



BMUS ))

NEWS  
SPRING 2024

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## A Word from our President



This year seems to be flying by and we are already in the second quarter, but we shall look forward to the longer days and warmer weather.

The preparations for our Annual Scientific Meeting – which will be taking place in Coventry in December – as well as the planning of the study days for the next year are already well under way. It is the education and best practice guidelines which remain the core of BMUS and the reason why many of us are passionate about the Society. It is our enthusiasm for knowledge that drives clinical ultrasound forward as an important diagnostic tool.

### Teamwork multiplies success

Many of these educational programmes and guidelines are developed with collaborations with other learned societies and the UK medical royal colleges. One of the conglomerates of ultrasound societies which BMUS plays a key role in, being the third largest in terms of membership numbers, is the European Federation of Societies in Ultrasound, Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB).

In an era marked by burgeoning technological advances, the collaboration between BMUS and EFSUMB has been a pivotal force driving innovation and excellence in the field of ultrasound. Numerous best-practice guidelines which are free to members have been written together with input from many experts within BMUS. Numerous webinars and the bi-annual Euroson meeting culminate in the exchange of ultrasound education and research, with a multitude of groundbreaking initiatives and projects that have revolutionised the landscape of clinical ultrasound over the years. There are also many outreach programmes joined together with WFUMB, the larger mother organisation encompassing EFSUMB and all the other ultrasound societies worldwide.

BMUS also has close working relationships with the Society of Radiographers (SoR), the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). BMUS together with SoR have been lobbying successive governments for the professional recognition and regulation of sonographers, and together with HEE have also developed a framework for career progression. The RCR regards BMUS as a speciality

interest group within the College and turns to the Society for guidance on many ultrasound-based documents as well as the iRefer programme, which is designed to help streamline referrals to the most appropriate imaging investigation. There is also a similar working relationship with the RCOG, not least where nearly all obstetric ultrasound is now performed by sonographers in the UK, and special workshops on the diagnosis and management of endometriosis have been of significant interest lately.

BMUS and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) also have numerous collaborations on guidelines and ensuring that ultrasound safety issues are addressed and adhered to as well as providing guidance on probe hygiene, maintenance and quality assurance of clinical systems in use, and, lately, what to look out for with regard to the purchase of second-hand ultrasound scanners. BMUS also has a close working relationship with the Society of Vascular Technology (SVT) which have dedicated streams at our Annual Scientific Meeting.

### The growing role of POCUS

One group which is growing steadily with more users of ultrasound is point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS), and BMUS is looking to foster stronger collaborations with clinicians from other specialities where many of the key players already contribute to many educational activities for BMUS members.

It is also important to mention the strong collaboration with AXREM, our partners in industry, where this symbiosis is crucial to driving forward the discipline of clinical ultrasound. There have been several guideline publications, and many of BMUS's study days, not to mention the Annual Scientific Meeting, would not be possible without support from our industry partners.

Further afield, there are good links between BMUS and the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) as well as the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA), where we share a number of online educational materials as well as host an alternating speaker from these organisations at our Annual Scientific Meeting.

ASA also faces similar professional issues, and tips from each side are exchanged on how to solve or approach these problems. Similarly, there are also exchanges of guidelines where appropriate.

“How do I get involved with all these activities?” I hear you ask. The Sounding Board and being part of one of the Special Interest Groups are good places to start. From there, make it known to one of the chairs about an interesting project you may wish to undertake or perhaps partake in one of the many of the current and ongoing projects. The Society is here for all users of ultrasound, and thus we all need to contribute to make this a vibrant society as well as for the advancement of clinical ultrasound.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from as many of you as possible.

Wishing you all a Happy Spring!

Best wishes,

**Adrian**

**Professor Adrian Lim,  
MD FRCP FRCR  
BMUS President**

“ In an era marked by burgeoning technological advances, the collaboration between BMUS and EFSUMB has been a pivotal force driving innovation and excellence in the field of ultrasound. ”



# Development Officer's Report

from Catherine Kirkpatrick

In preparing to write this report for the spring newsletter, I came across this insightful quotation from Caitlin Ultimo in her webex blog post on the power and promise of collaboration.



She describes it as “a partnership; a union; the act of producing or making something together. To collaborate is to commit to the possibility of producing an outcome greater than one that would be developed in a silo.”

