

C Consortium for the A Accreditation of S Sonographic E Education

NEWS

May 2009

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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Current News from Council

Rosemary Lee, Chair of CASE

In January 2009, as many of you are probably aware, two of the Consortium's member organisations, the Society and College of Radiographers and the United Kingdom Association of Sonographers merged so that the matters related to sonography and sonographers might be taken forward with one strong voice. This raised concerns for CASE in terms of its Memorandum of Agreement, representation on Council, the number of programme accreditors and also funding.

Following discussions earlier in the year, a way forward was reached amongst the six member organisations. A revised Memorandum, covering all the issues was drafted and put to Council for discussion prior to being approved by the six members (see parallel article from Rosie Conlon). Council agreed that a small sub-group should meet soon to develop operating procedures in the light of these changes.

Due to the merger, Audrey Paterson (SCoR) and Wendy Williams (UKAS) retired as Council members, however due to the evolving situation in this next 12-month period and because of their expertise in CASE matters, both have been asked to attend Council as observers to facilitate a smooth process of change. Council would like to thank Audrey and Wendy for their strong support of and commitment to the work of CASE over the years and their continuing help in this next phase. Audrey and Wendy will maintain their roles as programme accreditors. Gill Dolbear



and myself will represent SCoR on Council for this next session. The full Council list for the session can be found in this Newsletter.

Owing to the retirement of SVT and BSE Council members, Valda Gazzard and Jan Forster, we welcome two new members, Rosalind Lea, Specialist Cardio-Respiratory Department Manager from Leighton Hospital and David Oxborough, Lecturer in Clinical Physiology (Cardiology), University of Leeds. Thanks are extended to Valda and Jan for supporting the work of CASE during their time on Council.

During this last two years, work has been progressing slowly on the revision of the CASE Handbook. This document provides advice to programme leaders and their teams, programme accreditors and advisors, educational institutions and CASE members. It was issued previously in 2000 and there have been many educational and ultrasound changes in the last eight years. The revision was approved by Council in March and will be published after the meeting of the sub-group when all the new documents have been approved. The Handbook will have its first airing at the Accreditors' Training Workshop in June, please come and

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support the day . A programme and registration forms can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

A major CASE project has been the development of a framework for the accreditation of focused courses as reported previously. It is pleasing to announce that the member organisations have approved this framework for implementation when its operating procedures are in place. Thanks are extended to Gail Johnson, Crispian Oates and Wendy Williams for their work on this project. An invitation is extended to those programme leaders and others, who have experience of delivering focused ultrasound courses, to submit an application to CASE to be a member of the accrediting team. Council members are aware that there is expertise in this area of ultrasound training in our universi-

ties and hospitals so please give this invitation due consideration. Both academic and clinical accreditors will be required. It is envisaged that a large team might be needed over the next few years. Training will be offered. Please contact the CASE Office for more details of how to apply.

Finally, thanks are extended to Rosie Conlon for her work as Chair of CASE over the last three years. We must also thank Julie Walton, Andrew Fairhead and Valda Gazzard for their evaluation of and report on the 2007-08 programme annual returns and Alice Hepworth for all her contributions during this unusually busy period in the life of CASE.

CURRENT CASE COUNCIL POSITIONS

Name	CASE Position	Professional Occupation	Representing
Rosemary Lee	CASE Chair		SCoR
Rosie Conlon	Past Chair & Vice Chair	Ultrasound Programme Leader, University of Leeds	BMUS
Sue Tennant	Honorary Treasurer	Diagnostic Imaging Department, Northern General Hospital	BSE
Julie Walton		Ultrasound Programme Leader, University of Liverpool	BMUS
Gill Dolbear		Ultrasound Programme Leader, Canterbury Christ Church University	SCoR
David Oxborough		Lecturer in Clinical Physiology (Cardiology), University of Leeds	BSE
Lynda Mulhair		Directorate Office, St Thomas' Hospital	RCM
Gail Johnson		Education and Professional Development Advisor, RCM	RCM
Andrew Fairhead		Dept of Medical Physics, Grampian University Hospital	IPEM
Crispian Oates		Head of Regional Vascular Ultrasound, Newcastle General Hospital	IPEM
Rosalind Lea		Cardio-Respiratory Department Manager , Mid Cheshire Hospitals	SVT
Theresa Fail		NHS Workforce Review Team, Winchester	SVT

