

# BMUS

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018

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# MOORNEWS

GREETINGS FROM DARTMOOR



In stark contrast to the arctic conditions that prevailed when I wrote my last President's column, the sun is shining, the sky is blue and England have already beaten Tunisia 2:1 in their first group match of the 2018 World Cup. Harry Kane (owns two Labrador Retriever dogs – good sign, named Brady and Wilson after NFL quarterbacks – more worrying) is a national hero and Gareth Southgate has dislocated his shoulder whilst out running. I confidently predict that by the time you read this newsletter England will have been crowned 2018 World Cup Champions and that the fifty two years of hurt will be a distant memory.

The past three months have been particularly busy for BMUS. Progress on the Sonographer Workforce Development project continues at an accelerated pace, anticipating completion later this summer. The case for statutory regulation of the profession of sonography is considered to be compelling with the expectation that it will be laid before Parliament by April 2019. BMUS is one of the key stakeholders in advising Health Education England and I am particularly grateful to the BMUS Development Officer, Pam Parker, for the countless hours that she has spent on this project on our behalf.

You may be aware that the structure of the various BMUS committees has been changed to improve their communication and effectiveness. Under the umbrella of the Science and Education Committee we now have a number of Special Interest Groups comprising Professional Standards, Education, Physics and Safety, Editorial and the ASM Scientific Organising Committee. All have been very active on your behalf this year. The BMUS journal "Ultrasound" continues to forge ahead under the editorship of Mr Bidyut Kumar, the Editorial Board now has greater international

representation and the number of downloads from PubMed Central of journal articles has significantly increased. We anticipate that CPD questions relating to the journal will soon appear in print with a CPD article appearing in each edition. I am delighted to report that Bid has agreed to extend his tenure as Journal Editor for a further year to oversee a new contract with the publishers. Dr Nick Dudley is the chair of the renamed Physics and Safety Group who, amongst many other tasks, are currently reviewing the BMUS guidelines and statements related to their expertise. If you would like to know more about the various BMUS committees and groups and their activities please visit the website (<https://www.bmus.org/about-bmus/committees/>). The new BMUS Sounding Board is looking for members; this group has been set up to encourage wider engagement with BMUS members and will work with the Education Group and Development Manager. This will not be time-consuming, involve the need for travel or time away from work and can all be done from home. If you would like to be more involved with BMUS but don't feel ready, or don't have the time, for membership of a BMUS Committee

or Council this might be a perfect opportunity for you, please consider volunteering. The terms of reference are available on the website (<https://www.bmus.org/sounding-board-terms-of-reference/>) and the BMUS Development Manager, Emma Tucker, would be pleased to answer any further questions.

Ahead of a rebuild, we are looking carefully at the content and design of the BMUS Website and ways in which it can be further improved. Mrs Alison Hall, BMUS Council member, is leading this work and would be pleased to receive any constructive suggestions that you may have.

Some of you may have read an editorial in the European Journal of Ultrasound last year by Hazel Edwards and Paul Sidhu "Who's doing your scan? A European perspective on ultrasound services". This article resulted in a large number of strongly worded replies to the editor. In response BMUS has issued a position statement confirming our support for ultrasound services that are predominantly performed and reported by sonographers when undertaken within a framework of training, support and clinical



# MOORNEWS

governance. I encourage you to read the statement in full which is now available on the Website: ([https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Statement\\_on\\_the\\_provision\\_of\\_NHS\\_Ultrasound\\_Services\\_iFzFsGf.pdf](https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Statement_on_the_provision_of_NHS_Ultrasound_Services_iFzFsGf.pdf))

The main focus of our attention will now turn to this year's Annual Scientific Meeting at the Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester from 4-6th December. This will be a special year for BMUS marking our golden anniversary and I hope that you will be able to attend. By the time the newsletter is published registration will be well advanced but it's never too late to book your place! The Gala Dinner will be held at the Monastery, Manchester, an amazing venue (have a quick look on Google!) and should be a very special event. Under the capable leadership of ASM chair Mr Gerry Johnson the scientific programme looks particularly strong this year with several new session formats to enjoy. We are very fortunate that BMUS Past President and current EFSUMB President, Professor Paul Sidhu, has agreed to deliver the Donald, MacVicar, Brown Lecture.

As we reflect on another successful year for BMUS, savour the prospect of the £20bn cash injection the Prime Minister has announced for the NHS and the prospect of an England World Cup triumph all seems well with the world. I hope that you all manage to get a well-deserved summer break to recharge and refresh and prepare for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for us at a time of radical change for ultrasound delivery in the NHS.

