



BMUS

NEWS
WINTER 2024

- A word from our President
- BMUS Ultrasound 2023
- BMUS Awards 2023
- Annual BMUS Financial Report
- Welcome to our New BMUS Travelling Ambassadors
- Annual Update from the BMUS Honorary Secretary



A Word from our President



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you all had a festive and relaxing time over Christmas. Time seems to fly by, and we are already well into the new year.

Let's take a moment to celebrate some of our achievements from 2023. Face-to-face meetings and study days were back in full swing, and the Annual Scientific Meeting saw delegate numbers and industry participation similar to pre-Covid levels. Your suggestions and support were key to helping BMUS achieve its objectives, namely advancing education and training for all users of clinical ultrasound. Our team and committee members have been working with universities and institutions to develop accredited ultrasound training programmes. BMUS also supports and advocates medical ultrasound research with pump-priming grants and numerous awards, announced at our Annual Scientific Meeting. The past year saw our Young Investigator award winner Adam Morrell win the top prize at Euroson 2023 in Riga in May, and then at the World Federation of Societies in Ultrasound, Medicine and Biology (WFUMB)

meeting in Muscat in November. During 2023, Society committees were busy collaborating on guidelines with other organisations. In April, the Royal College of Radiologists and BMUS together published "Recommendations for specialists practising ultrasound independently of radiology departments: Safety, governance and education". Together with AXREM (the trade association representing the suppliers of diagnostic medical imaging), SoR (Society of Radiographers) and IPEM (Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine), BMUS worked on producing the "Pre-owned equipment checklist for ultrasound equipment published to set best practice".

These publications join other respected BMUS contributions produced in the past year, such as "Guidelines for the Administration of Ultrasound Guided Musculoskeletal Injections" and "Guidelines for Professional Diagnostic Ultrasound Practice in Medical Aesthetics". The "Guidelines for the Administration of Ultrasound Guided Musculoskeletal Injections" are helpful for staff within radiology departments and other services where non-medical healthcare professionals perform these interventions. The "Guidelines for Professional Diagnostic Ultrasound Practice in Medical

Aesthetics" were produced to raise the standards of education, training and application of diagnostic ultrasound in aesthetic practice, thereby protecting patients and ultrasound users across the specialty.

The Society's quarterly scientific journal Ultrasound continues to grow in prestige and influence in the capable hands of Colin Griffin, our editor-in-chief. He has widened the editorial board to include many well-known international members, and the Journal has now achieved an Impact Factor of 0.8 (Impact Factors measure the importance of a journal by calculating the number of times its articles are cited within the last few years).

The past year also saw the introduction of a new award, that of BMUS Travelling Ambassador, which was awarded to two sonographer colleagues, Amanda Parry and Amy Barnes. They have both drawn up extensive teaching programmes and workshops in their specialist fields and will be visiting several training centres in the UK over the course of 2024.

Growing trends: AI and medical ultrasound

No list of BMUS's accomplishments from the past year would be complete without mentioning the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting, held in early December in York. There were many highlights at this year's conference, but one key event was the lively debate on how AI may affect our roles and, in particular, whether it eventually will replace us as diagnosticians.

AI already features a lot in our daily work, in formats or workflows in ways that we may not be conscious of or that are so embedded in our routine, such that we have forgotten how reliant we have become on this advancing technology. For example, these systems can help to determine the optimal imaging parameters, where we now hardly ever have to adjust the time gain compensation (TGC) or focus controls. Automatic measurements, annotations and optimisation of Doppler gain settings are also becoming standard features on the latest scanners. All these algorithms are designed with the aim of reducing the time and effort required by sonographers and sonologists.

