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# **Role of Core Lab in Clinical Trial**

**M. Therese Tupas-Habib, RDCS**

**Manager, Cardiovascular Core Lab**

**MedStar Health Research Institute**

# ASE Echo in Clinical Trials

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## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY REPORT

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American Society of Echocardiography  
Recommendations for Use of  
Echocardiography in Clinical Trials

*A Report from the American Society of  
Echocardiography's Guidelines and  
Standards Committee and The Task Force on  
Echocardiography in Clinical Trials*

JASE Oct 2004

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## Why Echo?

- **non-invasive diagnostic tool**
- **Assess cardiac structure, function and hemodynamics**
- **Essential data on safety and efficacy of drugs and devices**
- **Assess enrollment eligibility**

# Application of Echo

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- **Prosthetic valves**
  - assess valve hemodynamics
- **Myocardial infarction and CAD**
  - assess disease impact on LV remodeling and function
- **Heart failure**
  - Assess LV systolic and diastolic function, LV remodeling; assess treatment effects
- **Hypertension**
  - assess effects of treatment on cardiac structure and function

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## **Recommendation for use of echo in clinical trial:**

- Use of central reading/core lab**

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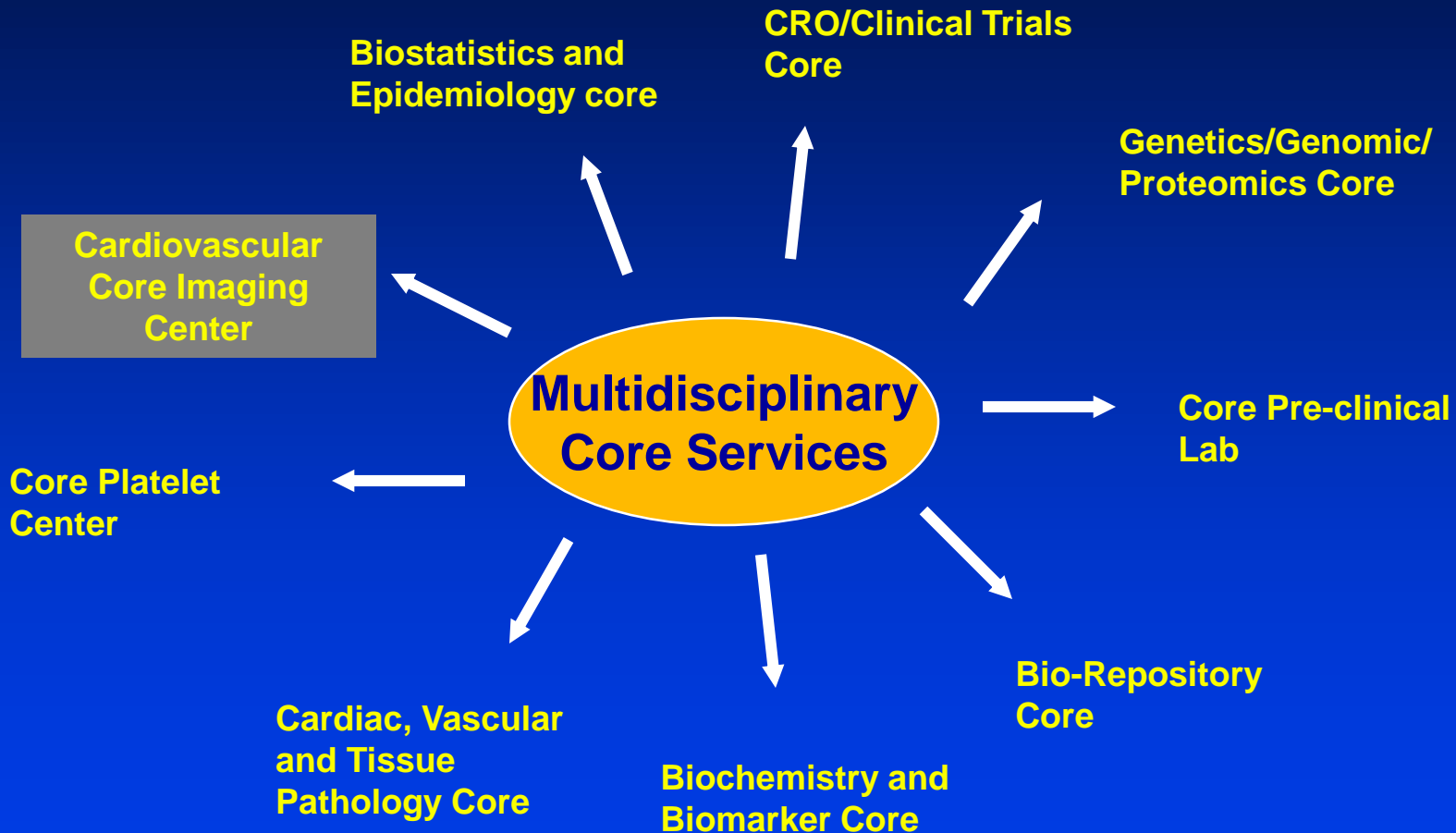
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# What is a core lab?