What I liked particularly about this quotation was the very last sentence, which describes my many years' experience of chairing the BMUS Professional Standards Group (PSG). Our group's collective work benefits not just our BMUS members but the wider ultrasound community, and together with the guidance produced by our many members – often with other organisations – ensures that the standards of ultrasound within the UK remain the very highest.

## Our many areas of ultrasound expertise

Within the BMUS PSG, there are several multidisciplinary Special Interest Groups (SIGs), including POCUS, Obstetrics, MSK, Independent Sonographers' Group, Paediatrics and Practice Educators' Group. These groups meet to discuss ongoing projects and guideline production, which then feed into the main PSG group for governance. They are the workhorses behind all the standards produced by BMUS, and the amount of work and research put in by these groups cannot be underestimated; on behalf of BMUS, I would like to thank them for this.

## An update on our groups' current work

I would like to introduce all of our groups and members as I have huge pride in them all, but

alas, I can only present to you a few of our SIGs and their members in updating you on some of the exceptional work being undertaken.

### The MSK SIG

What a team of MSK giants in the world of ultrasound this is! This group was initially set up and led by Alison Hall as a true multi-disciplinary approach to setting the highest standards in MSK ultrasound. After many years of service, Alison handed the reins to Catharine Berry to chair this SIG. Under Catharine's leadership, the expert team are currently working on projects which will have positive impacts; one example is the Haematoma vs Haemorrhagic Sarcoma Guidelines. Members of the groups are currently working on publishing literature around the subject and researching all the available material currently out there. This project is set to improve patient pathways considerably in this area.

### The Paediatric SIG

This team is led by Dr Jeanette Kraft, Specialist Paediatric Radiologist from Leeds. This Group's focus of work recently has been around the production of guidelines on paediatric “neck lumps”. The paediatric neck lump can be a difficult area to navigate for the ultrasound practitioner and the clinician. This document aims to arm the practitioner with guidance on appropriate referrals for ultrasound, scan timing/urgency and when follow-up is appropriate. From anecdotal evidence and from my own personal experiences, the publication of this document could help inform departmental guidelines so that we can align ourselves with the “getting it right first

time” principles. This document is currently going through our governance processes and should be published soon – keep your eyes peeled!

### The POCUS SIG

Professor Bob Jarman, Consultant in EM, Dr Anna Colclough, Consultant in EM, and our very own BMUS Professional Officer, Hazel Edwards, are leading members of this active SIG. This group have been busy recording podcasts – so if you're on a car journey and fancy something interesting and educational, you know what you need to download! In addition, look out for social media updates on the Paris Olympics, taking place in summer 2024. As part of this group, we welcomed Mr M. Dalvi Humzah, Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgeon, and his co-authors to produce Guidelines for Professional Diagnostic Ultrasound Practice in Aesthetics. Currently, to our knowledge, there are no known standards written primarily to support professionals using diagnostic ultrasound in aesthetics. Therefore, this document has been

produced to provide evidence-based guidelines and benchmark the standards for aesthetic practitioners who wish to use ultrasound scanning for imaging purposes within their scope of practice. In fact, it was one of the finalists for the coveted DermaFocus Award for Best Initiative/Strategic Project in Aesthetics – part of the Aesthetics Awards 2024 event held in March.

### The Practice Educators' SIG

This newly formed group is under the exceptional chairship of Amanda Parry, Lead Sonographer in Leicester and, of course, one of our much-valued BMUS Travelling Ambassadors. I joined their first meeting and I cannot tell you how exciting this group is – I am so very much looking forwards to the projects they will be working on. The world of practice education is a relatively new concept to the ultrasound community. This is the space to be watched ...

So, the old cliché really is true: Collaboration is the key to great things. Together we will achieve them.

# OBSTETRICS STUDY DAY



Saturday  
7th September



LONDON

Join us for an engaging day of presentations and discussion on the latest advances in obstetrics ultrasound, as well as an excellent opportunity for networking.

Visit [www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org) or scan the QR code shown.



BMUS







# Recruiting International Ultrasound Practitioners and Others Without Case-Accredited Qualifications: Preliminary Findings from BMUS/SoR 2023 Survey

Hazel Edwards, Professional Officer



Sonographers, along with diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers, have been on the Government's list of shortage occupations for many years. One way that may assist with boosting numbers is to recruit international sonographers and other ultrasound practitioners who may not hold a CASE-accredited qualification.