There are already many iterations of algorithms

removing artefacts from the image sometimes to the detriment of our diagnosis where we rely on the artefact certain lesions produce, such as calcification or simple fluid. However, this problem may now be progressively mitigated where much research is being ploughed into AI algorithms for the detection and characterisation of lesions. These are currently based on textural changes and parameters on greyscale, which can be difficult for the human eye to perceive. However, in time, other factors such as vascularity on Doppler, or stiffness with elastography, will be added to provide a more accurate differential diagnosis. It is important to note that, while AI has the potential to enhance diagnostic ultrasound practice, it should not replace the expertise and clinical judgment of healthcare professionals. AI should be seen as a supportive tool that can augment the capabilities of clinicians, thus improving patient care. It will probably not be able to replace us completely, but our roles and capabilities will change.

Building on the many strengths and successes of the past year, BMUS looks forward to bringing all members of the medical ultrasound community another productive year. This will include numerous study days which I hope you will get to attend, either as part of faculty or as a delegate. I also encourage you to participate in the many activities and discussion groups on social media, and perhaps contribute to our three main committees/groups: Education (chaired by Peter Cantin), Professional Standards (chaired by Catherine Kirkpatrick) and Physics and Safety (chaired by Prashant Verma).

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in person at one of the many BMUS events planned for 2024. In the meantime, thanks again for your support and ideas, and very best wishes for the coming year.

Best wishes,

Adrian

Professor Adrian Lim,
MD FRCP FRCR
BMUS President

“ AI should be seen as a supportive tool that can augment the capabilities of clinicians, thus improving patient care. ”



DRINKS RECEPTION: Meeting up with old and new friends from across the medical ultrasound community

BMUS Ultrasound 2023

York, 5-7 December

Our Annual Scientific Meeting is the highlight of the Society's year, and the 2023 event was every bit as successful as we could have wished.

Attendees enjoyed a full three-day programme of in-depth lectures, practical sessions and special educational streams, a cutting-edge industry exhibition and poster exhibition.

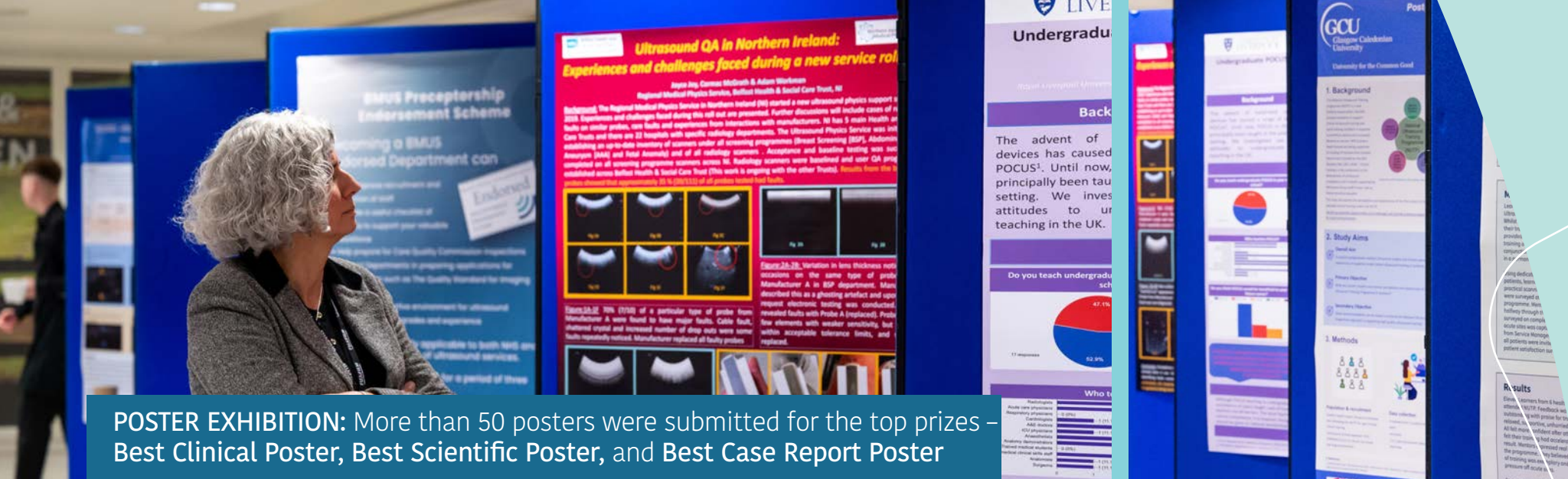
One of the highlights of the event was the Winter Ball, with a deluxe three-course meal, live entertainment and awards.



