The purpose of the POCUS Certification Academy™ is to honor professionals who aim to improve their practice and patient experiences by using POCUS. Through our programs, we uphold this purpose and hope to inspire healthcare professionals, educators, organizations, and industry leaders to join us in building a better future. Ultimately, the POCUS Certification Academy™ seeks to empower healthcare professionals to provide the best possible care.

We believe that the future of ultrasound is portable and mobile, enabling faster care which leads to efficient, effective and better patient experiences.

Are you ready to lead the future?
WHY IS POCUS IMPORTANT FOR YOU?
• Portable, allowing for real-time imaging and on-the-spot interpretation.
• Less expensive than other imaging modalities.
• Highly accurate in experienced hands.
• No use of ionizing radiation.
• Potentially improved patient experience and satisfaction.

WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAMS UNIQUE?
• Non-profit organization that cares about improving global health.
• Self-paced, on demand, and available online anytime to best fit your schedule.
• Based on real clinical scenarios with engaging and modern educational methods.
• Focused on assessment of the core competencies that matter most.
• Community-driven content developed with experts in the field from multiple specialties and backgrounds.
• Credibility guaranteed by strategic collaboration and support from ARDMS® & APCA™.
• Unique access to exclusive resources and communities of practice for program participants.
• Focused on ongoing learning and development.
• Immediate results and recognition when you earn your certificate.
• Digital badges to help promote your accomplishment.
• A percentage of your fee contributes to scholarship funds.

WHAT IS POINT-OF-CARE ULTRASOUND (POCUS)?
POCUS refers to the simultaneous acquisition and interpretation of ultrasound images at the patient’s point of need by a healthcare professional to immediately inform diagnosis or treatment, or to aid in the completion of procedures.

HOW CAN POCUS BE USED IN OB FIRST TRIMER PRACTICE?
Point-of-Care Ultrasound can be used for Obstetrics/First Trimester. Some POCUS-appropriate diagnosis may include:
• Early Pregnancy
• Ectopic Pregnancy
• Definitive Pregnancy Failure or Possible Pregnancy Failure
• Heterotopic Pregnancy
• Intrauterine Pregnancy, Single Gestation
• Molar Pregnancy
• Intrauterine Pregnancy, Multiple Gestation
• Ovarian Torsion

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?
The OB First Trimester Clinical Certificate is appropriate for physicians and advanced practice providers (e.g., physician assistants, nurse practitioners) who use POCUS for clinical evaluation. This may include practitioners in the following specialties:
• Critical Care
• Emergency Medicine
• Family Medicine
• Internal Medicine
• Radiology/General Imaging
• Obstetrics/Gynecology
SNAPSHOT OF PARTICIPANTS’ PROFILE

AREA OF SPECIALTY
- Cardiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Radiology
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Anesthesiology
- Critical Care
- Other (Intensivists, Hospitalist, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation)

YEARS USING POCUS
- 5 Years or Less
- 6 to 15 Years
- 16 to 25 Years
- More Than 15 Years

YEARS SINCE GRADUATION
- 5 Years or Less
- 6 to 15 Years
- 16 to 25 Years
- More Than 25 Years

“I, one of the best online learning/testing modules I have taken part in.”

WILL RECOMMEND THE POCUS CERTIFICATION ACADEMY™ TO THEIR COLLEAGUES

85%*

*Source: 2019 Inteleos Post-Exam Survey; 2019 Inteleos CRM cumulative data.
## PROGRAM OUTLINE

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<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>CORE COMPETENCIES</th>
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| **Fundamental: Foundational Knowledge** | Instrumentation  
- Describe the appropriate use of gain settings  
- Understand the factors that determine transducer selection  
- Describe the appropriate use of depth settings  
- Describe the conventional image orientations  

Principles of Ultrasound  
- Understand the basic principles & terminology of US physics  
- Describe the variables that affect the echogenicity of tissue and structures  
- Describe the variables that affect ultrasonic signal attenuation  
- Describe the variables that affect ultrasonic signal reflection  
- Understand the effect of different media on sound propagation  
- Describe the fundamental differences between Doppler US and B-mode US  