This, however, is a complex process, not least because sonographer education levels and roles vary widely across the globe. We wanted to find out from managers what currently works well when recruiting from these cohorts, and what could be done better. Such information may reveal opportunities to share best practice and may also highlight areas for improvement.

## Method

BMUS, in collaboration with the Society of Radiographers (SoR), developed a survey investigating managers' experiences of recruiting international ultrasound practitioners and others who may not hold CASE-accredited ultrasound qualifications such as medical doctors or those who have taken a different training route. Questions explored the support managers had from their Trust/Health Board during the recruitment process, the qualifications held by applicants, countries from which they were recruited, skills levels and preceptorship support once in post. There were also questions on what managers might find helpful for future recruitment. The survey was piloted,

amended and then promoted on SoR and BMUS websites and social media outlets. It was live from 10th Nov to 31st Dec 2023.

## Results

We had 134 useful responses from all home nations and from NHS and independent service providers. Most participants said their departments were short-staffed, with only 17% reporting no vacancies. The majority of participants (70%) had successfully appointed at least one international candidate or one who did not hold a CASE-accredited qualification. There were considerable variations in recruitment process and methods used to integrate the appointee into the team.

Many reported that their new recruits were of a high standard, increased cultural diversity within the team and increased the skill-set of UK sonographers with CASE-accredited qualifications. However, other managers reported mixed or poor experiences, particularly relating to recruits who needed more support than anticipated.

The majority of respondents (67%) said they would

be more likely to recruit internationally and those without a CASE-accredited qualification if national bridging material including topics such as 'UK healthcare delivery and expectations' was developed to support new appointees where necessary.

In total, 30% of participants had never recruited from these cohorts for reasons including unsureness around reporting standards, inability to match qualifications and/or because FASP requirements were seen as a deterrent.

## What was the main weakness of the survey?

Participants were self-selecting, so there may be bias towards very good or very bad experiences, which may not be representative overall of managers' experiences recruiting from these groups.

## What were the strengths?

We surveyed not just those who had recruited internationally and/or those without CASE-

accredited qualifications, but we also explored views of managers who had never recruited from these groups. Participants had the opportunity to offer free text additional information. Although time-consuming to analyse, such qualitative data are often rich and insightful.

## Conclusion

There is no standardised method of recruitment or integration. Managers' experiences differ considerably. Some new recruits need more support than others, and often this is not realised until after they are employed.

## What will we do next?

More detailed results will be published after further analysis and exploration of key themes. With help from partner organisations, we will seek to address some of the requests from managers, including potentially the development of a recruitment 'tool kit' and support material to assist some new recruits.

# PAEDIATRICS STUDY DAY 2024



- Friday, 27 September
- Leeds

Join us for a day of informative lectures, including:

- neonates
- scanning the child presenting with an acute abdomen
- advanced scan techniques and Doppler assessment in paediatrics

plus an interesting case quiz.

For further details, including programme and registration fees, visit [www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org) or scan the QR code below.







# Ultrasound 2024: Working together for better services

Shaunna Smith, Chair of the Scientific  
Organising Committee for Ultrasound 2024



The BMUS 55th Annual Scientific Meeting is one of the year's best events for the medical ultrasound community to come together for the greater good.

Our Annual Scientific Meeting gives all of us, no matter our varied backgrounds and walks of life, an outstanding opportunity to work together for the future of medical ultrasound. It's this spirit of shared passion that's led us to choose "working together for better services" as the theme for this year's event, which will be taking place from 10th-12th of December at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

Sharing current expertise and best practice is the central aim of the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting; our yearly conference gives delegates a more rounded knowledge of where ultrasound fits into the wider fields of those who access ultrasound services and how ultrasound can be used to improve outcomes for patients. That's why, at every one of our annual events, attendees can access a line-up of fascinating lectures, practicals and plenary sessions, all communicating the latest in medical ultrasound technology and knowledge, whether the topic is POCUS, ThUNDDAR, Head & Neck, Obstetrics, Gynaecology or MSK. Visiting our Technical Exhibition gives our delegates one of the best opportunities to see the very latest advances in and uses of medical ultrasound technology and

