

# Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

# NEWS

Nov 2009

This newsletter aims to provide up to date information regarding CASE activities & requirements regarding validation, annual programme monitoring & other relevant issues.

## Key Updates from CASE

In this edition of the Newsletter : -

CASE Update

Workshop/Open Fora Dates

Regulation of Ultrasound Practice

New CASE representatives

Ultrasound Physics Explained advert

Open Forum booking form

Focused courses

Fees reminder

In the last few months, CASE has been busy with various activities. In addition to its important work associated with programme accreditations, of which there are 19 in UK currently, CASE representatives have been involved with significant ultrasound matters of the moment. Lynda Mulhair and Crispian Oates represent CASE at various meetings associated with antenatal and triple A screening and Gill Dolbear and Nigel Thomson keep us informed of the progress with practice regulation (see Nigel's report in this Newsletter). At the October meeting of CASE, we formally welcome new representatives. This year, Antonio Sassano (SVT) and David Oxborough (BSE) have joined us and they introduce themselves in other articles in this bulletin. For the first time, we have made available an induction hour for new representatives immediately prior to the October meeting. We are sorry to see Rosie Conlon resign from CASE and we wish her well for the future. A new process for the accreditation of focused courses was introduced in September following a long debate on the issue as previously reported and we have received the first application. It will be interesting to watch this initiative unfold and hopefully I will be able to report on its outcome in the next Newsletter. In addition to our regular news, there are significant other issues to report.

During the summer, BMUS indicated that it would like to enter into negotiations with CASE members with the view to its surrendering the administration of the Consortium in the near future. This request had come about by a re-structuring at BMUS. In October, SCoR agreed to undertake the work and CASE moved across to the south bank. We welcome a new co-ordinator, Michele Landau, an experienced administrator especially in accreditation procedures, at SCoR. It might take a little while for Michele to become familiar with some of the CASE procedures. While we will endeavour to keep up with all your queries especially those related to accreditations, we ask for your patience in return. Welcoming someone new always has its drawbacks, and we said a fond farewell to Alice Hepworth at the last meeting. Alice has been an absolute gem of an administrator for CASE and we wish her well in her extended role at BMUS with grateful thanks.

In view of our change in administration, perhaps I can make the point of requesting a prompt return of all Annual Programme Monitoring Proformas by 6th December 2009. These forms were distributed to programme leaders at the beginning of the academic year. If you have not received yours, please contact Michele as soon as possible. We are aware that a few of you are unable to provide accurate data for some of the fields and the monitoring sub-group will be making amendments to the proforma for next year. Please be as accurate as you can. We would be grateful for any comments as to how we may make the document more user-friendly.

### CASE Co-ordinator

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In this era of increased regulation, CASE has been working on a set of operational standards by which its members, successive representatives and coordinators can be advised on how it might best carry out its activities. These standards have now been approved and accepted. CASE has three main publications to support its activities and communicate with the wider ultrasound community – the *Handbook* (2009), the *Standard Operating Procedures* (2009) and the *Newsletter* (published 3 times/year). Our web-site can still be accessed via the BMUS site for the moment.

As well as strengthening the criteria and operational standards for CASE accreditors, the representatives over the summer have undertaken a review of the register. All accreditors were contacted and invited to continue, many have indicated that they will. We have had new applications and I am delighted to announce that Pauline Bacon, Liz Chapman, Frith Noble and Heather Venables have joined the team. New CASE representatives automatically become accreditors, so Antonio and David, with their specialist expertise in vascular and cardiac ultrasound, are also listed. Information on and for accreditors, their roles and responsibilities, can be found in the *Handbook*, please contact Michele if you require a PDF copy.

