



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

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A VIEW FROM MY BIKE



Tough one this, a Friday off and here I am doing the Ironman Wales course as a training ride – Freshwater West lies to my left heading towards the tip of the Angle Peninsula. Lovely view but could do without the crosswinds gusting at 40kph. “Why?” could (and should) be asked on multiple counts. Gentle round of golf followed by a beer or two and a leisurely lunch would be the choice of most of my colleagues. Seems a very sensible choice as another gust hits the bike sideways. Ironman: 3.8k swim then a 180k bike followed by a marathon. Another “Why?” appears. Intelligence is definitely not a requirement, agreed. But endurance and resilience both physical and (more important) mental are essential. Qualities that are now an ever increasing requirement in order to keep our heads above water as we progress up the NHS ladder!



Turned now through the village of Angle, sounds of the waves receding as I head back east to Pembroke, wind now being kind and giving me a welcome push. Time to think back to yesterday and the conversation I had with Mrs Pamela Parker who had been representing BMUS (and wearing her second hat, CASE Chair) in a meeting with senior Department of Health and Social Care civil servants and representatives of Royal College of Radiologists, Society and College of Radiographers and Health Education England. As most of us are now aware, the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) has stated that at present there is no requirement for Sonographers to be registered as a professional entity on the HCPC register, however this may be a requirement in future. The meeting was therefore to seek ways in which we can understand the necessary processes that need to be followed in order to achieve statutory regulation and registration for Sonographers. Reassuringly, all of the professional bodies are of the same opinion i.e. that this is a potential major manpower problem for the profession and service and, if we are to significantly increase

training numbers, we need to have Sonographer as an accredited professional title and be registered accordingly with the HCPC.

From my previous management experience in Wales, the closer I got to the top of management tree the closer I got to politicians and logic promptly went out of the window. We are now getting to one below Matt Hancock, our Health Minister, and as such we need to take in the political climate – which isn't exactly calm and bright at present! Do ministers really think that AI will solve this one, can't think of any app that can replace a sonographer so there is hope.

So come the Boris Revolution what are the current buzz words and philosophy with which we need to engage? Deregulation not regulation is currently in favour, professional protectionism is perceived and frowned upon. But, but, we say (and we are all saying, which is good and should help) patient safety is inherent in this as a moral and professional responsibility. If we are to open up training pathways, and in particular undergraduate entry to Sonography, we need that professional title with its associated statutory registration and regulation. This

would allow employers to recognise a level of training and safety to comply with their liability as responsible employers. Educational establishments can then meet their moral responsibility in recruitment of students onto a course whereby graduates can be legitimately employed. We can't do one without the other.

Look at the NHS improvement strategy they say, OK time to take my mind off the fast approaching hill – let's try and remember some of the buzz words from my quick review on google yesterday? "Workforce planning tool, workforce demand and supply by staff cluster, role-substitution initiatives (sonographers for radiologists? Easy one!), avoidance of under supply of staff etc., etc". But the one that sticks is: "provide forecasts to HEE based on models of supply and demand". This is our problem, if we (as in the professional bodies and the Department of Health and Social Care) don't know exactly what our current staff numbers are, how can we develop cost effective models. Latest data indicates we have an 9% vacancy rate (SCoR survey) in Ultrasound posts, but we don't actually know how many sonographers are in practice in the

A VIEW FROM MY BIKE

UK. Obvious answer is to keep a statutory professional register but it doesn't help us in the short term!

Is the PSA's decision a major kick back, have we gone three steps forward and two back? Now my ironman experience kicks in – the aim is never to win just to finish. Achievement not times. In trying to survive the swim, bike and then the run there are always setbacks, both physical and mental. Goggles kicked off in the swim (first lap usually feels like swimming in a washing machine, rugby skills are helpful), crashes/punctures on the bike etc. As for the run (don't call it a marathon, big psychological mistake) stay upright and keep shuffling, keep moving no matter how slowly and the finish line will come. So, as regards the Department of Health and Social Care and seeking statutory registration, we are on a long run. We have taken three steps forward in seeking professional accreditation but we haven't gone back despite the PSA's statement. We re-group and re-position and then keep moving slowly forward. The team we have driving this have the right qualities. Resilience tested but finishing remains the achievable goal.

