



Consortium for the  
Accreditation of  
Sonographic Education

December 2015

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

#### In this edition of the newsletter:

Report from the Chair

APMR Report 2013/14

CASE Accreditors Update Day

CASE Handbook 2015

BMUS Survey

Accreditors: current and new

## Report from the Chair

2015 has been an extremely busy year for CASE with the accreditation and reaccreditation of a number of ultrasound programmes and Focused Courses, the APMR process and revision of the CASE Handbook.

The new version of the CASE Handbook was formally launched at the recent CASE Update Day held at the Society & College of Radiographers on 19th November 2015 and is now available on the CASE website. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CASE Committee members who contributed to the new Handbook, as it was a long and complex task! Particular thanks go to Crispian Oates (IPEM CASE Committee Representative) who kindly led on the revision and undertook the majority of the work.

This year the programme for the 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.

Throughout 2016 CASE will be actively working on the following:

- Upgrading the functionality of the APMR system;
- Increasing efficiency by continuing to improve the process used by CASE Committee members to approve accreditations and reaccreditations electronically in-between CASE meetings;
- Revision of the various CASE forms that are held on the website;
- Continuing to work with Health Education England on issues relating to the sonography workforce crisis.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and find it informative.



Gill Dolbear  
CASE Chair

## Annual Performance Monitoring

### Report of APMR for Academic Year 2013-14

The CASE APMR process currently applies to full postgraduate programmes only; however, there are plans to introduce an APMR

Share

Share this Page: +

powered by 

CASE would like to welcome new member **Catherine Kirkpatrick** who will represent BMUS on the CASE Committee.



You can find out more about Catherine on the website and we hope to be able to welcome more new members to the Committee soon.

### Did you know?

Two new changes which have recently been implemented refer to the length of time for which a CASE accreditation period will apply.

- Full programmes can now be approved for up to six years to align with University validation periods
- Focus courses can now be approved for up to three years

## CASE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

British Medical Ultrasound Society

process for Focused Courses in the near future. Most programme leaders have received letters informing them that our review of their programme for the academic year 2013-14 review is now complete. General information that has emerged from the review is given below, starting with a comparison of student numbers for the four most recent years to be monitored.

	Students enrolled				Students obtaining award			
	PgC	PgD	MSc	Total	PgC	PgD	MSc	Total
2013-14	268	262	101	631	141	148	42	331
2012-13	251	207	91	549	152	106	38	296
2011-12	260	273	97	630	150	133	42	325
2010-11	290	240	62	592	186	149	28	363

Overall, the numbers of students enrolling and obtaining awards appears to be fairly stable throughout the last four years; however, it is pleasing to note that the number of students enrolled on MSc programmes appears to be increasing rather than decreasing. CASE now shares these figures, along with anonymised information regarding the students' professions, with Health Education England in order to provide a national picture of current ultrasound training and education.

Gill Dolbear  
CASE Chair  
(On behalf of the APMR sub-group)

## CASE Accreditors Update Day

The recent CASE Update Day on 19th November was a great success this year with 21 people attending; many were accreditors but we also had course leaders and other interested colleagues there on the day. The feedback received from the event was very positive and the attendees made some good comments and suggestions for content that we have captured and will feed into the planning process for next year's event. There was a very full agenda which included the accreditation of focus courses, looking at the value of ultrasound simulation in recruitment, teaching and learning and also there was an opportunity for attendees to have a go at reviewing course documentation against CASE standards for a fictional course based on the challenges associated with accrediting non-traditional programmes.

A couple of the sessions looked at the experiences of both creating a graduate entry 2-year accelerated MSc in Clinical Ultrasound (as has recently occurred at the University of Cumbria) and the CASE experience of accrediting this new type of course. It was interesting to compare the different perspectives and challenges faced and this generated some good discussions on the day.

The closing item on the program was the launch of the fully revised CASE Handbook - more on that to follow!