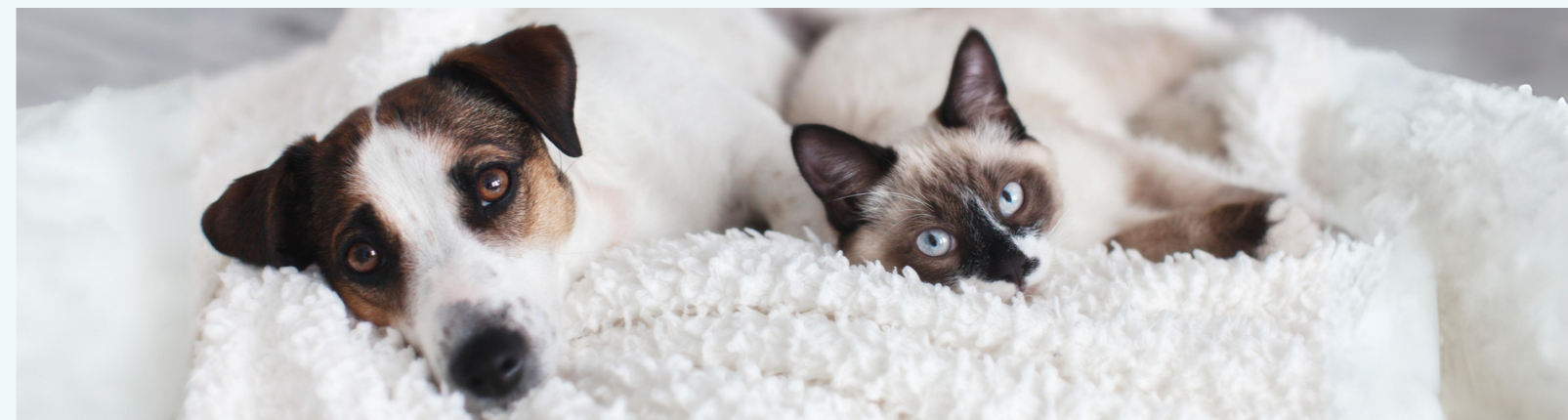
service provision from some of the biggest players in the industry. If you want to share your work with the wider ultrasound community, why not submit a proffered paper for inclusion in the programme as either an Oral, Poster or Case Study presentation? Whether you have examples of a great service, interesting case reports, a different approach or an exciting piece of research, this is the chance to get your ideas recognised. Remember that all attendees whose abstracts get accepted pay a discounted registration fee.

Putting together the Annual Scientific Meeting itself is one of the best examples of collaboration that I can think of, and I would like to thank the following colleagues for their contribution to the conference and for working incredibly hard to make it a success: Dr Peter Cantin, Mrs Catherine Kirkpatrick, Miss Gill Harrison, Professor Peter Hoskins, Dr Sian Curtis, Mrs Ellen Dyer, Mrs Terry Humphrey, Professor Carmel Moran, Professor Bob Jarman, Dr Jeannette Kraft, Ms Sally Edgington,

Mrs Tanyah Ewen, Mrs Angie Lloyd-Jones, Mr Mark Charnock, Ms Amanda Parry, Dr Rita Phillips, Mrs Ruth Reeve, Mr Stephen Savage, Miss Alison Smith, Mrs Lucy Magilton-Griffin, Mrs Pam Parker, Mr Antonion Sassano and Professor Gail ter Haar. Thank you to all of you for your continual hard work behind the scenes and your wide-ranging expertise in various clinical specialisms.

I very much look forward to welcoming all of you – our speakers, organisers, delegates and exhibition support team – to the meeting in Coventry in December!

“ Thank you to all of you for your continual hard work behind the scenes and your wide-ranging expertise in various clinical specialisms ”



## An Introduction for Medical Sonographers into Small Animal Veterinary Ultrasound 10th August • Holiday Inn Runcorn

### Day includes:

- hands-on practice
- reporting
- probe handling
- anatomical variations

Visit [www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org) or scan the QR code below.





# BMUS 2024 Study Days

## **An Introduction for Medical Sonographers into Small Animal Veterinary Ultrasound**

10th August  
Runcorn

## **Obstetrics Study Day**

7th September  
London

## **UCL Int'l Hepatology Ultrasound Study Day**

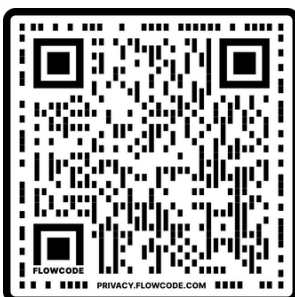
20th to 21st September  
London

## **Paediatrics Study Day**

27th September  
Leeds

## **University College Dublin and BMUS Day**

19th October  
Dublin



**For the latest details,  
scan the QR code**