As for me, a 60 year old doing a 160k ride on his day off in a windswept west Wales confirms a lack of common sense but maybe there is an element of endurance in there. Let's see if it is enough for Ironman Cymru?

Rhodri Evans

President



“ From my previous management experience in Wales, the closer I got to the top of management tree the closer I got to politicians and logic promptly went out of the window. ”

2020 MEMBERSHIP RATES

Membership rates are due to rise by 2.9% on 1st January, in line with inflation. The rates applicable to existing members are as follows:

Sonographer/Doctor in Training/Clinical Scientist/Physicist	£94.75
Consultant Sonographer/Consultant Clinical Scientist/ Superintendent Sonographer	£108.62
Consultant Radiologist/GP/ Veterinarian	£121.96
Vascular Scientist/AAA Technician/Technical Staff	£81.66
Retired/Unwaged/Maternity Leave	£70.79
Postgraduate Trainee	£50.00
Preceptorship Year 1*	£50.00
Preceptorship Year 2 **	£75.00
European Member	£100.50
International Member (Outside UK and Europe)	£122.00

*Preceptorship rate applicable to BMUS undergraduate student members completing their course and moving into clinical practice.

**At the end of Year 1 the rate will increase to Preceptorship Year 2 rate. At the end of Year 2 the rate will rise to the full rate for a Sonographer.

BMUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **36th Annual General Meeting** of the British Medical Ultrasound Society will be held at **Harrogate Convention Centre**, King's Rd, Harrogate HG1 5LA on **Wednesday 11th December at 12.20 pm.**

All members are cordially invited to attend.



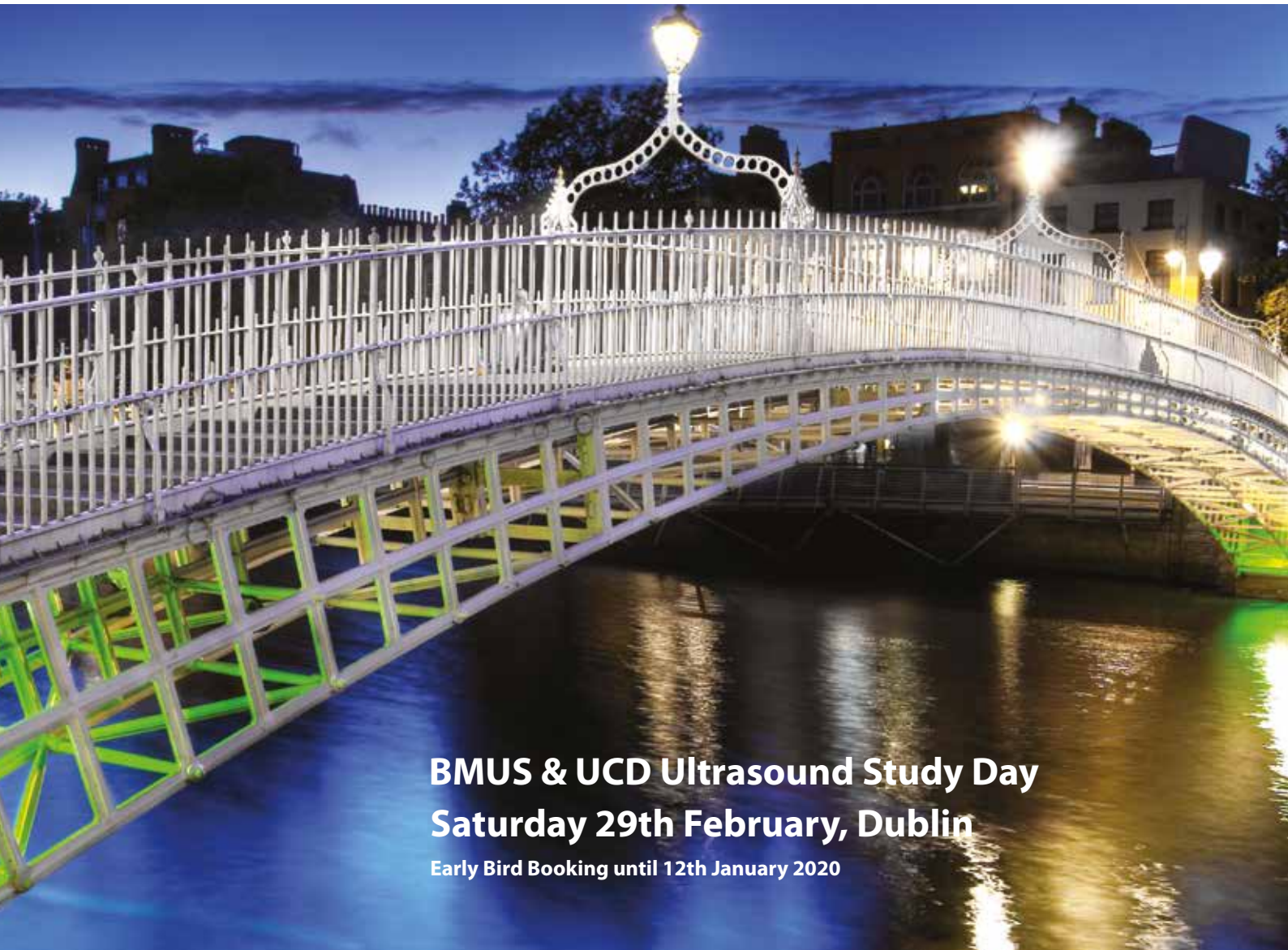
**BMUS Comes to Cambridge:
Saving Babies' Lives, Version 2 Study Day
Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine**