Report from CASE Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee: Monitoring Period Sept 2007 – Aug 2008 Julie Walton, Chair of the APMR Sub-Committee

We have now completed the CASE annual programme monitoring process for the 2007-2008 academic session. This year the APM committee comprised:

Julie Walton (Chair) Andrew Fairhead
Valda Gazzard Alice Hepworth

This was the last meeting to be chaired by myself as I have now complete by tenure as a CASE officer. The Chair of the APM sub-committee is always the Past Chair of CASE and so it with great pleasure that I announce that the Chair from 2009 will be Rosie Conlon from the University of Leeds. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues – Valda and Andrew for their support and hard work in supporting this important CASE activity. Also, heartfelt thanks must go to Alice Hepworth, CASE administrator, who has supported me fantastically for the past 8 years that I have held officer positions on CASE.

This year CASE received SIXTEEN returns from Universities. All were received in a very timely manner and this really facilitated the process for the reviewers. This year

saw the inception of a slightly modified form and this seemed to work much better for most. It is always difficult to produce a generic form which 'fits all' and we will continue to work on this again for the forthcoming 2008-2009 proforma. Any comments from programme leaders would be very welcomed. The programme leaders produce in most instances very detailed and comprehensive reports and this was welcomed by the sub-committee. It was very apparent that previous comments in respect of this section had been taken board in response to the additional CASE guidance given for completing this section of the proforma. I thank all the ultrasound leaders for their hard work on producing such excellent reports making our job much easier. CASE Council has decided that from this year, the generic summary report (excluding specific University data which is obviously anonymous) will be circulated to relevant national bodies such as the Ultrasound leaders in the Department of Health. Council felt that dissemination of this generic data is pivotal in flagging the shortage of clinical Sonographers and related work force issues.

The APM process at CASE:

All the reviewers reviewed each University APM report and produced a collective response which was approved for issue to the University by CASE Council in March 2009. Many universities had a favourable response, not requiring any further action by CASE and this was really pleasing. Some required further actions and most have since responded promptly and thus there now remain very few outstanding issues from this reporting period. No University required an interim visit; the first time I have known this happen in recent CASE activity and we would like to congratulate the programme leaders accordingly for all their hard work in ensuring that their programme meets the ongoing monitoring of CASE.

Student Statistics for 2007-2008 reporting period:

The numbers recruited to all programmes in the 2007-2008 monitoring period reported from the 16 Universities are to date as follows:

Post Graduate Certificate	110
Post Graduate Diploma	110
MSc	61
Total Awards	270
Single Module (where offered)	50

It is encouraging to note that these initial figures show a 30% increase in the number of students taking named awards and an increase of 32 students taking single modules for CPD, compared to last year's data.

General Points about the returns

As always, there are common issues and University specific issues raised by this exercise. I am delighted to report that the usual issue of problems with clinical placements was not reported by programme leaders this year. This is most unusual as many have reported problems with obtaining and maintaining clinical placements in previous years. I would ask you to bear this in mind when reporting next years return as it is important to flag to the Strategic Health Authorities and the Department of Health any issues which

impact on the number of ultrasound trainees.

