

Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

NEWS

September 2007

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.

Current **CASE Council members** are:

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

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 Coordinator: Alice Hepworth c/o BMUS, 36 Portland Place, London W1B 1LS
Tel. 020 7467 9759 Fax 020 7323 2175 email CASE@bmus.org
Website: www.bmus.org click on "Training / CASE"

CASE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SESSION at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting & Exhibition: December 2007

CASE is currently planning its session to take place at BMUS 2007. Further details will be available on the BMUS website and any updates on topics and speakers will be circulated separately.

The title for the CASE session is '**The Sonoscope Approach to Ultrasound**'. It is scheduled to take place from 16.00 – 17.30 on Wednesday 12th December in the Queens Suite 2 at the Harrogate International Centre.

The session is a conjoint one, combining with the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) Lecture. The ASUM president will be speaking on quality issues and it is planned that the CASE Speakers will continue this theme in their presentations and discussion.

We are also planning to have a multi-professional group to discuss specific requirements for training for different medical specialties and sonographers.

Notification of next CASE Open Forum

Following the success of the CASE Open Forum on Ultrasound Physics in Leeds in May, another forum will take place in Spring 2008. Before the planning for this day begins in earnest, CASE Council would like to ask for input from all readers of the Newsletter as to the topic to be covered.

CHOOSE YOUR OPEN FORUM TOPIC...

The following are suggestions received at the May Forum

- Reporting Ultrasound examinations
- Assessment of Clinical Competence
- Starting an intervention service – risk assessments, clinical protocols, trust approval etc
- How to examine theory
- How should departments structure for clinical experience in view of e-learning?
- Burnout in Ultrasound – who is to blame?
- Training of Clinical Mentors
- Update on new clinical developments/techniques, aside from equipment
- Purchasing of Ultrasound equipment – the process/tips/good practice

If you would like to nominate one of these topics or have a suggestion of your own, please send them to the CASE Co-ordinator, Alice Hepworth, (CASE@bmus.org)

CASE Council will consider all proposals at their next meeting in October, following which, further details on the Forum will be announced.

A Report on the CASE Parent Body Meeting to discuss Short Course Accreditation

held on Tuesday 26th June 2007

The last time CASE looked at this issue in depth was back in 2000 - 2001, when it was decided that CASE should not become involved in short-course accreditation for the time being. However, there is an increasing number of healthcare practitioners acquiring equipment and using ultrasound imaging in their practices, and many organisations offering them training which is not at postgraduate or post-registration level. Focussed courses that are below the level of PgC are being offered by Higher Education Institutions, including those which are also running CASE accredited postgraduate programmes. CASE is asked frequently about endorsement of these courses and workshops, and this has again been discussed at a number of recent Council meetings. It was also the main topic of the CASE session held at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting in Manchester last December. It is felt that CASE has an obligation to investigate extending its role to cover short courses as well as postgraduate courses.

As a first step, CASE Council called a meeting of all parent-body presidents to discuss the issues, and decide on the way forward. The meeting was held on 26th June, attended by representatives from all parent bodies, and was felt to be successful and positive.

CASE Constitution

The first area covered was the current CASE remit, and whether any changes would be required (by agreement of the parent bodies). Although CASE Council had decided, soon after its formation in 1993, to limit CASE's remit to postgraduate courses, it is now realised that there is nothing in the parent bodies' Memorandum of Agreement implying such a limit.

What might be Accredited?

There is a very important distinction to make between accrediting education and training courses, and accrediting those who exit from such courses. It was noted that CASE accredits only standards of education and training, and NOT individuals; and no-one felt that this situation should change. There must be no assumption, by individuals or their employers, that completion of a CASE-accredited course implies competence. This would be particularly pertinent if CASE were to extend its role to short courses.

There was also acknowledgement that other professional bodies such as SCoR, BSE, SVT and RCM are accrediting ultrasound courses, and that CASE would have to avoid conflicting with their methods and purposes.

The way forward

It was agreed that since changes to the Memorandum of Agreement are not required, CASE can proceed without further approval from the Parent Bodies' own Councils.

Initially, CASE Council will concentrate on deciding the range and type of course that CASE can professionally and practicably consider. It has formed a working group to consider the issues and how to proceed. We will, of course, keep you informed as to how this work progresses.

CASE Fee

Programme Leaders are reminded that an Invoice for the CASE fee of £450 will be issued to all CASE accredited HEIs in September/October this year.

Prompt payment of this Invoice is vital for compliance with CASE processes in order to retain accredited status.