Wednesday 29th January

Fees: Member £110 Non Member £160



Please register online at www.bmus.org/mediacentre/events/



BMUS & UCD Ultrasound Study Day Saturday 29th February, Dublin

Early Bird Booking until 12th January 2020

BMUS ASM UPDATE



The Annual Scientific Meeting 2019 in Harrogate is slowly creeping toward us. Distant are the memories of summer holidays as we turn our focus towards December festivities and the ASM. Have you booked your place yet? If not – do it now, don't put it off! Preparations are full steam ahead with the usual mix of invited expert speakers, proffered papers and practical workshops. The multidisciplinary approach that BMUS offers and indeed promotes, can be seen throughout the programme ensuring that all practitioners in ultrasound have their educational needs met.

BMUS ASM UPDATE

The Call for Papers has seen another tide of successful, high quality submissions leading to what is sure to be an excellent array of educational oral presentations and poster exhibition - a must whilst at the conference! Speaking of the exhibition, the ASM would not be possible without our valued partners in industry and commercial side of ultrasound. This year Hitachi Medical Systems are the platinum sponsors. The exhibition space at the Harrogate is a wonderfully welcoming area for delegates to wander through all the stands and view the latest technology and innovations. We encourage you to walk round and speak to our industry experts. This focal point is also a chance to network with old friends and new.

Top Tip Alert: Remember to [download the Conference App](#) to meet all your ASM needs!

This year's practical workshops are going to be an absolute highlight of the conference, and as usual are peppered throughout the 3 days. Bowel, Obstetrics, MSK, Liver (Segments, Doppler and Elastography!) and Renal Doppler. Book your place as early as possible as there are limited places in all the

practical workshops, these sessions offer access to expert faculty and hands on experience in a small group teaching environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

DAY ONE

- **Physics stream** where every ultrasound practitioner, regardless of their main focus of practice, will find a lecture to enhance and contribute to improving their everyday practice.
- **Obstetrics** designed 'towards the thoughtful and inspired practitioner'. Challenging theories and scanning techniques in order to expand horizons and contribute to better outcomes during pregnancy and after delivery.
- **Bowel** ultrasound deservedly is highlighted in its own stream this year – the expert faculty are sure to provide knowledge which is invaluable.
- This year ultrasound practitioners are encouraged to widen their knowledge and appreciate what other imaging modalities have

to offer. Therefore attending the **Cross-Sectional Imaging** session to enhance and supplement your ultrasound practice is essential.

