

Consortium for the
Accreditation of
Sonographic
Education

NEWS
November 2006

This newsletter aims to provide up to date information regarding CASE activities and requirements in respect of validation, annual programme monitoring, and other relevant issues. Council last met on the 16th November 2006 and these are the headlines from that meeting: -

CASE officers and Council

CASE officers have now changed and are as follows:

CASE Chair	Rosie Conlon, BMUS Council representative
Past Chair	Julie Walton, BMUS Council representative
Honorary Secretary	Andrew Fairhead, IPEM Council representative
Honorary Treasurer	Rosemary Lee, UKAS Council representative

Parent Organisations:

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

CASE Council members for the forthcoming year have been nominated by the parent bodies and are as follows:

Current **Council members** are:

Rosie Conlon	Chair	representing	BMUS
Julie Walton	Past Chair	representing	BMUS
Rosemary Lee	Hon.Treasurer	representing	UKAS
Wendy Williams		Representing	UKAS
Audrey Paterson		representing	SCoR
Gill Dolbear		representing	SCoR
Sue Tennant		representing	BSE
Valda Gazzard		representing	SVT
Theresa Fail		representing	SVT
Lynda Mulhair		representing	RCM
Gail Johnson		representing	RCM
Andrew Fairhead	Hon. Secretary	representing	IPEM
Crispian Oates		representing	IPEM

BMUS / CASE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SESSION DECEMBER 2006

Once again, CASE has been invited by BMUS to work on a conjoint session regarding ultrasound education and training to be hosted at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting in the Manchester International Conference Centre.

The session is to be held in the **Porters Suite** at Manchester International Convention Centre on **Wednesday 13th December**, between 14.00 & 15.30pm

Assessing Competence to Practice Ultrasound

THE EVOLVING NEEDS IN ULTRASOUND EDUCATION – CAN WE MATCH SERVICE REQUIREMENTS?

Date: Wednesday 13th December
14.00 - 15.30 p.m. Porters Suite

Chaired by R. Conlon, J Walton

PROGRAMME

14.00 Introduction from Chair – The Current CASE Position

**Rosie Conlon
CASE Chair & PG
Programme Leader,
University of Leeds**

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| 14.05 | Report of Short Courses Working Party/A Recent Commentary | Rosemary Lee, PG Medical Ultrasound Programme Organiser, Glasgow Caledonian University |
| 14.20 | Training Accident & Emergency Physicians – A Five Year Experience | Heather Venables, University of Leeds |
| 14.35 | Intensivists/Anaesthetists Perspective – A Request | Dr B Nicholls, Consultant Anaesthetist, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton |
| 14.50 | Assessing Competency? The Cornerstone | Julie Walton, Postgraduate and CPD Curriculum Manager, The University of Liverpool |
| 15.10 | Open Discussion with Panel | |
| 15.25 | THE WAY FORWARD / CLOSE | |

CASE Annual Programme Monitoring Exercise 2005-2006

All Course Leaders are reminded that the deadline for the return of your Annual Monitoring Report Proforma for 2005-2006 is Thursday 30th November. Please make sure you get your returns in on time

CASE Council Meetings 2007

The first CASE Council meeting in 2007 will be held at 36 Portland Place, London on 21st March 2007

All programme leads are advised that the CASE Co-ordinator should be notified in writing no later than 3 weeks prior to the Council meeting with .any business to be addressed at this meeting.

Nomination of accreditors from parent bodies

Accreditors for CASE are appointed by the parent bodies. We have now received the suggestions for accreditors for the 2005-2006 academic session. Those of you who have been put forward in this capacity will shortly be receiving a letter from CASE inviting you to attend a training session. Attendance at the events is mandatory for those who are going to be involved in accreditation this session.

If you are interested in becoming an accreditor for CASE then please contact the relevant parent body listed at the bottom of page 1.

Accreditor Training

CASE will be arranging some accreditor training sessions in 2007. These will be aimed at all those listed as accreditors for CASE. Please monitor the CASE Website and next edition of the Newsletter for further details.

Accreditation events

We have been experiencing some problems over the past 2 years with timescales for validation events and provision of documentation to the accreditors in a timely and proper manner.

Firstly, we have on occasions, been requested to attend events at very short notice. Where possible we have endeavored to respond quickly but Lead and Co-Accreditors are busy, and it would be appreciated if all Universities who are planning an event in 2007 liaise with the CASE Co-ordinator ASAP to indicate possible dates.

Also, we are seeing an increasing number of occasions when programmes are recruiting students prior to final CASE Council approval following an accreditation event. Please contact CASE early on in your planning cycle to avoid this.

