

Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

NEWS

February 2009

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

In this edition of the Newsletter : -

- Update on the next Open Forum - 20th May 2009 (page 1)
- Report from the CASE session at BMUS 2008 (page 2) (*Rosie?*)
- Overview of CASE Finances (page 3)
- Report/Update on UKAS & CASE (page 4)
- new Carotid Reporting Guidelines (page 4)
- Accreditor training session - 26th March 2009 (page 3)
Postponement notice??

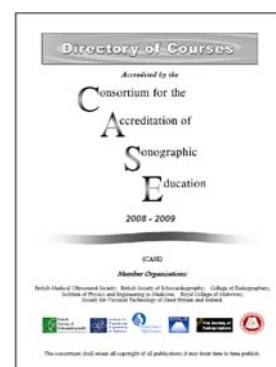
Annual Programme Monitoring Reports 2008

The meeting of the AMPR sub-committee will be taking place immediately prior to CASE Council on 17th March. University Programme Leaders can expect to hear in writing from the committee by the end of March with full commentary on the reports overall, as well as specific feedback for individual programmes.

Directory of Courses

The most recent Directory was issued at the end of January 2009. It is available electronically on the CASE website, or via email from the CASE Co-ordinator.

If you have any amendments or updates to the Course Directory through the year, please contact Alice Hepworth



CASE Open Forum : Clinical Competency Part 2

Venue: University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE)
Wednesday 20th May 2009

How to Support and Train Practice Educators in their Role

Provisional Programme (subject to change)

09.30 Registration & coffee

09.55 Introduction & Welcome

10.00 The Practice Educator's role

How does the HEI support Practice Educators?

How does the HEI support Practice Educators - the clinical department's perspective

The ex-student's view

CASE representative – new recommendations

H Lockyer/P Norbury

G Harris

K Hobson

M Nelson

speaker tbc

12.30 Lunch

Focus Group discussions:

- ⇒ What should the academic and clinical support be for Practice Educators?
- ⇒ How can this support be provided by the training and academic departments?
- ⇒ How can CASE support Practice Educators?

15.00 Feedback session with the Panel of Speakers

If you are interested in attending this day, please email Alice Hepworth: CASE@BMUS.org

CASE Coordinator

Alice Hepworth c/o
BMUS, 36 Portland
Place, London W1B 1LS
Tel. 020 3355 7841
Fax 020 7323 2175

Email CASE@bmus.org

Website:

www.bmus.org/case



CASE Session : BMUS ASM

Liverpool Arena & Convention Centre
Tuesday 9th December

It was a pleasure to be co-chairing this session with Julie Walton, who was to be inaugurated that evening as the new President of the British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS) in her home city of Liverpool, Julie is a leading ultrasound educationalist in this part of the world and is known nationally for her professional activity and pro active approach with regard to the development of ultrasound education. It is a huge honour for her to undertake this role but I am sure also a massive amount of work too and once again CASE would like to wish Julie, the current past president of CASE a successful and healthy term of office.



For those of you who have been involved in a validation event from any angle, you will appreciate the enormity of the work involved in preparing any Programme for the big day. However, at the same time, it gives insight into how we manage to achieve the quality standards within UK ultrasound education and we have the evidence to prove it! Internationally, over recent years I have appreciated the standards we obtain in the UK compared to our global counterparts. Even so, I believe our challenge will be not only to strive to improve standards as services evolve, but to attempt to provide the ultrasound education that is required by those providing that service. We must also work to empower individuals to assist in the development of health-care in the UK, as recommended by a number of reviews and policies such as the Darzi report (2008).

The session opened with Rosemary Lee, a lead accreditor for CASE, giving an update and review of CASE as an



organisation, including some of the activity that had been undertaken in the last year including the ongoing work of the short course accreditation working party and consideration of the need for CASE to accredit focussed courses in the UK.

This was followed by Chris Holroyd, the education and commissioning manager for the NHS Yorkshire and Humber SHA, who presented the perspective of one SHA facing a current shortage of sonographers and how that was being addressed. Serving a population of 5 million with 10 Universities and 20,000 students from all disciplines in training, Chris highlighted the key policy drivers that were influencing demand including:

- ◆ Next Stage Review
- ◆ Cancer Reform Strategy
- ◆ Maternity Matters.