- The **Welcome Drinks** reception which will allow us to network and discuss the highlights as Day 1 comes to a close.

DAY TWO

- In the **MSK lectures**, BMUS welcome Prof Fred Joshua, ASUM President, to discuss the role of ultrasound in the diagnosis and management of vasculitis.
- The **Gynaecology stream** is a must this year if this is your specialty, covering everything you need to know about the endometrium, polycystic syndrome, and sub fertility. It will also include some early pregnancy and research.
- Ensure you get your questions and queries put to BMUS Officers and Charlotte Beardmore, SCoR Director of Professional Policy, in **BMUS Question Time** to close Day 2. This session will allow an open forum to discuss old frustrations, solutions and hot topics of the moment.



“Preparations are full steam ahead with the usual mix of invited expert speakers, proffered papers and practical workshops.”

- Individual Sessions on **Breast** and **Head and Neck** will also feature on Day 2.
- Finally don't forget to book your ticket for the **Winter Ball and Awards Ceremony** being held at the Majestic Hotel!

DAY THREE:

- **Head and Neck** makes a second appearance on Day 3 hoping to highlight the rare and unusual!
- **General Medical** Ultrasound brings us together to focus on paediatrics, renal, the jaundice patient and deliberating clinical conundrums.
- **Vascular** Ultrasound is a highly anticipated part of the programme which appeals both to vascular specialists and generalists.

SOMETHING NEW

This year we are bringing some new more informal sessions called *Coffee and Chat*. These sessions aim to allow relatively informal, small group discussion and top tips around a specific subject.

The first of these sessions is hosted by Dr Oliver Byass and Mrs Pamela Parker on all things prostate ultrasound. So drop in and find out what it's all about on **Day 2, at 13.00 in the Queens Suite**.

The second *Coffee and Chat* session will feature on **Day 3 at 11.20** convened by the esteemed Assoc. Professor Gill Harrison and Mrs Hazel Edwards. This session will address academic writing and first steps to publishing. Sure to be inspirational and full of tips that will be invaluable to new authors.

As usual the BMUS ASM programme is packed with informative highlights which have been expertly put together by very knowledgeable stream leads to ensure high level education. Along with all the educational offerings, the Winter Ball and Awards Ceremony will give us all a chance to socialise together and dance the night away in what is always a great evening.

All that's left to be is (in my best Yorkshire): *Get tha'self t th'educational event o century and open thas lug'oles an learn summat!* (apologies in advance).

Catherine Kirkpatrick

2019 Scientific Organising Chair



SONOGRAPHY REGULATION & EDUCATION UPDATE



2019 has been a busy year for the Sonographer Career Development Project that is being led by Health Education England, and supported by the key stakeholders which include BMUS and CASE. As President Elect of BMUS, and Chair of CASE, I represent these organisations in the project. There have been some very positive developments which are there to support a wider range of training options and career routes with the aim of increasing the number of sonographers within the profession. The career progression framework has been published and the Sonographer Apprenticeship Standard and End Point Assessment have all been approved ready for the apprentice route to commence in earnest in 2020. The HEE website holds all the relevant details: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/sonography>.

There remain issues, however, with sonographer regulation. HEE commissioned the Professional Standards Authority to review the risk to the public and make recommendations for safe guarding our patients. It was clearly disappointing that the PSA report did not recommend immediate regulation for sonographers but BMUS, CASE, RCR and SCoR believe the argument remains compelling. As such we continue to argue the case for statutory registration for sonographers with the Department of Health and Social Care and have collated additional current evidence following the compilation of the PSA report.