The general points are summarised below:

- The Sub-committee thank all Programme Leaders for the many comprehensive reports which facilitated the assessment process. There is a noticeable year on year improvement in the overall quality and detail of the reports. The Sub-committee was also impressed with the timely fashion in which most of the returns for this session were made. CASE is grateful to all Programme Leaders for their efforts with the 2007- 2008 monitoring process.
- The Sub-committee requested that programme leaders do ensure that they separate their data for module only options and those leading to an award, in order to avoid confusion. The proforma will be re-designed for the 2008-2009 session in order to facilitate this.
- It was noticeable that there is a problem for many institutions in the fact that there is a country-wide shortage in suitable clinical placements. A number of HEIs reported that they could increase their student intake by up to 50% if it were not for a shortage of clinical placements. A number of institutions referenced the 18-week target as part of the reason for this. CASE will be sending this comment to the Department of Health along with the student data for the current session.
- The Sub-committee noticed an increasing trend for Physics and Technology to be offered as a stand-alone module. However, no institution has offered a rationale for this. If any programme leaders do have a rationale for offering this option, it would be useful if it were made available to CASE.

Summary:

It has been a pleasure to act as CASE Chair and latterly the Chair of the APM sub-committee. I wish all of you continuing success with the excellent ultrasound programmes on offer in the UK and to Rosie as to incoming Chair – best of luck. Knowing Rosie well, I feel sure she will do an admirable job.

Time for Change - Announcement of the new CASE Memorandum of Agreement **Rosie Conlon, Past Chair**

'A memorandum of agreement (MOA) is a document written between parties to cooperatively work together on an agreed upon project ,or meet an agreed objective. The purpose of an MOA is to have a written understanding of the agreement between parties.' This is the Wikipedia definition but helps to show that a MOA is an important document when a number of organisations are working together to, in the instance of CASE, sustain and promote the quality of ultrasound education in the UK.

As of 31st December 2008 UKAS dissolved and CASE lost a valued parent body, one of only seven. This had substantial implications for CASE as an organisation. The immediate loss was that of 2 Council members, potentially a number of accreditors and £500 per annum in funding. A working party was formed to consider the implications of the loss of UKAS and possible solutions. These were then put to the remainder of the parent bodies for consideration.

The CASE Memorandum of Agreement was written some time ago (2001) and, in line with an overhaul and update of other CASE documentation, to make this more current and "move with the times". Consequently it was decided the

Memorandum should be updated and the loss of a parent body provided impetus to carry out this work. Therefore a number of changes were made with an appropriate rationale for each. This new memorandum has been agreed by both CASE Council and is in the process of approval by the remaining six parent bodies. The new Memorandum will be available on the CASE website shortly.

Now that UKAS has merged with the CoR, the nominated accreditors previously from UKAS are now supported by the College to enable the required number of accreditors to be sustained. For the immediate future, the CoR will continue to have only 2 Council members, the same as the other parent bodies, despite the merger. The CoR have endeavoured to provide support to ensure that CASE has not been compromised by the merger and we are grateful for their continued support.



How to Support and Train Practice Educators in their Role

Overview

The aim of this workshop is to provide a forum for debate amongst CASE accreditors, programme leaders and practice educators in relation to the most appropriate and current way of supporting students as they attain clinical competency in ultrasound, in order to ensure that they are fit-for-practice on exiting the course of study. The programme will include presentations by staff from universities and clinical departments, with opportunities to review and discuss assessment schemes currently in place. There will also be a presentation from the nuchal translucency screening programme on how this new training will be delivered through universities.

Programme

09.30 Registration & coffee	
09.55 Introduction & Welcome	Rosie Conlon (Chair), Programme Leader, University of Leeds
10.00 National training requirements and support for Nuchal Translucency (NT) as part of NHS screening programmes	Joanne Harcombe & Amber Butler, NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme
10.45 CASE - new recommendations/revised Handbook	Rosie Conlon
11.15 The Practice Educator's role	Jane Anderson, Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton
How does the HEI support Practice Educators? - the HEI perspective	Vivien Gibbs, Ultrasound Programme Leader UWE
How does the HEI support Practice Educators - the clinical department's perspective	Kate Hobson, Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust
The ex-student's view	Martin Nelson, Bristol Royal Infirmary
12.30 Lunch	
13.45 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	