Ultrasound Artifacts  
- Recognize & understand the cause of common US artifacts  

Safety and Bioeffects  
- Describe precautions used to prevent cross-contamination  
- Describe the potential bioeffects of US | POCUS Fundamentals Examination  
- 35 Multiple Choice Questions  
- Waived for professionals who have passed the Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) examination within the last 5 (five) years, or who hold specific credentials offered by ARDMS® or APCA™ |

| **Clinical: Interpretation/Diagnostic** | | Online Examination  
- 7 screen-based simulated clinical cases  
- Approximately 24 questions in each case |

| **Practical: Image Acquisition** | | Peer Evaluations |

- Familiarity with normal exploration paths  
- Recognition of when patient condition or presentation requires deviations from the normal exploration paths  
- Identification of regions or basic POCUS views described in consensus documents or protocols  
- Ability to recognize and identify various anatomical features in M-mode and 2D images  
- Knowledge of common sonographic artifacts or measurements  
- Ability to identify artifacts that may aid in diagnosis  
- Recognition of sonographic patterns and their implications for diagnosis  
- Knowledge of common pathologies and conditions identified through POCUS  
- Ability to comprehensively consider all case information (POCUS images, patient presentation, labs, etc.) to determine an initial diagnosis  

- Ability to obtain images of diagnostic quality  
- Use and/or understanding of gain  
- Use and/or understanding of depth  
- Transducer placement  
- Use and/or understanding of measurement techniques  
- Use and/or understanding of M-Mode and Color Doppler  
- Overall experience in acquisition and interpretation of POCUS images within the chosen clinical area |
**Eligibility Requirement**
The eligibility criteria for a POCUS Certification Academy OB First Trimester Clinical Certificate includes:

- Must be a health care professional in good standing and actively practicing in a relevant clinical area;
- Must have demonstrated Fundamental POCUS proficiency (by holding a POCUS Certification Academy Fundamentals Certificate or other specific credentials offered by ARDMS® or APCATM);
- Must have performed and participated in the interpretation of 25 OB First Trimester Point-of-Care Ultrasound cases within the last 2 (two) years.

**Preparation**
In addition to your practice of POCUS, previous participants have used one of the following methods to prepare for the exams:

- Self-directed learning
- Courses
- Workshops
- Residency or Fellowship
- On the job/Hands-on training

**Pricing**
High value for money:

- $125 for the POCUS Fundamentals (Note: waived for professionals who have passed the Sonography Principles & Instrumentation – SPI – examination within the last 5 years, or who hold specific credentials offered by ARDMS® or APCATM).
- $150 for OB First Trimester Certificate
- Special packages and conditions for groups. Scholarships available for those in need. To learn more, write to POCUS@APCA.org

To apply, go to POCUS.org

For questions, contact POCUS@APCA.org

"A good opportunity to demonstrate skills and knowledge."
In addition to over 100 Subject Matter Experts from more than 15 countries, the POCUS Certification Academy™ has an advisory group of subject matter experts who are part of the POCUS Assessment Committee and help build the highest standards for practice of Point-Of-Care Ultrasound. Visit POCUS.org to see full list of participants and their complete bios.
Our Partner Organizations
The pioneering organizations working with the POCUS Certification Academy™ in setting direction and strategy include:

The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®)
For more than 40 years, ARDMS has set the standard for administering examinations and awarding credentials in areas of ultrasound. ARDMS empowers sonographers to provide exceptional patient care through rigorous assessments and continual learning.

The Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement™ (APCA™)
Spun out of ARDMS in 2016 to meet the exclusive needs of physicians, APCA is dedicated to continual learning and providing high-quality and compassionate patient care through certification. APCA joins ARDMS in furthering its long-standing mission of raising the global standards of excellence in healthcare and patient safety.