CASE Annual Monitoring Exercise, 2006/07 session

The quality-assurance of Ultrasound education and training delivered by all CASE accredited programmes is achieved by annual programme monitoring and review (APMR), and the time is approaching to begin the process for the 2006/07 session.

All programmes must comply with this process in order to retain CASE accredited status.

In September/October, the Annual Programme Monitoring (APM) Proforma will be issued to all programme leaders. This should be returned by the specified date to the CASE Co-ordinator (normally the end October).

The proforma will be provided electronically and it is essential that ALL completed proformas are returned in typescript. Hand written proformas will **not** be accepted. Your co-operation with this is appreciated.

In addition to the proforma, programme leads are asked to submit external examiners reports if at all possible. This is helpful in providing an external overview of the quality of programme. If not made available to CASE it is hard for CASE to comment fully on the quality of this programme provision at HEIs.

Student statistics are an important feature of the APM Report, providing CASE with useful data about individual courses which allow CASE to initiate appropriate action and also to acknowledge good results. They also permit the generation of data on overall student numbers taking CASE accredited programmes, which can be disseminated to all HEIs.

Following the submission of the APMRs by Universities, and in advance of CASE Council in March, the CASE Annual Monitoring Sub-committee will meet to consider all reports and discuss responses. All institutions then receive an individual response from CASE which details strengths and weaknesses of programmes and details actions required both of the programme leader and CASE.

The outcomes of the APM each year at Institutional level are typically:

- report satisfactory and no further action required
- minor issues requiring further action by programme leader/team
- major issues requiring further action by programme leader/team. In such cases an *INTERIM* visit may be required. CASE Council will nominate a lead accreditor and occasionally a co-accreditor to visit the Institution to discuss the issues raised through annual programme monitoring and to facilitate the addressing of issues to the satisfaction of CASE.

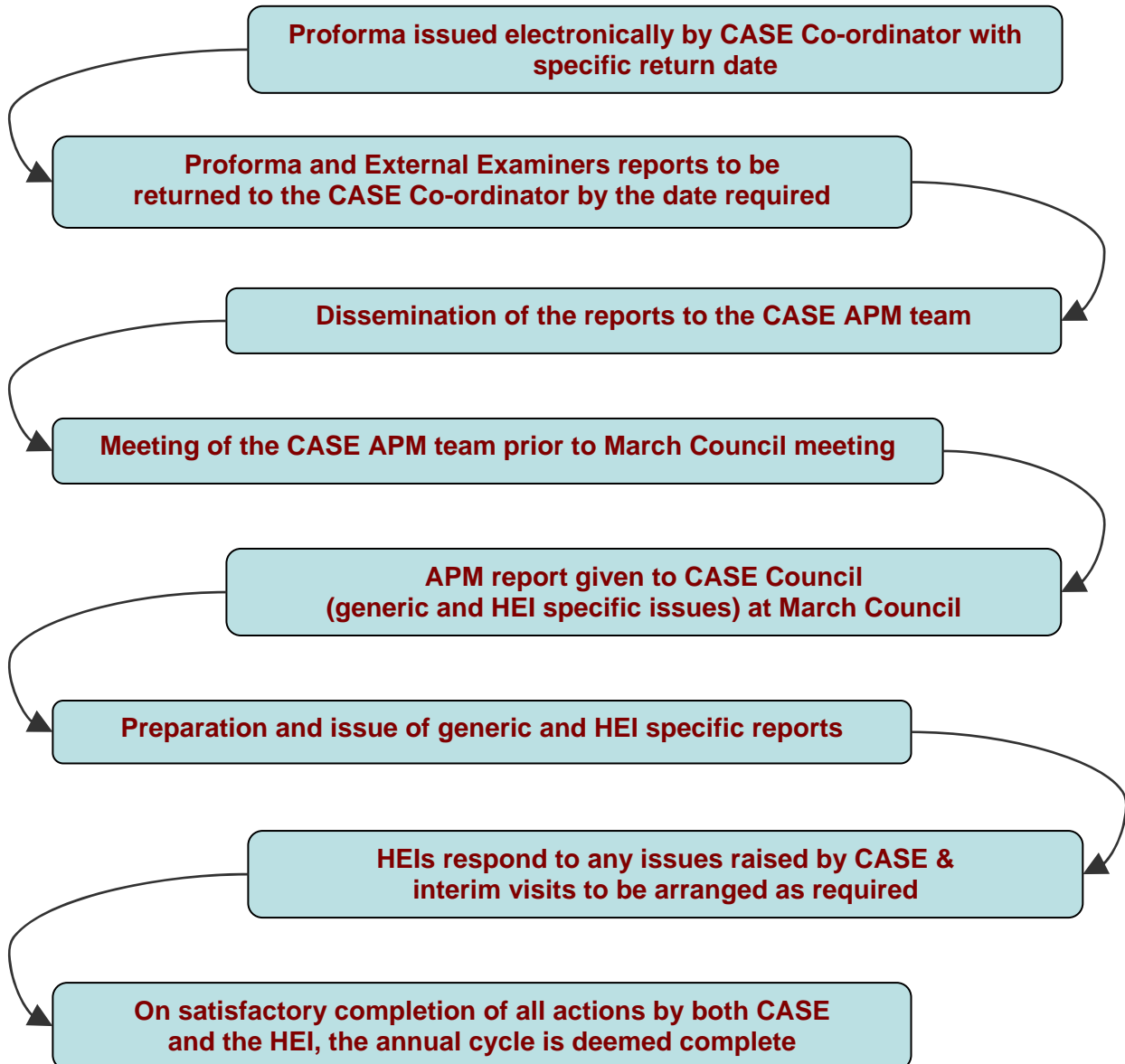
Programme Leaders: Please make sure you submit your APMR report on time!!

