Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

ANNUAL REPORT
2015 -2016
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Introduction from the Chair

Gill Dolbear, July 2017

The 2015-16 academic year was an extremely busy time for CASE, with the accreditation and reaccreditation of a number of ultrasound programmes and Focused Courses, the APMR (Annual Performance Monitoring Review) process and revision of the CASE Handbook. In addition, the programme for the annual CASE Update Day was completely refreshed in order to align it with current issues relating to sonographic education and was positively evaluated by the 21 delegates who were able to attend. Overall, it was a very enjoyable event which prompted lots of questions and an interesting discussion regarding possible solutions to the current sonography workforce crisis.

I’ve heard it said that, if you’re going to do something, you might as well do it during interesting times! My term of office as CASE Chair was certainly interesting, as we have witnessed an unprecedented period of change in ultrasound education and training in response to increased service delivery needs throughout the last few years. During this time, CASE Committee members and accreditors have never failed to ‘step up to the plate’ to take on the accreditation of an increased number of focused courses and new direct entry programmes, to take part in Update Days and to re-write the CASE Handbook. A vast amount of work has been completed and we have all grown as a result. It has been my privilege to be part of such genuine and effective team-working.

There is, however, still much for CASE to accomplish in terms of being pro-active and reactive in relation to the evolving landscape within ultrasound education and training, and I am enjoying supporting the new CASE Chair, Simon Richards, as he settles into the role. I would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank the CASE Co-ordinator, Sally Hawking, for the fantastic support that she provides to the Chair and the CASE Committee.
About CASE

CASE was established in 1993 to allow organisations with a shared interest to come together to provide appropriate and relevant oversight of all aspects of sonographic education.

It is operated on a not-for-profit basis and is not formally incorporated as a company or a charity.

It relies on volunteers to commit their time to ensure that students who graduate from its accredited courses do so with the best in education, mentor support and clinical competency; thus preparing the sonographic workforce of the future.

About the Member Organisations of CASE

Member Organisations (MOs) are normally those which have direct responsibilities and interest in the practice of sonography and its education and training. They are independent bodies with their own professional concerns in relation to the research, education and practice of medical ultrasound.

Member Organisations share in common the concern that education must continue to develop to meet changing technology, clinical practice and service requirements. They recognise the need to collaborate to set and maintain standards, optimise education and training development and provision, and make validation and accreditation procedures as robust as possible. They understand the need to do this in conjunction with the relevant external bodies, including statutory bodies.

In 2015-16, the MOs of CASE were:

- The British Medical Ultrasound Society
- The College of Radiographers
- The Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
- The Society for Vascular Technology of Great Britain and Ireland
How CASE works

The primary role of the Consortium is to accredit high quality training programmes and focused courses that promote best ultrasound practice and ensure that ultrasound practitioners are safe and competent to practise, whilst taking into account informed views of service needs.

The strategic direction and policy of CASE are decided by the Member Organisations (MOs) which make up the Consortium. The MOs meet twice a year, and set a financial and business plan for the Consortium.

Each MO nominates three appropriately qualified representatives from amongst its own membership to serve on the CASE Committee, with two out of the three attending each meeting.

The CASE Committee is responsible for implementing CASE policy. The Committee normally meets three times a year to:

- ensure, via a co-ordinated programme of validation and monitoring, that standards of education and training in sonography are being set, maintained and enhanced

- establish a co-ordinated approach to setting, maintaining and enhancing standards of education and training in sonography, ensuring that the standards are and remain approved by the Consortium

- undertake validation and periodic review of individual education and training programmes and focused courses in sonography, and to accredit programmes and focused courses in the name of the Consortium.

A comprehensive CASE Handbook guides the CASE Committee in its work, and regular CASE training days help to keep assessors’ skills up to date.
Achievements in 2015 – 2016

During this year:

- 6 MSc programmes received CASE re-accreditation
- The first Direct Entry MSc Medical Ultrasound received CASE accreditation
- 1 new Postgraduate Certificate course received CASE accreditation
- 3 focussed courses received CASE re-accreditation
- 2 new Accreditors were approved to join the team (and 1 resignation)
- 4 new members joined the CASE Committee (no leavers)
- 40 requests for help and information via the website were dealt with, with an average response time of 2.5 days
- All accredited universities submitted a satisfactory return to the CASE annual monitoring performance review (APMR)
- CASE was involved in contributing to policy discussions about sonographic education with Health Education England (HEE) and shared anonymised APMR data with the working group
- CASE continued to work with HEE on issues relating to the sonography workforce crisis
- The Accradiator Day in November 2015 was the most successful to date with 21 attendees including Accreditors, Course Leaders and others with an interest in sonographic education
- The CASE Handbook was fully revised
- The CASE website was completely redesigned and updated
- CASE led a session at BMUS 2015 in December
- CASE led a session at the Philips Sonographers’ Day in January 2016
- We opened talks with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists and the College of Podiatrists about becoming Member Organisations of CASE, and continued to seek discussions with the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Midwives
- CASE was represented at a meeting of the College of Podiatry Specialist Advisory Group for Ultrasound in Podiatry
Also in 2015, the Consortium agreed the following four Principles to guide its work:

1. **Reporting should not be separated from scanning.**

2. **Scanning is a ‘dynamic’ investigation in which the acquisition of suitable images and assessment of them is entirely operator-dependent at the time of the scan. Deficiencies in acquisition cannot be rectified by involving a more skilled practitioner at a later stage. Assessment and interpretation of saved images is recognised as sub-optimal practice although, as with all image interpretation, dual reporting can be helpful in increasing specificity.**

3. **The risk of patient harm and consequent litigation against any healthcare organisation providing a poor quality service is very high so the need for competence at the point of scanning is paramount.**

4. **Workforce modelling and the development of innovative training routes to meet the demand for sonography services should demonstrate increased efficiency of provision and effectiveness in delivery of diagnosis and treatment to patients.**

These Principles will be applied to all aspects of CASE’s work.
CASE Finances

CASE’s activities are funded through two main sources: fees paid by Member Organisations to be part of the Consortium; and fees charged to course providers for accreditation services.