BMUS remains committed to supporting the proposed career framework and is working on developing standards required during the preceptorship and capability development periods. However, BMUS continues to regard the matter of sonographer regulation as one of high priority and, as such, are working with our professional colleagues to seek a positive resolution. We will endeavour to keep members updated with progress but be assured we are working hard as an organisation to promote sonography and to ensure safe and effective patient care is delivered.

SUPPORTING CONTINUED EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A core objective of BMUS is the advancement of education and research and to support this BMUS continues to provide a varied study day programme. Indeed 2019/20 is one of the most prolific years of study events and it is thanks to the hard work of the Science and Education Committee and study day leads that we are able to provide such a fantastic programme. All of our study day organisers and speakers do this on a voluntary basis and we are indebted to their commitment to sharing knowledge. On behalf of BMUS I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all involved in developing our education programme.

SO, WHATS ON OFFER IN 2020?

BMUS 'Saving Babies' Lives Version 2 Study Day	29th January 2020
BMUS and UCD Ultrasound Study Day	29th February 2020
BMUS General Medical Ultrasound Study Day	20th March 2020
BMUS Gynaecology Study Day	24th April 2020
BMUS MSK Study Weekend	2nd & 3rd May 2020

for more information go to www.bmus.org/mediacentre/events

Register on our website now to secure your place - two ways you can pay...

- **Request an Invoice:** if your place of work is funding and you need an official Invoice
- **Buy Now:** If you wish to pay with a credit/debit card at time of booking, it will take you through to the BMUS PayPal account. You don't need a personal Paypal account as it links you with ours.

SONOGRAPHY REGULATION & EDUCATION UPDATE

COURSE ENDORSEMENT

From time to time BMUS is asked by external organisations to endorse, support or promote their activities and resources. Guidelines are available for those who wish to have their educational material endorsed, supported or promoted by BMUS. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure that BMUS only works with organisations that are aligned to its values and charitable status. Our current policy is being reviewed and updated to reflect current professional requirements but the principles for endorsement include:

The course:

- Fulfils BMUS's objects and strategic aims as stated in its Memorandum of Association
- Will not breach any current and relevant guidance from the Charity Commission
- Does not conflict with any of BMUS's current projects or work streams
- Fulfils BMUS's public benefit purpose, improves patient care, provides a benefit to members or raises the profile of BMUS
- Has been developed by a reputable organisation with appropriate specialty (but not BMUS) involvement

- The material is of a suitable content, being delivered appropriately and is on the basis of sharing good practice

If you are considering developing a local education programme and want to learn more about our course endorsement please contact office@bmus.org

I hope to meet you at the BMUS ASM in Harrogate or at one of the BMUS study events – please do say hello; I would love to hear your views about the sonographer career development, regulation and our BMUS activities and how better to do this than over a glass of something festive?

Pamela Parker

President Elect



DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Greetings to all. This year seems to have flown by and it has been a busy and challenging time for professional issues. The Professional Standards Group is working on a number of areas alongside key stakeholders to ensure we are supporting Ultrasound, Ultrasound Practitioners and promoting best practice.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NHS England published the document 'Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle Version 2' in March 2019 which stated 'In November 2015, the Secretary of State for Health announced a national ambition to halve the rates of stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths and intrapartum brain injuries by 2030, with a 20% reduction by 2020. The first version of the Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle (SBLCB) was published in March 2016 and focussed predominantly on reducing the stillbirth rate. In November 2017, the ambition was extended to include reducing the rate of preterm births from 8% to 6% and the date to achieve the ambition was brought forward to 2025. In response to the extended ambition, SBLCB version two (SBLCBv2) additionally includes the aim to reduce preterm birth and improve outcomes when preterm birth is unavoidable to further decrease perinatal mortality'.

The above document, from which this excerpt is taken, features recommended changes to current scanning protocols. BMUS with Key Stakeholders, The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) and the Perinatal Institute, are aware of the concerns that have been

raised by the Obstetric Ultrasound community and together we are working to address these. There has been an excellent response to the survey conducted through BMUS and Perinatal Institute on this topic which closed in September. The results have been collated and will inform the work required to apply the changes required if 'SBLCBv2' is implemented.