CASE Council Meetings 2007

The next CASE Council meeting in 2007 will be held at 36 Portland Place, London on Tuesday 16th October.

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. A reminder will be sent.

Summary of CASE Annual Monitoring Process



CASE Website

This 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.)

If you are a Programme Leader, please note that any amendments to information on the CASE website can be made by contacting the CASE Co-ordinator.

Recent updates to the CASE website include the addition of 2 presentations from the recent CASE Open Forum on Ultrasound Physics as well as a presentation on training & assessing emergency physicians from the CASE session at BMUS 2006.

UKAS/SCoR Voluntary Register

The SCOR/UKAS National Voluntary Register for Ultrasound has been open since May 2007, and there has been very good response from sonographers across all fields of practice. A single voluntary register of suitably trained and experienced ultrasound practitioners needs to be established to support the proposal to HPC for protection of the title "sonographer". A review is currently underway to assess whether the time is now right to proceed with such an application to the HPC .

To give a true representation of the number of practicing sonographers in the UK, it is very important that radiographers as well as other disciplines whose practice involves a majority of ultrasound (e.g. Midwives, Nurses, Clinical Scientists, Echocardiographers) are on the National Voluntary Register for Ultrasound. Ultrasound practitioners involved with education, research, management and applications are also encouraged to join.

Further information and application form for registration can be downloaded at www.sor.org and www.ukasonographers.org

Would you like to become a CASE Accreditor?

CASE relies on, and is very grateful for, the voluntary work done by its accreditors, which plays a considerable role in maintaining the excellence of ultrasound practice in the UK; and we are always glad for new people to join the team of accreditors.

If you are interested, please speak in the first instance to a CASE Council member who belongs to the parent body appropriate to you (see the front page of this newsletter). If you decided to proceed, the appropriate parent body would have to nominate you to CASE, and again the Council member would help with this.

Accreditors are appointed for a flexible period, which can be terminated at any time. Training is given, as you can see above, and you might typically be called on once every two years to help with an accreditation. This would involve careful scrutiny of the course documentation, and a one-day visit to the HEI for the validation meeting. (Before you were to take on the role, your employer would have to agree to these very-occasional absences during the working week.) Accreditors normally work in pairs, with the more experienced one taking the lead.

CASE Accreditor Training Day

CASE is planning an Accreditor Training Day to be held on Thursday 22nd November 2007. Please see the 'poster' below, for further details. We would be grateful if you would display this prominently in your department. For any further information regarding this training Day, please contact the CASE Co-ordinator.

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CASE Accreditor Training Day

A **CASE** Workshop to address the training needs of all accreditors of ultrasound educational programmes – an interactive day facilitated by experts in programme accreditation and review

The workshop aim is to up-date all CASE. accreditors in the current process of programme accreditation and review, solicit participants' opinions on the appropriateness of this process in order to inform a revision of the Handbook and provide a forum for the exchange of opinions and ideas on ultrasound programmes nationally and locally.

Venue: University of Leeds
Date: Thursday 22nd November 2007
Cost: Free
(Please provide your own lunch; tea & coffee will be available during the day)

The workshop will be of interest to all CASE Lead accreditors, accreditors, HEI programme staff, CASE Council members and practitioners wishing to know more about the accreditation and review process.

To register your interest, please contact the CASE Administrator, Alice Hepworth at the CASE office or by email alice@bmus.org