

## A career in ultrasound? Never a dull moment!



If I am honest, when I qualified as a radiographer, training in ultrasound was the furthest thing from my mind. I was more worried about how I was going to get to a Wham concert than my future career. Luckily I focussed and after being qualified as a radiographer for a while I trained as a sonographer. I loved the challenge and autonomy this brought to my career. Initially I trained in obstetrics, gynae and general ultrasound. Having taken a small career break whilst my children were very young, I returned but soon got itchy feet, I think I suffer from the proverbial seven year itch. I then trained in vascular ultrasound which gave me a renewed challenge.

However, that itch soon needed scratching again but as luck would have it a post became available at the Norwich Radiology Academy (now known as the East of England Imaging Academy) as the Lead Sonographer for Research, Training and Education. This involved being responsible for the ultrasound training of the, circa 50, Radiology Specialist Trainees based at the academy. Yet another challenge with a steep learning curve.

To ensure I undertook this role to the best of my ability I gained a Masters in Clinical Education, something I recommend if you are interested in education. This role is very rewarding; knowing that our trainees are offered ultrasound training delivered by a variety of colleagues to a set standard ensures we will produce radiologists with excellent ultrasound skills. Following an academy review by Health Education England it was suggested that we widen our scope of ultrasound training. As such we are now committed to supporting ultrasound education for all healthcare professionals in our region.

In 2020 I was invited to become the Associate Training Programme Director (ATPD) for Ultrasound in our region by the Head of School for Radiology in the East of England. This involves being engaged in the ultrasound training of all Radiology trainees in the East of England in a bid to ensure standardisation. It was an honour to be the first non-medic to take on an ATPD role in our region.

Alongside this, I have always maintained a clinical aspect to my role and take on other relevant roles as required. I hope this gives you an idea of where the role of sonographer can take you if you fancy a challenge. Who knows where my itchy feet could lead to next! If you would like any information on anything I have mentioned here, please feel free to contact me at [Samantha.anderson@nnuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Samantha.anderson@nnuh.nhs.uk)

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