# Ultrasound Interpretation in Critical Care

## A Cognitive Skills Masterclass

**Friday, October 9, 2026**
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time
Live virtual course

**NO CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDIT WILL BE OFFERED FOR THIS COURSE.**

## Course overview

This focused, interactive masterclass strengthens the cognitive skills required for point-of-care ultrasound interpretation in critical care. Most ultrasound training concentrates on image acquisition. This course addresses the next step: deciding whether an image is adequate, distinguishing artifact from pathology, recognizing clinically important patterns, and integrating findings into bedside decisions.

The course uses a structured, physiology-driven approach across cardiac, lung, abdominal, and lower-extremity vascular ultrasound. Participants will work through real-world images and cases involving shock, respiratory failure, acute hemodynamic instability, and other common critical care scenarios.

A central feature is the interactive pass-the-pointer format. Participants will identify the view and probe position, label anatomy, judge image quality, recognize technical limitations, troubleshoot acquisition problems, and formulate a clinically relevant interpretation.

## Who should attend

- Clinicians with basic image acquisition skills who want greater confidence and accuracy in ultrasound interpretation.
- Clinicians with limited exposure to a broad range of pathology or limited access to expert interpretation supervision.
- Physicians, advanced practice providers, trainees, and sonographers who use or support critical care ultrasound.
- Participants in prior ultrasound courses who want a focused refresher before further hands-on training.

## Learning objectives

- Recognize appropriate cardiac, pulmonary, abdominal, and lower-extremity vascular ultrasound views.
- Differentiate true pathology from artifacts, technical limitations, and probe-related image distortion.
- Determine whether an image is adequate for qualitative or quantitative analysis.
- Identify common high-impact sonographic patterns encountered during acute resuscitation.
- Integrate ultrasound abnormalities into a focused differential diagnosis and bedside management framework.

## Course format and access

**Delivery:** Live online instruction with faculty-led interpretation and small-group breakout sessions.

**Recordings:** Course recordings will be shared with registered participants after the live session.

**Access:** The secure virtual meeting link and joining instructions will be sent only to registered participants.

**Recording policy:** Unauthorized recording, copying, or redistribution of course images, video, or audio is prohibited.

**Program evaluation:** Participants may be asked to complete brief pre-session and post-session surveys to support course improvement. Any research use of survey data will follow applicable institutional and consent requirements.

## Course directors

**Aarti Sarwal**, MD, FCCM, FAAN, FNCS, FASN, RPNI

**Christopher K. Schott**, MD, MS, RDMS

**Antonio Hernandez**, MD, MSCI, FCCM, FASE

## Faculty

Christopher K. Schott, Aarti Sarwal, Antonio Hernandez, Michael Lanspa, Daniel Sweeney, Adam Dossaji, Saral Nikravan, and Gil Allen.

*Faculty assignments are subject to change.*

## Registration fees

| **Registrant category** | **Fee** |
|---|---|
| Physician faculty | **$300** |
| Advanced practice providers | **$200** |
| Trainees, Sonographers, International participants | **$100** |

**Eligibility documentation:** Discounted registrants may be asked to upload proof of training or professional status, such as a program director or division chief letter, an active training certificate, or a current professional credential.

**Registration LINK:**

**Please note: This course does not offer CME credit.**

## Detailed course schedule

All times are Eastern Time. The schedule and faculty assignments may be updated.

### Morning session

| Time | Session |
|---|---|
| **8:00 to 8:30 AM** | **Introduction and cognitive framework for POCUS interpretation, including the pre-session survey**<br>*Faculty: Course Directors* |
| **8:30 to 9:00 AM** | **Cardiac ultrasound: Parasternal long-axis view**<br>*Faculty: Aarti Sarwal* |
| **9:00 to 9:30 AM** | **Cardiac ultrasound: Parasternal short-axis view**<br>*Faculty: Antonio Hernandez* |
| **9:30 to 10:00 AM** | **Cardiac breakout: Parasternal long-axis and short-axis interpretation**<br>*Faculty: Aarti Sarwal, Antonio Hernandez, Michael Lanspa, Daniel Sweeney, Adam Dossaji, Saral Nikravan, Christopher K. Schott, and Gil Allen* |
| **10:00 to 10:30 AM** | Break |
| **10:30 to 11:00 AM** | **Cardiac ultrasound: Apical four-chamber, apical two-chamber, and apical long-axis views**<br>*Faculty: Michael Lanspa* |
| **11:00 to 11:30 AM** | **Cardiac ultrasound: Subcostal view and inferior vena cava**<br>*Faculty: Faculty to be confirmed* |
| **11:30 AM to 12:30 PM** | Lunch break |

## Afternoon session

| Time | Session |
|---|---|
| **12:30 to 1:00 PM** | **Cardiac breakout: Apical and subcostal interpretation**<br>*Faculty: Aarti Sarwal, Antonio Hernandez, Michael Lanspa, Daniel Sweeney, Adam Dossaji, Saral Nikravan, Christopher K. Schott, and Gil Allen* |
| **1:00 to 1:30 PM** | **Abdominal ultrasound: Free fluid and organ assessment**<br>*Faculty: Saral Nikravan* |
| **1:30 to 2:00 PM** | **Lung ultrasound and lower-extremity deep vein thrombosis assessment**<br>*Faculty: Daniel Sweeney* |
| **2:00 to 2:30 PM** | **Breakout: Lung, abdominal, and vascular interpretation**<br>*Faculty: Aarti Sarwal, Antonio Hernandez, Michael Lanspa, Daniel Sweeney, Adam Dossaji, Saral Nikravan, Christopher K. Schott, and Gil Allen* |
| **2:30 to 3:00 PM** | Break |
| **3:00 to 3:30 PM** | **Mixed pathology case review: Foundational cases**<br>*Faculty: Christopher K. Schott, with Daniel Sweeney as backup* |
| **3:30 to 4:00 PM** | **Mixed pathology case review: Complex case**<br>*Faculty: Gil Allen* |
| **4:00 to 4:30 PM** | **Full-case breakout: Integrated interpretation**<br>*Faculty: Aarti Sarwal, Antonio Hernandez, Michael Lanspa, Daniel Sweeney, Adam Dossaji, Saral Nikravan, Christopher K. Schott, and Gil Allen* |
| **4:30 to 5:00 PM** | **Tying it all together, followed by the post-session survey**<br>*Faculty: Antonio Hernandez, Christopher K. Schott, and Aarti Sarwal* |