

PRIORITY HEALTH EDUCATION

Instructors / Proctors / Physicians



Byron Jamerson, RPSGT

Byron is the Director of Sleep Disorders Services for Coffee Health Group in Florence, AL and has been a sleep tech since 1986. He became registered by the BRPT in 1989. Since then he has served as an examiner on the BRPT part 3 exam, has served on the editorial board of the national newsletter, was co-chair of the first APT Technologist recognition week, and served as the Education Chair for the Alabama Association of Sleep Professionals. In 1994 Byron began teaching and doing private consulting work. His students have a very good record on the registry exam and he has also taken five different sleep programs through the AASM

accreditation. Byron tries to take a "plain English" approach to his teaching and believes that truly understanding the foundational standards is the key to making a great sleep tech.



Michelle Sartelle, BS Ed, RPSGT

Michelle is a natural-born teacher. Since graduating from Clarion University in Pennsylvania with a B.S. in education, she has worked in a wide variety of educational settings. She has worked with mentally retarded and autistic children and adults, taught toddlers in church nurseries, and developed teaching modules and held training classes for her sleep lab co-workers. In her spare time, she raised a husband and homeschooled her two sons from elementary school through high school, teaching everything from reading and history to trigonometry, biology, and chemistry.

Since 1996, Michelle has worked for Bon Secours in Richmond, VA. She started as a cardiac care tech performing EKGs, halter monitors, and assisting with stress tests, but became interested in sleeping disorders, transferred to Bon Secours' sleep lab in 1998, and earned her registry in 2007. She is now pursuing an associate's degree in respiratory therapy.



Karisa Pace, RPSGT

Karisa is "self taught" in sleep. She aggressively worked her way up the ranks beginning with on-the-job-training to her current position as Clinical Director at Hermitage Sleep Center, a four bed facility in Hermitage Tennessee. She obtained her RPSGT credential in 2003. Her back ground in sleep is extensive and includes being the Technical Supervisor at Vanderbilt Sleep Center. She was instrumental in both the Vanderbilt Sleep Center and the Hermitage Sleep Center obtaining their AASM sleep center Accreditations.

Karisa has long recognized the value of education and the importance of quality programs such as Priority Health Education and the AASM Accredited A-STEP programs. She has taught sleep education extensively with Priority Health Education since 2007. Her teaching background includes sleep research with autism children and in training new sleep center staff in sleep; starting with the patient hook-up all the way to the fundamentals of scoring.

In addition to her teaching accomplishments in sleep, her personal teaching experience includes being a middle school and high school substitute and intern teacher as well as 15 years experience teaching at her church's women's organization.

Her love of sleep and her passion of quality service is contagious to those around her. "Learning" is something she feels you must do every day. Karisa's teaching style is fun, interactive, and hands on. She is the current Secretary for the Tennessee Sleep Society.



Karen Allen, RPSGT, CRT

Karen serves as Clinical Technologist, CPAP Specialist, and Education Coordinator at the Sleep Center at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Montana. Her career in sleep medicine and technology began in 1992 and she earned her RPSGT credential as soon as she qualified to take the BRPT exam the following year (1993). Karen has been actively involved as Coordinator of the annual Montana Regional Sleep Seminar since she arrived in Billings, Montana in 1997. Attendance has grown from 12 in 1997 to over 170 in 2008. These sleep seminars are graciously supported by many notable speakers, sleep vendors as well as

her employer.

Her goal has always been to provide a quality educational experience that offers continuing education credits at an affordable cost. She also strives to increase awareness of sleep/wake disorders through presentations to the medical and public communities. Karen has been an active member of the American Association of Sleep Technologists since she started her career in sleep technology. She has published articles in the AAST Magazine "A2Zzz", posted clinical protocols on the AAST website and proudly served on various committees as well as Director at Large in 1997 and 1998. Karen is the 2006 recipient of **The Sharon Keenan, PhD, RPSGT Service Award** for outstanding contributions in sleep technology education. She currently serves on the CEC Article Review Panel for the AAST and is a member of the Editorial Board for the recently published "**Fundamentals of Sleep Technology**".



Kim Trotter, MA, RPSGT

Kim began her sleep career while completing her Master's Degree in Psychology with an emphasis in behavioral sleep research. She started out as a clinical sleep technologist, conducting sleep disorders testing in a sleep disorders center, and has been in the field of sleep and a proud member of the AAST for 21 years. Over the years, she has published and presented sleep research, created and taught insomnia classes, coordinated support groups for sleep

apnea sufferers, presented educational talks to the public, written numerous articles on sleep: for the public and the profession, taught sleep disorders medicine to future technologists and physicians, and accredited two sleep disorders centers.