INDUSTRY EXHIBITION: The latest equipment from top manufacturers, plus industry-sponsored educational workshops



LECTURES: 140 respected ultrasound experts shared the latest industry knowledge, insights and predictions



POSTER EXHIBITION: More than 50 posters were submitted for the top prizes – Best Clinical Poster, Best Scientific Poster, and Best Case Report Poster



PRACTICAL SESSIONS: including Interventional, Bowel, Obstetrics, MSK, Head & Neck, Vascular & Carotid



WINTER BALL: Fabulous food & live entertainment, the Awards Ceremony and – of course – congenial friends and associates made for an unforgettable evening.



The annual event is an also opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of our ultrasound community with a number of awards, announced at the Winter Ball on 7th December. Winners were announced for the following categories:

Best Scientific Poster:

Jasmine Lister, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, for: Mechanical Index Limits are being Exceeded

Best Case Report Poster:

David Johnson, Royal Melbourne Hospital, for Adult Ileocolic Intussusception – A Rare Cause of Epigastric Pain

Best Clinical Poster:

Allison Harris, Great Ormond Street Hospital, for SELSTOC – Ultrasound Features and Progression

Best Student Presentation Award:

Innocent Onu, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Hospital NHS Trust, for Developmental Dysplasia of Infant Hips (DDH): Is there any correlation between high birthweight in females and incidence of DDH identified in ultrasound screening?

BMUS Young Investigator 2023:

Sam Butler, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, for his presentation Assessment of Thermal Index Compliance in Clinical Ultrasound Examinations. Sam will represent the UK at the EUROSON 2024 Congress in Naples, Italy with the opportunity to win the ‘European Young Investigator’ title.

Best Oral Presentation

Winner:

Borsha Sarker, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, A multidisciplinary team-led approach to improving care for patients with suspected giant cell arteritis

Runner-up:

Jamie Wild, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound (CEUS) for indeterminate renal lesions – What are you waiting for?

BMUS Champion of the Year:

Emily Skelton, Lecturer, Division of Radiography and Midwifery City, University of London



Annual BMUS Financial Report

Piero Miloro, BMUS Honorary Treasurer



The financial year 2022–2023 was a successful one for the Society, and produced a small surplus of £13.2k. This is in part thanks to the healthy delegate attendance at our topical study days and at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting, held in December 2022.

After the financial uncertainty of 2020 and 2021, we are pleased that 2022/2023 saw a return to pre-pandemic levels of course attendance and a more business-as-usual approach to meeting our aims and objectives.

This small surplus will be added to our reserves to ensure the continued strength of BMUS. The COVID pandemic illustrated how necessary it is to have a reasonable level of reserves to weather unexpected events, and, as you are all aware, the Society had to rely on the fees paid by members throughout this period as its main source of income. However, this year's surplus indicates that the Society continues to remain stable and viable.

The return to face-to-face events has not been without its difficulties. The cost-of-living crisis and supply-chain issues have led to increased delivery costs, and it is anticipated that this will continue into the 2023-2024 financial year. As a result, we have had to increase the fees to attend our educational events.

Highlights of the Year

Generated income increased this year and totalled £535.6K. This is a return to normal trading conditions after several years of being affected by the global pandemic. This return is in part thanks to the following aspects:

- **Ultrasound 2022, held in Cardiff, kept within budget and covered its costs.**
- **Membership levels are stable, with a slight decrease in membership; this does, however,**

tend to fluctuate throughout the year.

- **A total of 7 study days were held during the financial year, and again kept within budget and covered their costs.**

Thanks must go to all the BMUS volunteers. These volunteers are responsible for the many study days that run throughout the year, including the highly educational and informative Annual Scientific Meeting. Other of our volunteers edit and review Ultrasound, the BMUS quarterly scientific journal, and ensure that the BMUS website is of value to members and kept up-to-date. In addition, our volunteers dedicate many hours to writing and producing all of our professional guidelines. Our sincere appreciation goes to these individuals for giving up their valuable time throughout the year.