The CASE handbook advises programme leaders that the documentation for an accreditation event should be sent to CASE no later than 6 weeks prior to the date of the proposed event. Clearly the CASE accreditors require the documentation in sufficient time to afford adequate and proper scrutiny.

Finally, can we ask that Universities **do not email documents** to accreditors but provide hard copy. It is clearly undesirable for accreditors to have to print out copies of documents of several hundred pages on their own systems.

Your co-operation with respect to the above issues would be very much appreciated.

CASE website

Is currently hosted on the BMUS website and we encourage you to visit it at www.bmus.org/case. It has a **directory of all CASE-accredited programmes** and their contacts. (If you are a prospective student, please note that CASE cannot assist you in finding a clinical placement. You must discuss that with the Higher Education Institute.) Note that paper copies of the Directory are now only supplied to course leaders and the parent bodies of CASE.

Ultrasound Practice Regulation

Not so much related to education, but of interest to all sonographers, the following article appeared recently in "Reverberations" and "Synergy", the newsletters of SCoR and UKAS:

Status of the Practice Regulation Joint Project

Up-date: September 2006

In 2003, a joint project between SCoR and UKAS, was initiated to explore and progress, if agreed by both Councils, a combined application to HPC for ultrasound practice regulation. This was seen as a public protection issue as the practice was rapidly diversifying across a range of healthcare professions, not traditionally allied with ultrasound imaging. However it was anticipated, that in the long term, sonography would become accepted as a recognised separate profession. After an extended period of work and following consultation with other groups associated with ultrasound practice, an application document was prepared to be put forward to the HPC. However it was clear after talks with the Department of Health that ultrasound regulation for some groups was not acceptable at this time and therefore the application was not submitted. The Steering Group was disbanded in May 2005 having achieved its objective with agreement to continue in collaboration to achieve ultrasound practice regulation.

Subsequently, it has been decided by representatives of SCoR and UKAS that a joint voluntary register for ultrasound practitioners would be the most practical option to progress practice regulation at this time. Currently, the parent bodies are exploring the most appropriate way of setting up a joint scheme using the

infrastructure currently in place. UKAS has developed and subsequently is administering since January this year, a 'live' ultrasound voluntary register scheme. Likewise SCoR has a software capability that has been tested recently on the radiography assistant practitioner voluntary register. These two areas of expertise would be drawn together into one database administered by both bodies. Initially Trish Chudleigh (UKAS) and Rita Phillips (SCoR) would jointly manage the register through a combined email and both Councils will be kept notified of its progress through the SCoR and UKAS representatives. Practitioners will be kept informed of developments through the professional journals.

What does this mean for you – the ultrasound practitioner? After being given appropriate information regarding the voluntary register scheme, you will need to inform either the SCoR or UKAS register manager whether you wish to become a member of the scheme and submit the correct documentation that is required by the regulations governing it. Currently, the scheme's framework and practicalities are being progressed. This will take some time in order to ensure that it is robust and it is likely that by January 2007 a pilot scheme will be available. After evaluating it for a period, making adjustments where necessary, the 'live' register will be launched in January 2008. This does not prohibit you from applying to join the UKAS scheme at any time. In fact it should be encouraged during this preliminary period as it may help to smooth out the process later if practitioners continue to apply for voluntary registration. It will not be restricted to radiographers only and all professions who practise ultrasound may apply for voluntary registration.

Wherever possible SCoR and UKAS will ensure that current information regarding this development is available to you. Both bodies will have stands in the exhibition hall at BMUS in December when literature will be obtainable and software on display. We will continue to keep you informed with developments through our respective journals and websites.

After three years hard work, the ultrasound regulation project is progressing and we ask for your patience for a while longer whilst we take it through its next stage.

Rosemary Lee (*on behalf of SCoR + UKAS*) 05-09-06

Open Forum

CASE is planning to hold an Open Forum in Spring 2007: -

'Physics in Practice – It can be fun!'

Do we know enough to teach the students?

'If we don't know where we are going we are never going to get there', in the infamous words of Mark Twain. Many of us can identify with the struggle to fully

understand the physical principles of ultrasound and applying this science in clinical practice.

Perhaps too, many of us would appreciate a refreshing visit to these principles. I am not ashamed to admit that my students often teach me something new during my time with them, particularly in regard to the new and advancing technologies of ultrasound. Can we impart sufficient knowledge re: new technologies in our mentoring/teaching roles?

This is the topic of the day for the next CASE open forum scheduled for late May/early June which promises to be at least stimulating!!!!

Further information will be available soon on the website and in the newsletter.

Finally, on behalf of CASE Council we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rosie Conlon

Chair of CASE

Andrew Fairhead

Honorary Secretary for CASE

Alice Hepworth

CASE Co-ordinator

