

# Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

# NEWS

## September 2008

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

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- Update from the Working Party
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- SCoR & UKAS Voluntary Register update



## CASE @ BMUS 2008

The BMUS Annual Scientific meeting, this year is taking place at the new **Arena and Convention Centre, Liverpool**, from 9th - 11th December.

The session is taking place on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, from **9.10am – 11.30** in Seminar Room 12 of the Conference Centre

There will be an opportunity for debate and discussion with all speakers in a special slot at the end of the session

### CASE Session Programme

**CASE Update'** - an update and review of CASE as an organization, including the current work of the short course accreditation working party

*Rosemary Lee,  
CASE Lead  
Accreditor*

**Sonographer Shortage'** - the national shortage of sonographers and funding for training within HEIs and clinical departments

*Chris Holroyd,  
Strategic Health  
Authority*

**'Sonographer Registration'** - a report on the current issues surrounding sonographer regulation and registration (HPC & UKAS/SCoR voluntary project)

*Audrey Paterson,  
Society & College of  
Radiographers*

**Department of Health** an update on their Sonographer competency framework and accreditation process

*Philip Webster/  
Julie Hyde,  
Department of  
Health*



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### Clinical Competency Part 2: POSTPONED

Further to previous announcements about this Forum, the date for this event has been postponed until **Spring 2008**.

This day will be a follow-up to the day held in May 08 and will focus on **Clinical Competency in relation to Mentorship** (and supervision)

Plans are now for this day to be held in **London** and further information will follow in due course



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Engineering  
in Medicine





# CASE FEE REMINDER

You are reminded that payment of the CASE fee for the new session September 2008 to August 2009) is now due.

You should have received an invoice for your University's CASE fee at the beginning of the month.

Payment of the fee should be received by CASE by Friday 10th October

If you have not received the invoice or require a copy, please contact Alice Hepworth

**Payment of the CASE fee is a condition of continuing accredited status**



## ACCREDITOR TRAINING 2008

A 2008 training session will be planned to coincide with the issue of the updated and revised CASE Handbook.

Please monitor this newsletter for further announcements

## Update from the CASE Working Party on Focused Courses in Medical Ultrasound

Rosemary Lee, Working Party Lead

From previous Newsletters you will be aware that after a meeting with the Consortium's Parent Bodies in June 2007 and following discussions at the subsequent CASE Council, a short-life Working Party was set up specifically to carry forward the work to investigate the rationale, demand and support for the accreditation of focused ultrasound courses. This work was to last 12 months.

In March 2008, the Working Party (WP) was able to meet, review the data and finalise the details to be included in a template that might be utilised by course organisers for the development and accreditation of their focused ultrasound courses. Data collection that would inform the template construction had taken longer than anticipated.

Two main themes for discussion emerged from this information and other anecdotal evidence collected by the members of the WP. These were i) the classification of a focused course and ii) the financial support required to provide an additional CASE service. The members of the WP unanimously agreed that the template must contain the assess-

ment of competency of all trainees registered on a focused course as this is CASE philosophy, central to its accreditation process.

I am now able to report that the WP has completed the task set it by CASE Council. The definition of a focused ultrasound course, the draft template for its format and a financial plan have been completed, agreed by the WP and presented to Council members in July for discussion. These documents are now in the hands of the Parent Bodies for their separate opinions.

Any decision on the inclusion of focused courses within the CASE remit will depend on the outcome of the Parent Bodies' deliberations.

If there is a positive response to the proposal to include focused courses in the CASE model, I would expect the WP to meet in the future to discuss implementation plans. Further information will be given in subsequent Newsletters. There will be a CASE session at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting on Tuesday 9 December in Liverpool when I will be presenting the project findings.



I would like to thank all contributors to the data collection, to the members of the WP without whose efforts this project would not have been completed and to Alice Hepworth for her administrative support.





# Review of the CASE Open Forum, held at the Society & College of Radiographers, 8th May 2008

Rosemary Lee, Programme Organiser

The CASE Open Forums are held twice yearly and are for anyone who is involved or has an interest in education and training in medical ultrasound. Participants come from a variety of professional backgrounds and practice specialties. The overall aims of the meetings are to provide opportunities to listen to experts, for discussion and debate amongst the participants and to inform the future work of CASE. Workshop themes suggested by delegates from previous meetings are incorporated into the annual calendar.

The theme for the first open forum in 2008 - **Clinical Competency – the what, why and how – in medical ultrasound programmes** was selected from a wide range of topics submitted to CASE in the last two years. The workshop was held at the Society of Radiographers Headquarters in London and was very well attended. Its aim was to provide a forum for debate amongst CASE accreditors, programme leaders and practice educators in relation to the most appropriate and current way of assessing students' clinical competency in order to ensure that the students are fit-for-practice.

The programme included presentations by staff from universities and clinical departments, with opportunities to review and discuss assessment schemes currently in place. Wendy Williams, a CASE accreditor, introduced the morning speakers. Jacque Lee, an ultrasound manager from Bradford gave an overview on competency and the reasons for the need to assess it. This was followed by a presentation by Rosemary Lee, CASE council member on how competency is currently being assessed in UK. Vivien Gibbs and Gill Harrison shared the next presentation and gave a summary of how they as programme leaders in London and Bristol developed and delivered the competency element of their courses. This was followed by an overview on competency from a practice perspective given by Alexandra Drought, a Superintendent Sonographer in London. Jean Wilson, lead accreditor for CASE brought the morning session to a close by reviewing the CASE standards on competency that must be met before a programme is accredited.