She served on the AAST Board of Directors from 1996-1998, was the 1999 recipient of the Carskadon Research Award, and the 2006 recipient of the Allen DeVilbiss Literary Award. She is currently the Administrative Director of the University of California San Francisco Sleep Disorders Center, core faculty member of the School of Sleep Medicine, AAST Program Committee member, AAST A2Zzz Magazine senior editor, is on the California Sleep Society Board of Directors, and has a very active support group for sleep apnea sufferers.



Kerry Lindquist, RPSGT, RRT, A.S.

Kerry graduated from Rochelle Township High School in 1989 and received her AAS in Respiratory Therapy from Rock Valley College in 1991 and earned the RRT credential. She worked in respiratory care from 1991-1997 at Saint Anthony Medical Center. She joined the field of sleep medicine in 1997 and became a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist in 1999. She was the co-founder of Midwest Sleep & Neurodiagnostic Institute (MSNi) from 1999-2005. MSNi provided education and training for sleep technologists and consulting throughout the country. She is invited to speak at local, regional, and national sleep meetings. Kerry is a published writer for such journals as Sleep Review magazine. After becoming a mother of 3 in a period of 6 years, she resigned her position as CEO of MSNi to reduce her travel and spend more time at home. She is currently the Clinical Coordinator of the Sleep Disorders Center at Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, Illinois.



Debbie Akers, RPSGT, RRT

Debbie began her career in sleep technology in 1984. She became a RPSGT in 1994. She has volunteered on numerous AAST committees focusing on education and professional development, has served as an AAST education course director, and has trained countless sleep technologists, residents and physicians. She manages two AASM-accredited sleep disorder centers and manages and educates 20 staff RPSGTs and six physicians. She is co-director of, and sits on the advisory panel for, the one-year PSG program at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach.

Debbie is a contributing author to the *Fundamentals of Sleep* textbook. **She is also the 2008 recipient of the AASM Dr. Sharon Kenan, RPSGT Service Award** for Debbie's outstanding efforts in advancing education in sleep technology.



John Burkholder, RPSGT

Managed a personnel staff of 22 including technicians and physicians within a specialty diagnostic center including; Sleep Disorders Center, Neurodiagnostic Lab, Dizziness and Balance Center, Memory Disorders Center, Parkinson's Disease Association, and the JCAHO Primary and AHCA Comprehensive Stroke Center.

Responsibilities include: education, daily operations, development and maintenance of departmental budgets, policy and procedure development and implementation, continuous process improvement and quality initiatives, HIPAA compliance, hiring of staff and annual evaluations, maintaining productivity and volumes, and development and implementation of department marketing.



Edwin Cintron, RPSGT

Edwin Cintron is a longstanding contributor to the field of sleep, having started as a sleep tech some 15 years ago. He has written numerous articles for the AAST Magazine, "A2Zzz." For the past 6 years he has taught a class for Polysomnography Technologists at Erwin Technical Center in Tampa, Florida.

Edwin currently is Technical Director for Central Florida Sleep Diagnostic & Treatment Center in Bartow, Florida. Mr. Cintron has a unique perspective on the field of Polysomnography, being a user of CPAP as well as actively working with patients performing Polysomnography.

He is the past recipient of the Dr. Allen DeVilbiss Literary Award as well as the Dr. Sharon Keenan Award for Excellence in Education. Edwin has contributed questions for the BRPT Registry Exam in his capacity as a volunteer of the RPSGT Exam Development Committee.

Anna M. Rodriguez, RPSGT

Originally from Texas, she is now the Clinical Coordinator at Sleep Disorders Center of Virginia. She joined the Sleep Disorders Center of Virginia in 1998 as a PSGT primarily working the night shift. Anna obtained her RPSGT credential in 2005. Her prior background was in Respiratory Therapy in both the hospital and home care setting for 15 years.



Theresa Shumard

Theresa Shumard started working in the field of sleep 18 years ago after a career as a medical journalist, news reporter, and was the host of the K TEN-TV Morning News Show and a newscaster for sister radio station KADA near Oklahoma City. Theresa is well-known as an international lecturer in the areas of drowsy driving prevention, disease management, treatment compliance, health literacy, patient education and social issues sometimes associated with CPAP therapy, polysomnographic technologist professional development measures, trends and applications of sleep technology, and strategies to decrease allied health workforce shortages.