# Multidisciplinary Core Facility

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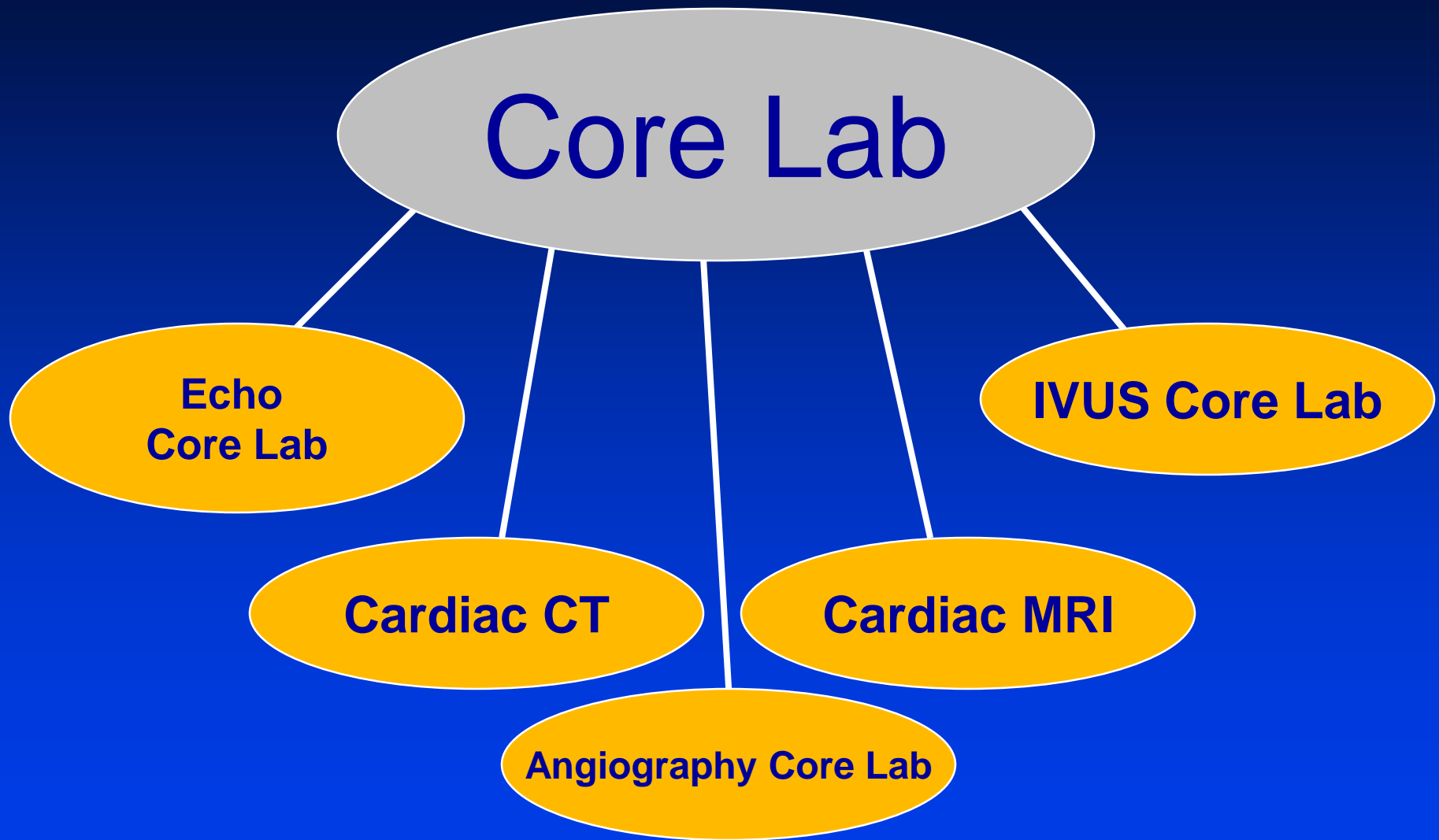
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# Cardiovascular Core Laboratories

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## Why a Core Lab?