We urge you to make your colleagues aware of the benefits of being a BMUS member. Having a strong membership is the key to keeping the Society on a secure financial footing. Looking forward, we have a full programme of events planned for 2024, and welcome everyone to Coventry in December for our 55th Annual Scientific Meeting.

In closing, it is pleasing to state that we again met our core objective of delivering an educational programme, and whilst doing so we also generated a small surplus for the year. We would like to thank Joy Whyte, our Financial Officer, for her assistance in monitoring and maintaining BMUS finances, and the BMUS administration team for all their hard work and planning over the last year.

Welcome to our New BMUS Travelling Ambassadors

BMUS council are proud to announce the appointment of our two Travelling Ambassadors, Amy Barnes and Amanda Parry.

For one year, Amy and Amanda will each visit centres around the country, highlighting ultrasound and BMUS and promoting best practice and training in specialist ultrasound topics. They will also run similar teaching sessions at Ultrasound 2024 in December 2024.



Amanda Parry is Clinical Lead Sonographer – Training and Development at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. She has over 20 years' experience of working in the private and public sectors both here in the UK and in Australia, where she trained as a sonographer. She has performed all aspects of ultrasound scanning, but MSK ultrasound has always been her specialist interest.

Amanda currently works at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust helping to teach and inspire the next generation of sonographers. Amanda has a high MSK workload from various sources and works closely as an MSK MDT to help create positive change within the department to aid patient care.



Amy Barnes works as a consultant radiographer at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. Amy has 17 years' experience in medical ultrasound, and has spent the last nine years specialising in head & neck imaging, where she reports on complex pathology and independently performs fine needle aspiration and core biopsy. Her role involves audit, service improvement and research locally and nationally.

Amy regularly presents locally and nationally and participated as a speaker at Radiopaedia 2022. She is an associate lecturer at the University of Derby, where she has helped develop and deliver an accredited post-graduate course in head and neck ultrasound for sonographers. She is a guest lecturer in Medical Ultrasound Education for King's College London. Amy is also an RCR iRefer BSHNI panel member and contributes to peer review for Radiography Journal.



Annual update from the BMUS Honorary Secretary

Dr Sian Curtis



I am pleased to report that 2023 was another positive year for BMUS, which continues to succeed in delivering its core charitable aims and objectives in the advancement of science and education relating to medical ultrasound and setting standards for ultrasound practice.

Membership

As of the end of 2023, BMUS membership stood at 1,745 members, an increase of 94 from 2022.

Science and Education

The Science and Education Group is now formed of four sub-groups – Editorial, Physics & Safety, Professional Standards and Education. We now have a number of clinical interest groups: PoCUS, Obstetrics, MSK and Paediatrics.

Annual Scientific Meeting

The 54th Annual Scientific Meeting (Ultrasound 2023) proved to be a success, attracting more than 550 registrants for its mix of educational lectures and practical workshops, the scientific poster session and large industry exhibition. The next Annual Scientific Meeting will take place on 10th-12th December 2024 at Coventry Building Society Arena.

Study Days/Webinars

In 2023, BMUS held a full programme of face-to-face study days. We successfully ran nine study days, with a total of 593 delegates attending. Our 2024 educational programme has already been published, with seven study days set and a couple more to be planned.

During the year, BMUS replaced the webinar

programme with a number of bite-sized podcasts on PoCUS. We produced nine episodes with 259 listeners.

