



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.

Letitia Esbshade-Smith, MS Ed, RCES

Letitia (Lisha) began her “career” in the medical field in Sports Medicine Technology in her hometown of Denver, CO. After a conversation with a few cardiologists, and spending a day in the Cath lab at St Luke’s Hospital, she was introduced to the world of invasive cardiology and from there Lisha completed the Cardiovascular Technology program at Lancaster General Hospital (LGH) in Lancaster, PA and started work immediately in the LGH cath lab in 1990.

Two years later her world tilted when observing Dr. Seth Worley perform a D/C ablation of the AV node. Lisha transferred from the cath lab to the EP lab and began training under Dr. Worley. These were the days of serial drug testing, the need for open heart surgery to implant epicardial defibrillation patches and pacing wires for abdominal ICD implants and epicardial sock and ring mapping for ventricular aneurysms and WPW respectively.

Lisha then moved into the industry side working for GE medical as a clinical application specialist for the EP and Cath recording systems and later returned to LGH to create an educational program for EP staff in 2003. The EP education program began in 2004 as an internship for all new EP staff joining LGH and has evolved into an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) program in Cardiac Electrophysiology to the then Lancaster General College of Nursing & Health Sciences. The Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences electrophysiology program is currently the only CAAHEP accredited program of its kind in the United States.

Lisha’s current role is as the EP program coordinator at the now Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences and she is responsible for teaching all didactic EP courses as well as coordinating the clinical courses and student clinical educational expectations. She enjoys that it is both a challenging and rewarding role for the last 11 years.



In 2006, Lisha approached CCI to petition for a credential in Cardiac Electrophysiology and the following year she was charged with leading the taskforce to create the credential which officially launched in 2008. The RCES is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under the ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 Program. Lisha served as RCES Exam Committee chair from 2007 to 2014 and is currently an item writer for the RCES exam.

Lisha states, “While I do not have data to support my next statement, I firmly believe that credentialed EP staff provide better patient care, decrease the length of the EP procedure, decrease the potential for procedural risks and ultimately decrease length of patient stay. I believe that these positive patient outcomes can be accredited to credentialed staff working in the EP lab.” ♥

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