Total income for the year to 30th September 2016 fell slightly at £12350 (£12950 in 2015), partly as a result of the loss of one member organisation this year.

Total expenditure rose slightly at £10206 (£9957 in 2015). The largest proportion of CASE expenditure relates to administrative costs. These include the Case Coordinator costs which cover the role of the Case Coordinator to:

- support the Chair of CASE
- organise and manage the accreditors and accreditation events
- organise and minute the MOs’ and Case Committee meetings
- manage and update the website
- draft marketing and business plans for the MO meetings
- maintain the CASE finances and prepare the annual accounts.

Other expenses covered under this heading include travel, meetings, website maintenance costs and recently introduced banking charges.

Overall this has led to a surplus for the year of £2144 (£2933 in 2015), shown in the balance sheet, with reserves increasing to £11209.

The budget for 2016 was agreed by the member organisations at the meeting in October 2015.

CASE Income 2016
Looking Forward

Plans for 2016-17 include:

- Inducting Simon Richards as new Chair of the CASE consortium, taking over from Gill Dolbear.

- Upgrading the Annual Performance Monitoring Review (APMR) database which CASE uses

- Signing up the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists and the College of Podiatrists as new Member Organisations

- Pursuing discussions with the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Midwives about joining CASE.

- Holding an Accréditor Update Day in November

- Holding a strategy day to review our financial position and identify new income-generating activities to ensure that CASE can cover its costs

- Reviewing new developments in ultrasound education and ensuring that CASE accreditation is ‘fit for purpose’

- Publishing Position Statements relevant to current developments in the ultrasound workforce, based on the CASE Principles.
CASE Accredited Courses 2015-2016

**MSc Programmes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AECC/University of Bournemouth</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birmingham City University</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury Christ Church University</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound /Obstetric and/or Gynaecological Ultrasound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City University London</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow Caledonian University</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>King’s College London</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound / MSc Vascular Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheffield Hallam University</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teesside University</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Cumbria</td>
<td>MSc Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Derby</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound (Direct Entry Accelerated Route)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>MSc Diagnostic Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Salford</td>
<td>MSc Ultrasound Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the West of England</td>
<td>MSc Medical Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Ulster</td>
<td>MSc Advancing Practice in Medical Ultrasound</td>
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**Postgraduate Certificate**

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of East London</td>
<td>PgC Musculoskeletal Ultrasound</td>
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**Focused Courses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AECC/Bournemouth University</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Podiatry Musculoskeletal Ultrasound</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3rd Trimester Pregnancy Growth Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Gynaecology &amp; Early Pregnancy Ultrasound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birmingham City University</td>
<td>1st Trimester Screening</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3rd Trimester Fetal Surveillance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Obstetric Ultrasound Dating for Family Planning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Early Pregnancy Ultrasound</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Transvaginal Ultrasound for Infertility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canterbury Christ Church University</td>
<td>Hands, Wrists &amp; Feet in Rheumatology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Trimester Ultrasound Scanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow Caledonian University</td>
<td>Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Synovitis Sonography Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Trimester Obstetric Ultrasound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Essex</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal Ultrasound</td>
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CASE Committee 2015-2016

Chair: Gill Dolbear SCoR
Vice-Chair: Dr Vivien Gibbs SCoR

Members:
- Heather Venables BMUS Dr Adam Lovick IPEM
- Simon Richards BMUS Prof Neil Pugh IPEM
- Catherine Kirkpatrick BMUS Rosalind Lea SVT
- Gill Harrison SCoR Dr Valda Gazzard SVT
- Crispian Oates IPEM Anna Jerram SVT

CASE Accreditors 2015-2016

Thank you to all our accreditors for volunteering their time in support of CASE

Jane Anderson Portsmouth NHS Hospitals Trust
Jane Arezina University of Leeds
Katherine Barton University of Portsmouth
Annemarie Bevan University of Wales, Pontypridd
Gareth Bolton University of Cumbria
Peter Cantin Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Elizabeth Chapman Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline
Gillian Coleman University of Derby
Gillian Crofts University of Salford
Diane Dickson Glasgow Caledonian University
Gill Dolbear Canterbury Christ Church University
Theresa Fail National School of Healthcare Science, Health Education West Mid’s
Jan Forster Leeds General Infirmary
Ben Freedman Kings College Hospital, London
Elaine Gardiner Glasgow Caledonian University
Dr Valda Gazzard Treliske Hospital, Truro
Dr Vivien Gibbs University of the West of England, Bristol
Sue Halson-Brown Kings College London
Gill Harrison City, University of London
Dr Bob Jarman Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead
Gerry Johnson University of Salford
Rosalind Lea Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Crewe
Dr Adam Lovick Sandwell General Hospital, West Bromwich
Frith Noble Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin
Dr Crispian Oates Freeman Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Dr David Oxborough Liverpool John Moores University
Pam Parker Hull & East Yorkshire NHS Hospital Trust
Simon Richards University of Teesside
Prof Malcolm Sperrin Royal Berkshire & Battle Hospitals NHS Trust
Jacquie Torrington City, University of London
Heather Venables University of Derby
Wendy Williams University Hospital Llandough, Cardiff
Jean Wilson University of Leeds
Rachel Wilson Hull & East Yorkshire NHS Hospital Trust
Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

CASE May 2017
Contact: Sally Hawking
Case Coordinator
case@ipem.ac.uk
www.case-uk.org
@CASE_news