- Reduces variability in interpretations
- Use of limited number experienced observers
- Standardization of training and acquisition
- Monitor of image quality

# Goals

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**To provide central reading/analysis for images generated at enrolling centers**

**To standardize variables to be analyzed**

**To standardize the way these variables will be analyzed**

**To generate a database of high quality that can be integrated to the clinical data.**

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# Responsibilities and Organization

# Core Lab Requirements for Single Study



- **Clinical study protocol**
- **Echo Core Lab SOP (study specific procedures)**
- **Laboratory QPM**
- **Equipment logs, inventory and maintenance**
- **Personal records (training logs and certifications)**
- **Institutional Policies and Procedures**

# What Is an SOP?

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## Study-specific Manual of Operations

- **Responsibilities of the research team**
- **Site Visit**
- **Training**
  - **Image acquisition protocol (Site manual)**
- **Image Analysis**
  - **completion of case report form**
- **Data management**
  - **tracking of images and forms**
  - **data checking and data transfer**
- **Document control**
- **Audit**

# Research Team

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**Director**

**Associate Director**

**Manager**

**Project Leader or Technical Manager**

**Interpreting sonographers**

**Admin support staff**

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# Site Visit

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- Feasibility of conducting the study
- Personnel resources
- Review processes
- Equipment



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# Acquisition protocol

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- **Standardized acquisition protocol**
  - **'menu' of echo views necessary**
  - **training – written material, training CD, webex, investigators' meetings and/or on-site**
- **limit number of sonographers**
- **responsible physician must review**
- **perform validation / qualification echo**

# Reduction in Echo Variability

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Echo quality, Echo quality and Echo quality!!!

- Modern machine (within approx 5 years)
- Experienced sonographer
- **MOTIVATED** echocardiographer

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# Image Analysis

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- Steps for performing measurements
- Qualitative
  - categorical assessment
- Quantitative
  - method, formula

# Electronic CRF

- Commercially available software
- Used to design CRF and maintain data
- Data exported in Microsoft Access format
- Fully CFR21 Part 11 compliant
- Audit trail reports available upon request

**Echo Core Lab Assessment Form**

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Site ID _____	Exam Date ____/____/____ <small>(dd-MON-yyyy)</small>	Exam Type _____
Patient ID _____		Exam Interval _____
Patient Initials _____		Annual, specify _____ -If Other, Specify _____

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<b>Aortic Leaflets</b>	<b>Other Aortic Valve Findings</b>
Reduced Opening _____	Extraneous Echoes (thrombus, veg) <u>No</u> _____
Thickening _____	Leaflet Prolapse <u>No</u> _____
<b>Aortic Regurgitation</b> _____	Calcification <u>No</u> _____
-If Yes _____	Leaflet Perforation <u>No</u> _____
Location _____	Valve Bed Anatomy <u>No</u> _____ <small>(Abscess/Pseudoaneurysm)</small>
Confirmatory Method _____	Other, explain _____
Severity _____	
If $\geq$ Moderate _____	
Diastolic Flow Reversal _____	
If Yes, location _____	

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**Non-Study Valve Regurgitation**

Mitral _____	Tricuspid _____	Pulmonic _____
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Physician Signature _____	Date _____
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# Data Management

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- Verification of data entered
- Validation of formula
- Data transfer
- Record retention and archiving



# Document Control

**FILMS** Film ID: F-50092

Analysis ID: SAVR-01-0001  
Full Name: BR  
Type: 4-Video  
Ultrasound Date: 17-Oct-2002  
Coordinator: W/Grant, Caroline  
Shipping Number:  
Shipping Carrier: FedEx  
Over Read? No  
Procedure Type: 30-Annual/Echo

Study Name: 3F Sterile/Aorta Valve  
Site Name: DCV Clinic, Ash  
Cycle: T  
Hold:  
Archive CD #: 01  
Analysis Type: 2

Comment:

cbFA_Type	Employee	Location	Date
Received Film	Loveless, Natasha	1 Echo To Be Analyzed	10/22/2002 1:55:32 PM
Acknowledged Receipt of Film	Loveless, Natasha	1 Echo To Be Analyzed	10/25/2002 10:39:46 AM
Start Analysis	Horton, Ken	1 Echo To Be Analyzed	11/6/2002 9:49:57 AM
Waiting to be Overread	Horton, Ken	2 Echo To Be Overread	11/6/2002 12:06:49 PM
Waiting to be Sent Out	Horton, Ken	3 Echo To Return	12/17/2002 8:09:58 AM
Returned Film	Loveless, Natasha	4 Returned	12/17/2002 2:21:09 PM
			11/8/2006 6:43:22 AM