Training issues impacting on the workforce supply include the Primary Care Commissioning arrangements, demands such as the 18 week targets and the changing workforce profile.

It is essential that the Trusts identify their own shortage and needs with regard to ultrasound education for now and the future. Within this particular SHA it is no longer considered an option to "train this year or not to train", as commissioning for education is predicted on the number of placements available. An agreement has been established between HEIs and provider services with SHA support and funding. New placement openings are being negotiated, with opportunities for Inter Professional Learning (IPL). Fast track options are being explored along with the more expansive use of e-learning with provision of ultrasound equipment. Working together, the ultimate aim is to train enough practitioners to meet service demands, whilst ensuring that this very service best benefits the patients.

Professor Audrey Paterson then gave a report on the current issues surrounding sonographer regulation and

registration with regard to the HPC/UKAS/SCoR voluntary project and the developments made.

Julie Hyde (Head of clinical training and education) and Philip Webster (Head of Diagnostics) from the Department of Health gave an update on the Sonographer Competency Development Programme. The aim of the Programme is to increase the workforce pool whilst providing a quality patient experience with good clinical outcomes, by practitioners who have achieved clinical competency.

What has changed in the UK world of ultrasound practice? Organisations have recognised the real capability of having access to ultrasound, there are more multi-organisational services with a reduced and aging workforce, experiencing a demand for the services required.

They will define an agreed set of indicators against which to assess an individuals' competency, and have been working with the University of Liverpool, identifying expressed competencies and the methodology to map the competencies against an individual. This may assist in the accreditation of currently qualified staff who are not "traditionally qualified" and thereby help to reduce the shortage of practitioners.

It was a pleasure to see large attendance at the session and I can't help but wonder if, in a years' time at the next ASM, when we reflect on the previous twelve months and attempt to be visionary for the future, will things continue to have evolved with such pace?

It could all be perception of course, an ageing workforce within sonography... They say it goes faster as we get older but I doubt it and can feel further great change afoot, fingers crossed it's for the better!!

Rosie Conlon
CASE Chair
February 2009



CASE Accreditor Training Session

This session, originally planned for 26th March has had to be postponed. It is anticipated that a new date will be announced after March Council and hopefully the day should go ahead later in the year in May or June.



This day will take place in London, at the Society & College of Radiographers.

CASE Handbook

Further to extensive redrafting and updating, the new **Validation and Accreditation Handbook for CASE** is now in the final stages of approval by the consortium. The new Handbook should be issued in the next couple of months and will be distributed to all Course Leaders.

Many thanks to Rosemary Lee and Wendy Williams for all their hard work on this!

March Council Announcement

The next CASE Council meeting is taking place at the RCR on **Tuesday 17th March**. If you have any agenda items for this meeting, please send them to Alice (CASE@bmus.org) by the end of February



CASE Financial Update 2008/09

Alice Hepworth
CASE Co-ordinator



All annual payments for the 2008/09 session have now been made by all Parent Bodies and Universities. In October 2008, CASE received its annual statement of Income and Expenditure, prepared by our accountants in Leeds. This covered the period 1st September 2007 to 31st August 2008 and a summary is shown below: -

Income:

Subscriptions	£10,250
Clinical Competency Day	£1,440
	£11,690

Expenditure

Refreshments/Room Hire	£532.31
Travel	£2,152.06
Handbook meeting	£261.95
Website	£168.00
BMUS (admin service)	£8,300
	£11,414.32

Surplus

£275.68



This shows that CASE is doing well at balancing its finances but is certainly not making large profits from its activities. This is in line with the Memorandum of Agreement for the consortium. It also reflects well on CASE, as we have greatly increased our activities in the last couple of years and this has been achieved without a negative impact on the consortium's finances.

In the coming years we will be looking to maintain this financial stability, whilst also taking into account the activities and services we would like to provide. Any Open Forum or Accreditor Training days will be carefully budgeted in order to ensure they remain cost-effective.

Expenses for shadow accreditors will be an additional item on the budget forecast for 2008/09.