During the afternoon session, chaired by Gail Johnson – CASE council member - the participants were given six specific questions related to clinical competency and its assessments. The questions were derived from the morning presentations and assessment material provided by a small group of leaders of CASE-accredited ultrasound programmes. On completion of the focus work, each group presented their findings in a plenary session that provided opportunities for open debate.

The workshop evaluated very well and some of the comments can be found in this Newsletter. The forum organisers would like to thank the Society of Radiographers for providing the excellent venue, the speakers for their time and informative presentations, the session Chairs for coordinating each session in a timely fashion, the programme leaders who provided material on competency from their own programmes and to Alice Hepworth from the CASE Office whose organisational skills ensured the day was an overall success.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond CASE control, the second forum in the series on competency due to be held in November has had to be postponed to early 2009. Please watch for further CASE announcements on this Open Forum.



## DELEGATE FEEDBACK

### General comments:

- Very informative lectures & the afternoon discussions were most useful
- Enjoyable & informative talks, very interested in short course accreditation
- Well organised with useful talks, interesting discussion, but still limited conclusions
- Good flow from one lecture to another which covered all aspects of the subject matter
- Liked the focus groups, they promoted good discussion
- A good, wide range of talks, would have liked longer discussion time at the end
- A really excellent day, very useful lectures and good to have opportunity to share information with others
- A good forum for all groups involved in ultrasound training to discuss standards & expectations. It highlighted the importance of the profession to give import to consistency and contents of courses.
- Interesting to hear the view from both academic and clinical standpoints and the need for HEIs and departments to work together.
- Comprehensive and a good range of topics covered.
- Overall a positive approach to addressing competency issues

### Were any lectures particularly helpful?

- Enjoyed afternoon discussion and feedback especially. It was particularly helpful and good to have in the afternoon – kept people awake!
- Would have liked more thorough talk on clinical assessment measurements
- The Clinical Practitioner's talk was excellent and very valid
- The Global perspective and CASE perspective talk were very helpful
- The Practitioner's perspective talk was perhaps not relevant to the audience. It was not realistic.
- Would have been good to have more discussion time.
- Interesting to hear CASE comments of level of accreditation.

# Regulation of Sonographers & Voluntary Registration

Professor Audrey Paterson, Society & College of Radiographers

## Summary

The Health Professions Council (HPC) is considering the application by the Society and College of Radiographers to protect in law the title 'sonographer' and is likely to make a decision at its December 2008 meeting. A key factor in the decision will be the number of individuals listed on the Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers, so clinical departments need to ensure that sonographers are on the voluntary register by the end of October 2008.

## Regulation of Sonographers: progress report

A delegation from the Society and College of Radiographers addressed the HPC at its July meeting on the need for sonographers to be regulated. This was well received. Further detailed examination of the application is ongoing and this will return to the HPC in December when it is likely that the HPC will make its decision.

At present, the Society and College of Radiographers is preparing further evidence to assist in the decision making process for submission to the HPC by the end of October 2008, and Hazel Edwards and the University of Hertfordshire have been commissioned to do some detailed work on:

The number of sonographers currently outside of any regulatory framework (this is still very difficult to quantify and Hazel will be doing some further survey work to try to arrive at a reasonable/realistic figure)

The degree to which the application has support (or otherwise) from the governments of the four countries of the UK, employers of sonographers, and key stakeholders/bodies. Important here is why

regulation is needed (or not needed if the perspective is one of opposition)

**The dichotomy:** 'ultrasound – tool or profession?' – is it a tool used by a large and growing number of professions; is it a profession, or do both conditions exist simultaneously?

Hazel would welcome any help or information on the above and can be contacted on [h.m.edwards@herts.ac.uk](mailto:h.m.edwards@herts.ac.uk)

## Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers

What has become apparent during the HPC's scrutiny of the application to protect the title 'sonographer' is that the number of individuals on the public voluntary register is of considerable importance, and, at this stage, it is vital to ensure that as many sonographers as possible are listed on the register. Of particular importance are those who are not regulated at present by any of the health regulators (HPC, GMC, NMC).

From those already on the public voluntary register, it is already known that there are non-regulated sonographers in a number of imaging departments, in vascular services, and in a number of other settings. Undoubtedly, these are the tip of an iceberg. We need your help to encourage everyone practising as a sonographer to apply to be entered on the public voluntary register. Information and forms can be downloaded from

[www.sor.org/public/ult/ult\\_search.php](http://www.sor.org/public/ult/ult_search.php)

**Please encourage all those that might be eligible to apply NOW – it may make the critical difference in whether or not the application for sonographer regulation is approved.**

## CASE Annual Monitoring Exercise, 2007/08 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 all programmes must comply with this process in order to retain CASE accredited status.

The 2007/08 Annual Programme Monitoring (APM) Proforma will shortly 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 type-script. 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.

If you would like any further information or guidance on the process, please contact Alice Hepworth. We can provide a flow-chart detailing the full APMR procedure if required

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