Following a previous notice inviting programme leaders to host events at their institutions, CASE has had several offers of help. We are grateful to Heather Venables and Stephen Wolstenhulme (Derby/Leeds), Trudy Sevens (Sheffield) and Vivien Gibbs (Bristol) who are to host workshops in 2010. Sue Halson Brown and Gill Harrison join the team for 2011. There is a rolling programme of training days and workshops organised for 2010/11 (see below), although there are still some details to finalise. Please contact the CASE Coordinator for details and registration forms for all the events. Accreditors are given primary opportunity to attend the training days but if spaces are available, members of programme teams are also welcome. There is no charge for these workshops. The Open Forums are open to anyone with an interest in ultrasound education and training. A registration fee is charged for these meetings. The majority of workshops are interactive and flexible to suit the situation whether they focus on accreditor skills or topics of interest to the ultrasound community. Evaluations on the 2009 events have been very good and some of the issues identified in the debates have been incorporated into the next 2-year programme. Please find advanced notice for the March workshop included.

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Local Contact</b>	<b>CASE Organiser</b>
<b>Open Forum – <i>Science + Tech</i></b>	Monday 29 March 2010	University of Derby	Heather Venables	CASE Vice Chair
<b>Training for Accreditors</b>	Monday 17 May 2010	UWE, Bristol	Vivien Gibbs	CASE Chair
<b>Training for Accreditors</b>	Thursday 21 October 2010	Sheffield Hallam	Trudy Sevens	CASE Chair
<b>Open Forum - <i>Competency</i></b>	March 2011	University of Portsmouth	Sue Halson Brown	CASE Vice Chair
<b>Training for Accreditors</b>	May 2011	City University, London	Gill Harrison	CASE Chair
<b>Training for Accreditors</b>	October 2011	TBA	TBA	CASE Chair
<b>Open Forum – <i>Good Practice</i></b>	November 2011	TBA	TBA	CASE Vice Chair

Finally, over this last CASE year a huge amount of effort has been made by everyone to complete important tasks that affect the efficient running of the Consortium. I would like to extend my thanks to all and to those moving on to pastures new, our best wishes. *Rosemary Lee, Chair of CASE*

**STATEMENT on the REGULATION of ULTRASOUND PRACTICE from NIGEL THOMSON  
Professional Officer (Ultrasound) at the SOCIETY & COLLEGE of RADIOGRAPHERS**

The application to the Health Professions Council for sonography to become a regulated profession has recently moved forward with a recommendation to the Health Secretary that the profession should be regulated. 'A risk of harm to the public arising from inappropriate, inadequate and unnecessary scanning' is the reason for the recommendation given in a letter from Marc Seale, the Chief Executive of the Health Professions Council to Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Health. 'Although many practising sonographers are already registered, for example as radiographers and midwives, there are a relatively small but still significant number of practitioners who are working as sonographers without being subject to statutory regulation' the letter continues. There were also a couple of points made in the letter with regards to a recent Department of Health report on 'Extending Professional Regulation' that the Health Secretary has been asked to consider, the decision by the HPC had been delayed awaiting this report. The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR), which at the beginning of this year merged with the United Kingdom Association of Sonographers (UKAS), welcomed the HPC recommendation; although Audrey Paterson, the SCoR Director of Professional Policy, would like to emphasise that there are still several stages before the associated legislation is completed and statutory regulation may still be a few years away. In support of the application to the HPC a voluntary register was set up by the SCoR and UKAS two years ago and includes sonographers involved in clinical practice, education, research and management. This is currently being managed by the SCoR and will be developed further so that it continues to support the application for statutory regulation. Details are available at [http://www.sor.org/public/ult/ult\\_search.php](http://www.sor.org/public/ult/ult_search.php)

## **New CASE Representatives Introduction**

### **Antonio Sassano MSc, AVS.**

I am a lecturer at the University of the West of England responsible for a number of modules on the MSc Medical Ultrasound Programme and also support the BSc Radiography programme. A fully accredited and practising Clinical Vascular Scientist I maintain my clinical competencies through a secondment to the Vascular Laboratory at Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust. I represent the Society of Vascular Technology and Great Britain and Ireland and have just relinquished the role of Chair of the Education Sub Committee after a number of years.

With my background in teaching and training, together with an awareness of the challenges facing the provision of ultrasound services in healthcare, I am looking forward to my new position in CASE and see it as a great opportunity to be involved in the development and accreditation of high quality ultrasound practitioner training.