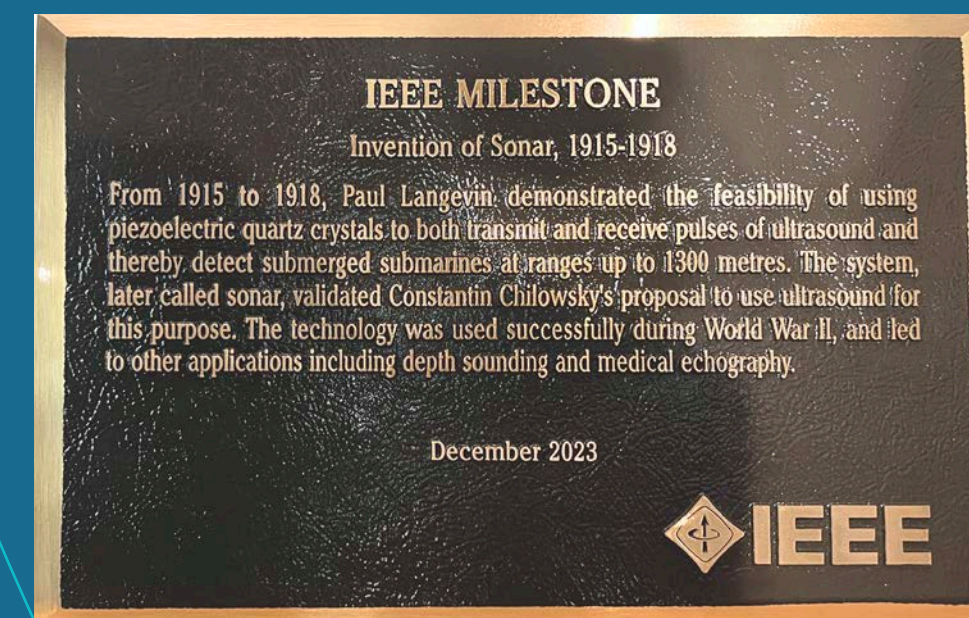
In 2023, BMUS launched its new Travelling Ambassador programme, and has appointed two ambassadors, Amy Barnes and Amanda Parry, to represent BMUS during 2024. In their new roles, Amy and Amanda will each visit centres around the country, highlighting ultrasound and BMUS and promoting best practice and training in specialist ultrasound topics.

Professional Standards

Last summer BMUS launched the Preceptorship Endorsement Scheme to recognise departments that are able to offer a supportive environment for ultrasound practitioners of all grades and experience. It aligns with principles set out in the BMUS Preceptorship and Capability Framework for Sonographers.

During 2023, a number of guidelines/position statements were published: Recommendations for Specialists Practising Ultrasound Independently of Radiology Departments; Safety, Governance and Education; Guidelines for the Administration of Ultrasound Guided Musculoskeletal Injections; Guidelines for Professional Diagnostic Ultrasound Practice in Medical Aesthetics. All position statements and guidelines are available on the BMUS website.

Milestone Plaque Unveiled in Honour of the Originator of Ultrasonics



In Paris on 7 December, 2023, in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Paris and senior representatives of the IEEE, an IEEE Milestone Plaque was unveiled at the École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielle (ESPCI) to commemorate the invention of sonar by the French physicist Paul Langevin. The plaque also recognises the importance of Langevin's invention in the development of 'medical echography'.

The plaque will be mounted on the external wall of the ESPCI in Rue Vauquelin, and is one of over 200 throughout the world. Another example may be found in Hayes, Middlesex, commemorating the creation of the X-ray CT scanner by Godfrey Hounsfield.

The BMUS scientific journal, Ultrasound

Ultrasound is a quarterly peer-reviewed scientific journal published by SAGE Publications, and is received by all BMUS members.

Mr Colin Griffin, Editor in Chief of Ultrasound, is pleased to report that 2023 saw a good number of submissions. The Journal has earned an impressive Impact Factor of 0.8 from the 2022 issues (Impact Factors measure the importance of a journal by calculating the number of times its articles are cited within the last few years). This is predicted by the publisher to increase in coming years.

BMUS 2024 Study Days



Recruitment & development: Arming Leaders to Support their Staff

20th March
Birmingham

Gynaecology

26th April
Sheffield

Head & Neck Study Days

15th - 16th May
Milton Keynes

Obstetrics Study Days

7th September
London

Paediatrics Study Days

27th September
Leeds

University College Dublin and BMUS Study Day

19th October
Dublin

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

