography: A Dynamic Healthcare Profession

This presentation was developed and is copyrighted by Daniel A. Merton, BS, RDMS, FAIUM, FSDMS with funding support provided by the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine’s Endowment for Education and Research (Grant title: “Enhancing Awareness of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Professions: A High School Outreach Program”). It is intended as a presentation for sonography professionals to provide information about Diagnostic Medical Sonography in general and DMS careers in particular to high school students (ideally those in anatomy/physiology or advanced biology classes). The program can also be presented to middle-school students, guidance counselors, teachers and others with an interest in this topic.

The presentation includes 40 slides and requires 35 to 45 minutes to complete. It is strongly suggested that presenters include a live scanning demonstration at the conclusion of the slide show. Manufacturers of hand-carried ultrasound systems are often willing to loan their systems to interested professionals for this purpose. Alternatively, the presenter can invite a company applications specialist to assist in the program or the program can be provided in a healthcare setting where there is access to an ultrasound system.

Format and Content

The presentation is provided in PowerPoint Show (PPS; Microsoft Office 2003) format. It includes still images, photographs, audio (on slide #6) and video clips. The PPS file and all video clips must be kept within a single folder to function properly. The sequence of slides and individual components of the presentation (text boxes, images, photographs and video clips) are locked in place but are displayed automatically and sequentially as the presenter manually advances the show using the right or down arrow keys or left mouse click. Video clips can be identified on each slide as having a red line around them. In some cases the video clips will play automatically when the slide is initially shown while in other cases the video begins to play on the next mouse click (which provides time for the presenter to describe other items shown on that slide).

Complementary items included with this presentation include a Handout with additional information pertaining to DMS professions and a presentation Questionnaire. These items can be distributed to students after the presentation. The Questionnaire is used to obtain feedback from the students and their instructors.

Presenter Notes and Suggestions

Each slide includes notes that can be viewed by selecting “Notes Page” under the “View” tab. It is recommended that presenters view the notes prior to using the presentation to become familiar with the content and sequence. The Notes include a brief description of what is shown on each slide as well as “presenter notes” that are suggestions that the presenter can employ to enhance speaker/audience interactions. The inclusion of interactive opportunities during the presentation tends to increase the attention level of students and makes the experience more interesting and educationally rewarding.

Acknowledgements and Restrictions

Users of this presentation are requested to recognize the AIUM’s EER as the funding source and Daniel Merton as the developer (slides recognizing each are included at the end of the presentation). Use of this presentation and accompanying documents in their entirety or any portion is limited to educational purposes only. No part of these files can be reproduced or published without the written permission of Dan Merton.

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About the developer:

Daniel A. Merton was formerly the Clinical Instructor and the Technical Coordinator of Ultrasound Research at the Jefferson Ultrasound Research and Education Institute of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Drexel University’s School of Biomedical Engineering Science and Health Systems. He has been a sonographer for more than 25 years and is active in professional organizations including the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography and the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Dan has provided presentations like this to more than 400 students ranging from 5th to 12th graders. He is always willing to discuss the topic with other DMS professionals who would like to provide this presentation.