BOOKING FORM

CASE Open Forum: Clinical Competency – Thursday 9th July 2009, UWE, Bristol

Cost: £50.00 *Tea & Coffee & Lunch will be provided*

Name _____

Contact Address _____

Contact Telephone Number _____

Email address _____

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'CASE' for the sum of £50.00

Please return to this form: CASE Coordinator, c/o BMUS, 36 Portland Place, London by Friday 3rd July 2009

CASE 2009

ACCREDITOR TRAINING DAY

Thursday 25th June 2009

09:15 – 16:15

*Society & College of Radiographers
207 Providence Square
Mill Street
London, SE1 2EW*



Accreditor Training Day 2009: Programme (subject to minor change)

09:15 Registration and Coffee

09:45 Welcome & Introduction

Rosemary Lee
Chair of CASE & Lead Accreditor

MORNING SESSION

10:00 The CASE Handbook Review

Rosemary Lee
Chair of CASE & Lead Accreditor

The Handbook that is used by both reviewers and academic staff to inform the accreditation process was revised in 2008. This session will briefly address the overall content of the handbook and will focus on any key amendments that have been made.

10:30 The Review Process

Gill Dolbear
*Programme Leader, Canterbury
Christ Church University*

A programme review can be challenging even for those whose full-time role is in ultrasound education. An operational knowledge of the process can make it less intimidating. A senior CASE accreditor will provide an overview of this process.

11:00 The Accreditor's Role

Gill Harrison
*CASE Accreditor & Ultrasound Programme
Leader, City University*

What is expected of a CASE accreditor during the review process? An opportunity to hear about the accreditor's role to ensure that, in the spirit of co-operation, the review is conducted in a positive manner.

11:30 ASK THE PANEL (TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE)

An opportunity for participants to question the experts.

11:45 Skills for Accrediting Programmes

Jennifer Edie
*CASE Lead Accreditor & Associate Dean &
Head of Radiography, City University*

What skills are required in order to participate effectively in an accreditation event? A further opportunity to listen to an expert and discuss a variety of competencies needed by participants attending these meetings

12:15 Workshop: Documentation Review

All

In this session a variety of documents submitted to CASE for validation/revalidation will be available for delegates to review, with an opportunity for discussion and feedback.

Note: Flip chart summaries of feedback/key learning points from each workshop group will be displayed at 13.15 to be viewed and reflected upon during lunch.

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13:15 LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION

14:00 **Summary of Key Learning Points from the Documentation Review Workshop**

Rosemary Lee
Chair of CASE & CASE
Lead Accreditor

14:15 **The Accreditor's Role in Clinical Competency**

Pam Parker
CASE Accreditor & General
Ultrasound Superintendent Hull Royal Infirmary

Clinical education and ultrasound skills training are major components of the medical ultrasound programme. They are embedded and closely related to the academic learning, partners in the learning and teaching strategy, throughout the study period. This session will address the issues in the review documentation with which an accreditor needs to be aware in order to ensure that the university team has developed a robust clinical scheme that matches CASE criteria.

14:45 **Workshop: Reviewing Clinical Competency Schemes**

All

In this session a variety of schemes for the development and assessment of clinical competency, submitted to CASE for validation/revalidation will be available for delegates to review, with an opportunity for discussion and feedback.

15:30 **FEEDBACK (TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE)**

An opportunity for participants to provide feedback on their group work.

16:00 **Summary & Close**

Rosemary Lee
Chair of CASE & CASE
Lead Accreditor

BOOKING FORM

CASE Accreditor Training Day – Thursday 25th June 2009, Society & College of Radiographers

Cost: Free - Tea & Coffee & Lunch will be provided

(Any other expenses should be claimed back either back from the Parent Body for which you are a listed accreditor, or your workplace)

Name _____

Contact Address _____

Contact Telephone Number _____

Email address _____

**Please return this form to: CASE Co-ordinator, c/o BMUS, 36 Portland Place, London
no later than Friday 19th June 2009**