Our thanks go to those who presented the various sessions on the day, hopefully we can build on the success of this event and keep the momentum going for next year. If you are interested in coming along to the 2016 CASE Day (with a more northerly location) please keep an eye on the website for the date being announced or contact the CASE Co-ordinator.

## CASE Handbook 2015

I am pleased to be able to report that we now have a new CASE Handbook. The guiding principles in re-writing the Handbook have been firstly to encompass every aspect of what we do as an accrediting body, and secondly to make it as user friendly as possible. For those of you who are used to working with the old Handbook, the two biggest changes you will notice are the new layout of chapters and the



Share

Share this Page: +

powered by **BMUS**Institute of Physics and  
Engineering in Medicine**IPEM**Society and College of  
RadiographersTHE COLLEGE OF  
RADIOGRAPHERSSociety for Vascular  
Technology of Great Britain  
and Ireland

incorporation of focused course accreditation into the Handbook. Going a little deeper, the wording has been changed to be clearer in many places and more examples have been given to help both those offering courses prepare their documentation and courses for accreditation and those who perform the validation and accreditation on behalf of CASE. The first chapter is introductory and includes the 4 principles agreed by the Member Organisations of CASE regarding the scanning practice and the education. Chapter 2 runs through the complete validation and accreditation process from first application for accreditation through to gaining accreditation and the renewal process. This includes time-line diagrams and tables to illustrate the process. Chapter 3 picks up the differences there are in this process for focused courses. Chapter 4 is entitled 'CASE Criteria for Successful Accreditation'. This runs through all the factors that CASE would expect to see and be dealt with in a course or programme they were accrediting. It gives some detail for typical content of core topic areas and includes a template for mapping the course learning outcomes to CASE learning outcomes. Chapter 5 addresses the specific issue of training and assessment of competence, which is core to what CASE is about. CASE will not validate or accredit any course that does not have a practical training element with assessment of clinical competence. The chapter defines the various roles in clinical training and gives an example of a pro forma for final clinical summative assessment. Chapter 6 gives very practical guidance for accreditors and validation panel members to aid the process of validation. It is based on experience gained from previous validation events; in particular drawing attention to areas where there have been problems leading to conditions being set before accreditation can be granted. Finally there is a chapter on the annual Course Monitoring process and a glossary of terms.

The new Handbook is available to download on the CASE website. As it is in electronic form, it is hoped that it can be kept up to date in a way that responds to feedback and changing need in a timely manner.

Crispian Oates  
CASE Committee Member

## BMUS Survey: Aims and Outcomes

### Educating the Future Sonographic Workforce

BMUS, in conjunction with CASE, education providers and the NHS are working together to review how best to develop education for the future sonographic workforce. There is currently a national vacancy rate of approximately 12% across NHS Trusts. Education course placements are often limited to the number of clinical training places available within departments, resulting in a disparity between vacancies and the numbers of qualified sonographers graduating. Clearly there is a need for education to match the service demand.

This issue of sonographer shortage is not diminishing and is likely to worsen in the immediate future. However, with support and engagement from all involved with delivering ultrasound services and education, as well as with those who fund training, a viable solution to increasing the workforce will be found. Models of education and training need to be found that meet the needs of the local health economy whilst at the same time not jeopardising employment potential of future trainees or the current workforce.

A term often used as a solution to the workforce problem is "direct entry" ultrasound education. Anecdotally this term has caused confusion amongst health care professionals and as such the aim of this work was to gain an understanding of the views and opinions of British

[Share](#)Share this Page: powered by 

Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS) members and interested professionals about direct entry training and subsequent development of any future training programmes.

BMUS undertook an on-line survey with 286 responses. The survey provided insight into the opinions of ultrasound practitioners and the complexities of developing a relevant educational programme for the future sonographer workforce. The majority of respondents suggested that “direct entry” was entry to an undergraduate degree, whereas direct entry could be at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, for someone without a primary healthcare degree. The results suggested a number of concerns with direct entry ultrasound programmes including insufficient training places, lack of health care background knowledge, lack of imaging knowledge and no state registration specific to sonographers. Benefits of direct entry to ultrasound training were perceived to be increasing the number of sonographers trained each year, whilst training people in their first choice profession with skills developed specific to the sonographer role. Support for direct entry ultrasound training was limited to 51% of respondents who would advocate this form of ultrasound training if it led to qualified sonographers with the same skills as sonographers exiting from current CASE accredited programmes.

