

Grossmont College Campus Scene

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Cardiovascular Technology Expert Don Ridgway Keeps Textbooks Current

Think of Don Ridgway as the "textbook overhaul king."

"I could do a series called, 'This Old Book,' " said Ridgway, an old hand in Grossmont's Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) program and coordinator of CVT's Vascular Sonography (VS) specialty.

Ridgway's discipline involves a medical story very much in the news these days: clots that form in the legs that eventually create very dangerous and often fatal embolisms.

"I teach my VS folks how to do diagnostic exams with ultrasound to find problems in arteries and veins that could cause strokes or problems with the legs, clots in veins, that kind of thing," Ridgway said. "When I graduated from the Grossmont CVT program in 1985, there were few useful textbooks in my specialty area."

And so he became an "overhauler."

He wrote "a crank letter" to a textbook publisher, "complaining about the deficiencies of a text I was using in my class."

Ridgway and the publisher, Mike Davies, met and not long after Ridgway was expanding the old text into Introduction to Vascular Scanning, published in 1991.

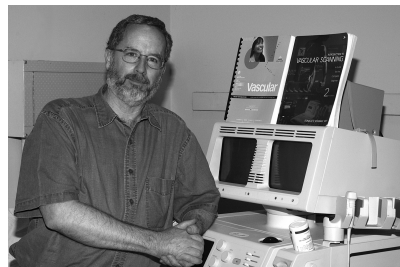
The text, with Ridgway's unique spin - "a cross between Volkswagen Repair for the Complete Idiot and the Pete Seeger Banjo Book," Ridgway said, was a hit in its field.

"The hanging judge of book reviewers in Journal of Vascular Technology called it a major contribution to the field," Ridgway said, "and I am frequently gratified at conferences when users of the book tell me the book made it much easier for them to learn this exacting trade."

Next came a long and comprehensive makeover of Vascular Technology Review, a book of multiple-choice questions for people preparing for the clinical portion of the registry exam. The fourth edition of this overhaul was published in 2002.

Now Ridgway is at work on another Davies rewrite, a student-level text for vascular anatomy and physiology.

"I would like to use it as a text if it were better," Ridgway said. "So I'm going to make it so."



Don Ridgway, Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Technology

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in your division,
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