CASE will also need to carefully examine the potential financial impact of taking on Focused Course accreditation, as well as the impact on the finances of the loss of UKAS as a Parent Body.

CASE & UKAS: Update

BACKGROUND

CASE was advised last Autumn of UKAS's decision to dissolve as an organisation, effective of 31st December 2008. As one of the Parent Bodies of CASE, this obviously has implications for the consortium and therefore a brief meeting was called to discuss how CASE should react to this development.

This meeting took place at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting on Tuesday 9th December 2008. An overview of the discussions is as follows:

Issues

The central issue for the meeting was the loss of UKAS as a parent body of CASE. This will have major implications for CASE as an organisation, in terms of the number of accreditations which must be undertaken and there will be a knock-on impact regarding accreditor workload and also on the finances and funding of CASE. The immediate effect is the loss of 2 Council members (one lead accreditor and 1 co-accreditor), two further nominated accreditors and £500 per year in funding.

The significance of this loss is up to CASE to determine and also for CASE to suggest how to solve, based on the current situation and future developments.

Moving forward

It was agreed that a working group be formed to look at the details of situation, as well as possible solutions.

Working Party

The working party met in York on Thursday 29th January. By this time it was known that the proposed merger between UKAS and CoR had taken place. A press release sent out on 9th January confirmed this and announced that CoR will take over the work of UKAS

This information was therefore able to inform discussions and decisions at the meeting.

Memorandum of Agreement

The purpose of the meeting in York was to re-draft the CASE Memorandum of Agreement so that it remained relevant to CASE in terms of recent developments regarding the dissolution of UKAS and also so that CASE could move forward with other concerns, such as focused course accreditation.

The Memorandum was extensively re-drafted by the working group. At the next CASE council meeting on 17th March, council will need to consider the financial impact of the loss of UKAS's £500.00 annual contribution. A solution to this will be sought which is fair to all the contributing members of CASE.

The working group will agree a draft version of the Memorandum for council to consider. The three main issues will be: -

- ◆ Financial implications
- ◆ The number of accreditors available to CASE
- ◆ Representation on CASE Council

Further to Council, the draft will be finalised for circulation to the Parent Bodies.

Written approval will be sought from all Parent Bodies and then the new Memorandum can be agreed and will be issued by CASE.

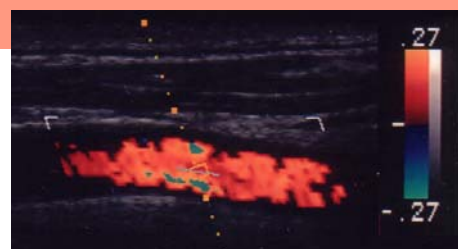
Carotid Ultrasound Scanning and the National Stroke Strategy: UPDATE

Crispian Oates, CASE Council

Ultrasound investigation of the carotid circulation is an important imaging modality within the National Stroke Strategy¹, and often forms the first line investigation for the presence of carotid disease. The reputation of carotid ultrasound has not been as good as it should have been because historically it has been performed to various standards at different centres around the country. In order to address this quality issue, a paper has recently been published entitled "Joint Recommendations for Reporting Carotid Ultrasound Investigations in the United Kingdom"³.

This paper has been endorsed by the British Medical Ultrasound Society, the Royal College of Physicians, the Society and College of Radiographers, the Society for Vascular Technology of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

It is now recommended by CASE that all vascular modules on postgraduate medical ultrasound courses should be teaching their carotid ultrasound material and assessing student competence to this new reporting standard in order to ensure that the best practice quality standard is achieved throughout the country.



This paper is available electronically from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejvs.2008.10.015>

and will be published in the March 2009 edition of the European Journal for Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Copies will also be available in the near future on the BMUS and SVT websites.

- ¹ Implementing the National Stroke Strategy – an imaging guide, Department of Health, June 2008
- ² Ultrasound-based measurement of carotid stenosis >70%: an audit of UK practice. Walker J., Naylor AR. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg (2006) **31**; 487-490
- ³ Joint Recommendations for Reporting Carotid Ultrasound Investigations in the United Kingdom, Oates CP et al (2009) Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg (2009) **34**(3)