### **David Oxborough MSc**

My clinical background is in general cardiac clinical physiology with specialisation in cardiac ultrasound at the Leeds General Infirmary. This has led to my current role as a lecturer in Clinical Physiology (Cardiology) at the University of Leeds with responsibility for cardiac ultrasound modules in both the BSc Clinical Physiology and the MSc Medical Ultrasound programmes. This primarily involves teaching and module management but the position also allows me to maintain clinical activity whilst also undertaking a PhD. The focus of the PhD is on the assessment of cardiac function following prolonged exercise utilising myocardial speckle tracking. This area of my work is extremely challenging but also very rewarding and I am looking forward to a 2011 completion.

My role for CASE is in representing the British Society of Echocardiography. It is an exciting time for clinical physiologists with the likely integration of modernising scientific careers. The potential impact on educational pathways is not fully recognised but I am hopeful it will have a positive effect on echocardiography. Currently the profession has limited educational requirements and the early suggestions point to a more formal requirement in post graduate education. I bring to CASE my experience of delivering education in HEI's whilst also understanding the impact on service delivery. I am looking forward to developing my knowledge and experience in reviewing and evaluating whilst in particular being part of ensuring quality in new and evolving cardiac ultrasound education.

## Accreditation for Focused (Short Courses)

CASE is pleased to announce that it now offers accreditation for focused or short courses which aim to train someone to scan in a limited area of speciality. These courses generally do not meet the breadth and academic rigor of M level programmes. However the rigour of clinical practice standards and competence will need to achieve the usual standards expected of a CASE accredited programme.

Accreditation is not available for short courses, i.e one or two days which don't have any clinical outcomes or competencies attached.

CASE can provide a template which outlines the outcomes and expectations of the course and members of the CASE committee would be happy to advise if any team needs more information.

*Gail Johnson*

## CASE Fees Reminder

Firstly, as new CASE Co-ordinator I would like to introduce myself to you. As well as this new CASE role, I am the Education Administrator at the Society & College of Radiographers and I look forward to liaising with you in the future.

My first job is to remind HEIs and Parent Bodies to submit their CASE fees, so if payment has not already been actioned, please consider yourselves duly chased!

My contact details can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

*Michele Landau*

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# Ultrasound Physics Explained

The Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE) is holding a one day 'Open Forum' on Ultrasound Science + Technology

To be held on [29<sup>th</sup> March 2010](#) at the [University of Derby](#)

*This Interactive Workshop will be of interest to ultrasound practitioners, mentors and CASE accreditors who would like an up-date on scientific principles and their application in practice. We promise very limited use of formulae!*

The fee for the Forum (including Lunch) will be **£60.00**

Please see back page for registration form. Once completed, please return to the CASE Co-ordinator, Michele Landau, at the Society & College of Radiographers, 207 Providence Square, Mill Street, London, SE1 2EW

**PLACES ARE LIMITED – EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISABLE**

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**Member Organisations:**

British Medical Ultrasound Society, British Society of Echocardiography, College of Radiographers,  
Institute of Physics & Engineering in Medicine, Royal College of Midwives,  
Society for Vascular Technology of Great Britain and Ireland

**C**onsortium for the  
**A**ccreditation of  
**S**onographic  
**E**ducation

**OPEN FORUM**

**BOOKING**  
**FORM**

29<sup>th</sup> March 2010

10:00 – 16:00

University of Derby

**Open Forum Overview**

This interactive workshop will be of interest to ultrasound practitioners, programme leaders, mentors and CASE accreditors who would like an up-date on scientific principles and their application in practice. We promise very limited use of formulae!



CASE Forum – 29th March 2010

Cost: **£60.00**

Name.....

Contact  
Address.....

.....

.....

Daytime Telephone Number.....

Email address.....

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'The College of Radiographers' for the sum of **£60.00**

Please return to this form to: CASE Co-ordinator, c/o The Society and College of Radiographers | 207 Providence Square | Mill Street | London SE1 2EW

**No later than 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010**