*The full article can be found in the November 2015 issue of the BMUS Ultrasound journal. The journal is free to members of BMUS*

---

## CASE ACCREDITORS

CASE would like to extend a warm welcome to six new accreditors who have joined our team since the last newsletter:



### **Katherine Barton**

Katherine is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Portsmouth, having previously worked in a clinical role as a full-time sonographer for Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. In January of this year she was awarded fellow of the Higher Education Academy.



### **David Cole**

David is the Postgraduate Medical Ultrasound Programme Director at Birmingham City University where he has worked since 1995. He is also very active as an External Examiner to a number of other Universities.



Share

Share this Page: +

powered by 

### Diane Dickson

Diane is a Lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University where she has worked for the last 10 years. She also holds an honorary contract within Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS to provide General Medical Ultrasound Imaging as autonomous practitioner.

### Elaine Gardiner

Elaine works alongside Diane at Glasgow Caledonian University as a Lecturer in Diagnostic Imaging having previously worked as a Lead/Sonographer over the past 12 years. Elaine has active roles within the Scottish Sonography Network and the SCoR Ultrasound Advisory Group.

### Gillian Crofts

Gillian is the Strategic Lead for Ultrasound Imaging in the School of Health Sciences and MSc Ultrasound Imaging Programme Lead at the University of Salford where she has worked since 2002. In 2010, Gillian gained her PhD in Learning Experiences in Ultrasound Scanning and is currently developing a virtual reality ultrasound simulator suite.

### Jacque Torrington

Jacque has recently returned to Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey where she works as a specialist radiographer (ultrasound). She is a member of the SCoR Ultrasound Advisory Group and is the sonographer representative to the British Society for Gynaecological Imaging. Jacque is currently undertaking her MSc at Cardiff University.

CASE would also like to offer sincere condolences on the death of one of our Accreditors, **Alison Rogers** who died in July. Alison worked as a Lecturer and Course Leader for the MSc Medical Ultrasound programme at Cardiff University and as a part-time Sonographer for Cardiff and Vale LHB.

\* \* \* \* \*

CASE could not exist as it does without volunteer accreditors so if you are interested in joining our team then email [case@ipem.ac.uk](mailto:case@ipem.ac.uk) for an application form. You will be given training and mentorship to ease you into the role and it will provide good evidence for your CPD.

### Current CASE Accreditors

The following are our current Accreditors; their input into the accreditation process is very much appreciated:

**Jane Anderson** - Portsmouth NHS Hospitals Trust  
**Katherine Barton** - University of Portsmouth  
**Annemarie Bevan** - University of South Wales, Pontypridd  
**Gareth Bolton** - University of Cumbria  
**Peter Cantin** - Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust  
**Elizabeth Chapman** - Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline  
**David Cole** - Birmingham City University  
**Gillian Crofts** - University of Salford  
**Diane Dickson** - Glasgow Caledonian University  
**Gill Dolbear** - Canterbury Christ Church University  
**Theresa Fail** - University of Portsmouth  
**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

[Share](#)Share this Page: powered by 

Sue Halson-Brown - University of Portsmouth  
Gill Harrison - City University, London  
Prof. 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  
Pamela Parker - Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust  
Simon Richards - University of Teesside  
Prof. Malcolm Sperrin - Royal Berkshire & Battle Hospitals NHS Trust  
Jacquie Torrington - Frimley Park Hospital  
Heather Venables - University of Derby  
Wendy Williams - Llandough Hospital, Penarth  
Jean Wilson - University of Leeds  
Rachel Wilson - Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Hospital Trust

### And Finally....

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at CASE!