Theresa served on the Board of the American Association of Sleep Technologists (AAST) (formerly called the Association of Polysomnographic Technologists [APT]), for 10 years and is the former Editor in Chief of A2Zzz Magazine. She has been chosen as an Associated Press Award winning medical journalist, selected for the 2003 Coalition for Allied Health Leadership and is a recipient of the AAST 2000 McGregor Award.

Dave Henry, RRT

Dave has over 30 years of experience as a respiratory therapist. Previous employments have included staff positions, director of cardiopulmonary service, adjunct professor in a bachelors level respiratory care program along with experience in home care. Dave has been with DeVilbiss Healthcare since 1994 with positions as respiratory/sleep specialist and most recently as respiratory clinical specialist. Responsibilities include clinical support to engineering, marketing, and sales departments as well as sleep and respiratory training both internal and external to DeVilbiss Healthcare.



Rick Pointer, RPSGT

Rick D. Pointer RRT, RPSGT, CPFT- Currently serves as Clinical Technologist at the Sleep Center at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Montana. He started his career in healthcare as a Respiratory Therapist in 1996, training in sleep medicine in 1997. He has been a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist since 1999. After starting the Sleep Lab at Memorial Hospital of Sheridan County in Sheridan, Wyoming, he served as the technical coordinator for the University of Utah Sleep Wake Center in Salt Lake City, Utah from February 2005 until coming the St. Vincent Healthcare in August of 2008.

Rick is licensed as a Respiratory Care Practitioner in Montana, Utah, and Wyoming, and is an active member of the AAST.

Randy Brooks, RPSGT

In May of 2000 Randy began working as a sleep tech at an Accredited 8 bed free standing lab in Danville, Virginia. By February of 2002 he was managing a 2 bed free standing lab that became accredited one year later. In December of 2002 he passed his BRPT boards.



Kathe Henke, Ph.D., FASM

Dr. Henke is board-certified in Clinical Sleep Medicine (American Board of Sleep Medicine). She earned her PhD in Respiratory Physiology from the University of Wisconsin. She performed her post-doctoral clinical training in sleep disorders at the University of Sydney in Australia. She has done extensive research in the area of control of breathing during sleep and treatment of sleep disordered breathing. Dr. Henke is a Clinical Associate in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia. She also serves on the Executive Board of the American Sleep Apnea Association and is a lecturer at the School of Sleep Medicine in Palo Alto, California. She is particularly interested in sleep disorders during pregnancy and sleep disorders in children. Dr. Henke has been on staff at Sleep Disorders Center of Virginia since 1996.



Richard A. Parisi, MD, ABSM

Dr. Parisi received his M.D. degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Prior to joining Sleep Disorders Center of Virginia, he was Associate Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He was also Medical Director of the Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. He has been Medical Director of Sleep Disorders Center of Virginia since 2002, and he is also Associate Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine at the VCU School of Medicine. Dr. Parisi is board certified in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Disease (American Board of Internal Medicine), and in Sleep Medicine (American Board of Internal Medicine). He is nationally and internationally known for his research in respiratory physiology and sleep disorders.



Dr. Edmund Cornman, MD, ABSM

Dr. Edmund Cornman received his A.B. degree from Princeton University and his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. As an Army Health Professions Scholarship recipient, he trained at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center and Darnall Army Community Hospital. While at Brooke Army Medical Center, he developed an interest in the effects of sleep deprivation on job performance. He later completed a Fellowship in Sleep Medicine at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Dr. Cornman is board-certified in Sleep Medicine (American Board of Sleep Medicine) and Neurology (American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology). His special interests include nocturnal behavior disorders, medical disorders that disturb sleep, and sleep disorders in children. He joined the staff of Sleep Disorders Center of Virginia in 2002.



Dr. Michael B. Miller, MD, ABSM

Dr. Miller joined Sleep Disorders Center of Virginia in 2006. He has practiced Sleep Medicine since 1994 and has directed sleep disorders centers in Florida and Virginia. Dr. Miller achieved board certification in Sleep Medicine (American Board of Sleep Medicine) in 1994 after completing a Fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. He is also board-certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease, and Critical Care Medicine (American Board of Internal Medicine). Dr. Miller has a particular interest in sleep apnea and other breathing disorders of sleep.



Dr. Suleman H. Iqbal, MD

Dr. Iqbal obtained his M.D. from St. George's University in Granada. He was Chief Fellow in Sleep Medicine in 2006 at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and completed his Sleep Medicine Fellowship in 2007. Dr. Iqbal is board-certified in Internal Medicine (American Board of Internal Medicine).