F-40769

[Video- Index/Screening]

99-021 / Washington Hospital Center (\*)

99C6083 / 02-Jun-1999



- Core Lab Film Tracking Program
  - Microsoft Access database
  - Each step in workflow is scanned
  - Full query and reporting functionality

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# Quality Assurance

# Core Lab Quality Assurance Program

- QA Program is outlined in the lab Quality Policy Manual
- Reviewed annually



MedStar Health  
Research Institute



19 March 2010

By signing below, I attest that I have reviewed the Quality Policy Manual 6.4 in its entirety.

Name	Signature	Date
Asuri, Federico	<i>[Signature]</i>	03/31/2010
Beckes, Natalie	<i>Natalie Beckes</i>	3/19/10
Blackburn, Matthew	<i>[Signature]</i>	3/25/10
Cooper, Howard	<i>Howard Cooper (core lab office)</i>	
Han, Lin	<i>Lin Han (Maternity leave)</i>	3/27/10
Hassell, Ann	<i>Ann Hassell</i>	3/19/10
Horton, Kenneth	<i>Kenneth Horton</i>	3-23-10
McNulty, Maureen	<i>Maureen McNulty</i>	3-19-10
Pehlivanova, Marjeta	<i>Marjeta Pehlivanova</i>	3-26-10
Speed, Shrynee	<i>Shrynee Speed</i>	3-19-10
Thomas, Angela	<i>Angela Thomas</i>	3/19/10
Tupas-Habib, M. Therese	<i>M. Therese Tupas-Habib</i>	3/19/10
Weissman, Neil	<i>Neil Weissman</i>	3/19/10

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# Internal Auditing Procedures

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- Procedures outlined in the Quality Policy Manual
- Each study is audited annually
  - Documentation
- Action Plan is developed for corrective and preventive actions (CAPA)
- Final report is sent to Core Lab Manager and Core Lab Directors
- Deficiencies addressed at weekly department meetings

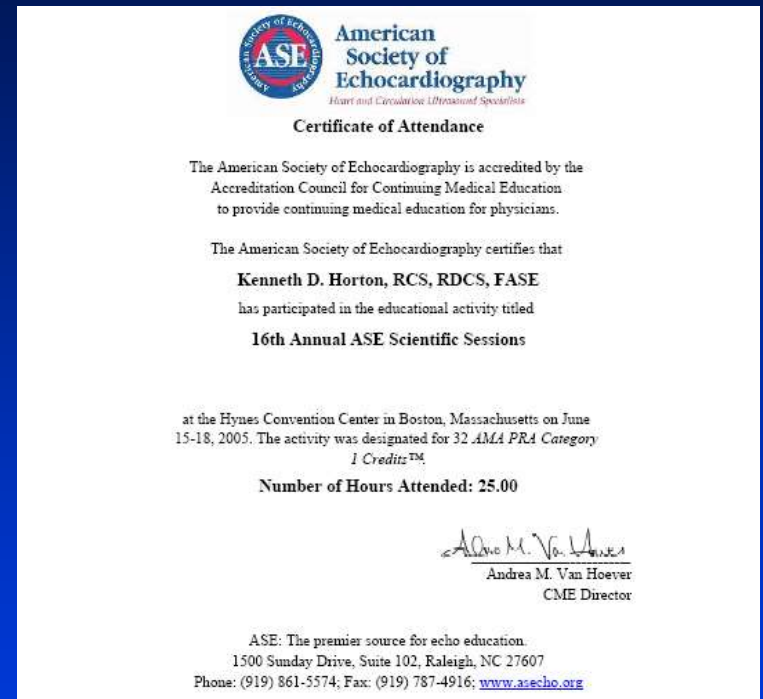
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# **Training and Continuing Medical Education**

# Staff Training

- Outlined in the Quality Policy Manual
- Completed by Core Lab Manager
- Covers all computers, Measurement & Analysis systems
- Requires Inter-observer Variability Studies
- Ongoing training requirements annually



# Close out of trial

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**Data cleaning, analysis**

**Transfer to sponsor**

**Data interpretation**

**Results dissemination**

**Regulatory submission support**



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**THANK YOU.**