January 2020 sees BMUS visit Cambridge for a Study Day run in partnership with University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, featuring the Perinatal Institute and SCoR. This day will provide information from a faculty of experts and key stakeholders. It is hoped that as many of you feel passionate on this subject and it will be a well-attended day. Built into the programme is time for reflection and discussion during a panel session as part of the day.

In other news, BMUS are collaborating with AxREM (the Association of Healthcare Technology Providers for Imaging, Radiotherapy and Care) and SCoR in order to address best practice guidance on probe decontamination. All parties have documents pertaining to this

widely debated, often contentious topic. However, it was felt that now was the time to lead the way together and issue evidence based best practice guidelines to help the development of local protocols and ensure the safety of ultrasound patients. You may have seen a survey earlier in the year asking for information on your current departmental probe decontamination protocols, the information you provided was invaluable to our proceedings and to this piece of important work and we thank you for it.

The 'Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice' document has been updated and the new release is planned at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2019 in Harrogate. A major review of the document is planned for 2020 and this will see the format updated and new sections added included vascular, lumps and bumps scanning guidance amongst others. This will be a significant undertaking for our panel of experts, literature reviews and critical appraisals are currently being undertaken in order to provide the most current evidence based guidance.



The 'Justification of Referrals in Primary Care' will also see an updated release at the ASM in Harrogate. This guidance is intended to support referrers to Ultrasound and ultrasound providers in the appropriate selection of patients for whom ultrasound would be beneficial in terms of diagnosis and or disease management. Whilst the guidance is primarily directed at primary care, it is also relevant for other referrer groups. It has been written to aid ultrasound providers in justifying that an ultrasound examination is the best test to answer the clinical question posed by the referral. The guidance has been compiled by a panel of ultrasound experts to support good practice in vetting and justifying referrals for Ultrasound examinations. It has been written with a pragmatic approach to managing referrals based on the panel's expert opinion. This document can be used to assist and underpin any local guidelines that are produced.

New guidance is also planned in the form of a document 'Management of Incidental Findings on Ultrasound Examinations'. Clinical ultrasound conundrums form many dilemmas

for practitioners within ultrasound and this document has the aim of helping inform local protocols and assist with advice and guidance requests which are now common place within Radiology departments. It will bring together advice on findings such as testicular microlithiasis, gallbladder 'polyps', incidental renal pelvis dilatation, angiomyolipoma, hepatic haemangioma, amongst others. I'm sure this will be a welcome addition to the ultrasound protocol shelf.

I know you all read this newsletter diligently from cover to cover and therefore will have realised that I am also Scientific Organising Committee Chair for the ASM. As a parting segment to the last BMUS newsletter prior to the ASM, I cannot allow the Professional Issues Stream to go unmentioned. It will host keynote speakers, Beverly Harden (HEE) and BMUS President Elect Pamela Parker, highlighting the current position in national career developments. Attendance will be a 'must' for many of us to ensure we are fully abreast of the latest developments nationally.

The Professional Issues Stream will also highlight issues which shape patient safety, quality services

and patient experience including welcoming Dr Kath Halliday, a Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) national lead for radiology and Paul Davis MBE from the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB). Day 3 will raise hotly debated topics in the sonographic world with regard to benchmarking, protocol development and Quality Assurance with experienced and leading names in the profession on these topics taking the helm. See the full programme on the website www.bmus.org/ultrasound-2019/

Most definitely a busy and productive year from the BMUS Professional Standards Group. See you all at the ASM.

Catherine Kirkpatrick
Development Officer



Study Days 2020

**BMUS Comes to Cambridge:
Saving Babies' Lives, Version 2 Study Day**
29th January, Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine

BMUS and UCD Study Day
29th February, University College Dublin

BMUS General Medical Study Day
20th March, 1 Wimpole Street, London

BMUS Gynaecology Ultrasound Study Day
24th April, Glasgow Caledonian University

BMUS MSK Study Weekend
2nd - 3rd May, Manchester

www.bmus.org/mediacentre/events/