Why study Critical Care Echocardiography at UQ?

In recent years there has been increasing recognition of the role of echocardiography in critical care medicine. It provides immediate real-time information without exposing the patient to the additional risks of invasive monitoring.

Echocardiography is operator dependent and requires expertise and experience. Despite substantial interest by critical care practitioners in acquiring skills in echocardiography, the opportunities for comprehensive training are limited particularly within the Asia Pacific region.

The Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Echocardiography is designed to integrate training in the theoretical and practical aspects of echocardiography. On completion, you will be able to independently perform and interpret a comprehensive echocardiogram recognizing commonly encountered pathology or the myocardium, valves, pericardium and great vessels. You will also develop an enhanced understanding of the echocardiographic evaluation of the critically ill. Topics covered include:

- assessment of volume status and fluid responsiveness
- haemodynamic monitoring
- evaluation of patients with hypotension, hypoxaemia, sepsis and trauma.

All course material is provided. There are no "live" lectures so you can study in any geographic location that internet access is available.

Your studies will be a combination of the following:

- Theoretical content: a module will be provided for each week of the semester for you to work through. This will consist of online and DVD based material including echocardiographic clips and literature along with scanning hints and pitfalls.
- Practical skills: aligned with the American Society of Echocardiography guidelines for level II accreditation, you are required to perform and report 150 transthoracic studies in their own institution under the guidance of a local supervisor. If certification in transoesophageal echocardiography is also sought, a further 50 transoesophageal studies must be performed and reported. A student may apply for an exemption from the scanning requirement if they can provide documentation that they have already performed and interpreted the required number of studies.
- Echo interpretation: 300 echo studies will be provided for the student to interpret. One report a week will be submitted to the teaching faculty for review and individual feedback. The remainder will have an online report for self-assessment.

Career opportunities

As a critical care echocardiography graduate, you will broaden your employability through your specialist skills and knowledge to independently perform and interpret a comprehensive echocardiogram. You may choose to work in a public or private hospital, private practice, imaging centres and commercial organisations amongst many.

More information

School of Medicine
www.som.uq.edu.au
Email: postgrad@uq.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 3346 5210