**Simon Freeman**  
*President*



## PHYSICS AND SAFETY GROUP



I was very pleased to be given the opportunity to Chair the newly constituted BMUS Physics and Safety Group. This is not really a new group, the BMUS Safety Committee have been active for 20 years, but we took the opportunity, following recent changes to the Science and Education Committee structure, to change the scope of the group.

“I'm not as keen as them, my main motivation these days being not to allow my grand-daughters to make me feel my age!”

<sup>1</sup>Edwards HM, Sidhu PS. Who's doing your scan? A European perspective on ultrasound services. *Ultraschall in Med* 2017;38:479-482

## PHYSICS AND SAFETY GROUP

Writing this article gives me the opportunity to publicly thank the long-serving Chair of the Safety Committee, Professor Gail ter Haar. Gail led the Committee for as long as I can remember; she must be the longest serving active member of any BMUS Committee. I am very grateful that she has agreed to remain a member of the reconstituted group. Under Gail's leadership we benefited from the publication of a number of guidelines and statements promoting and supporting safe practice. The most familiar current document is probably "The Safe Use of Ultrasound in Medical Diagnosis", the 3rd edition of which was published in 2012; this was edited by Gail who also co-edited the 2nd edition (2000) with Professor Francis Duck. Gail has also been a member of the European Committee for Medical Ultrasound Safety (ECMUS) and the WFUMB Safety Committee and was instrumental in harmonising safety statements and guidelines across these organisations.

My own involvement in ultrasound dates back to the start of my career in Medical Physics, when I trained to perform a range of examinations including abdominal,

obstetrics and vascular; it was not uncommon for Medical Physicists and Technologists to be scanning in those days as the technology was relatively new and there was no such profession as "Sonographer". This gave me the opportunity to pursue my interest in the subject from 2 perspectives, which has given me some insight into which aspects of the science and technology are important in clinical practice. After my scanning career ended in 1992 my involvement continued in providing scientific support, including QA, teaching and advice on image optimisation and clinical measurements. In my spare time I enjoy the outdoors, cycling and running, but you'll have heard enough of that from current and future BMUS Presidents; I'm not as keen as them, my main motivation these days being not to allow my grand-daughters to make me feel my age!

The Physics and Safety Group sits under the Science and Education Committee in the BMUS structure. The Group have met only once to date and the main topic of discussion was what the "Physics" part of our title means. Some of the issues raised were the safe and

effective use of modern controls, the patchy implementation of QA and the lack of safety and QA guidance for some developing technologies. In addition, over the last year or so group members have been reviewing the statements and guidelines that you can find on the BMUS website and some are under revision. I hope that our future meetings are as lively and inclusive as my first as Chair; it's a joy and privilege to be part of a group where everyone is prepared to share and discuss ideas and volunteer their time to research and develop guidance for the ultrasound community.

The BMUS Physics and Safety Group belongs to BMUS members, so we are very happy to hear your thoughts and suggestions on what you would like from us in terms of support and guidance. Current group members are listed on the BMUS website.

**Nick Dudley**  
*Chair, Physics & Safety Group*

# BMUS PRIZES



Each year BMUS sponsors one of the 10 poster prizes at the SRT Annual Conference. This year's winner of the BMUS Prize, was Aaron Campbell from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. His poster, Renal Cystic lesions: Contrast Enhanced US Vs CT/MRI, has won him a year complimentary BMUS Membership and a day's registration at Ultrasound 2018.

BMUS 

## Paediatric Study Day

Leeds Radiology Academy in partnership with BMUS brings you another exceptional Paediatric study day for healthcare professionals!



**28th September 2018**  
**Leeds Teaching Hospital**

This course is CPD approved  
Member £100 | Non-Member £150  
[www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org)

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT



Many of you will be aware of the proposal to develop a specific sonographer career framework. Indeed, the work undertaken in 2017 was presented in the February 2018 BMUS newsletter. I am sure it feels that all has gone quiet, I personally have had comments from colleagues that there is little in terms of communication about any such developments. I therefore want to take this opportunity to update and reassure you that work is continuing on this project. I am aware of the concerns of many practicing sonographers, Higher Education Institutions and employers. The working parties have considered the issues raised and have attempted to allay as many as possible as the project has continued.

# DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

## SECOND REPORTING

Concerns regarding second reporting have been raised. BMUS, CASE and SCoR remain committed to the principle that the acquisition and reporting of an ultrasound examination should not be separated. As has always been the case, ultrasound service providers must ensure that sonographers have readily available access to senior colleagues and medically trained ultrasound experts for a second opinion and support wherever necessary.<sup>1</sup> The practice of second reporting is not being advocated. However, we are acutely aware of the shortage of sonographers in the UK and there is an urgent need to address this situation. Various options have and continue to be appraised; the underlying aim is to develop new training models to ensure there is a sustainable supply of appropriately trained and supported sonographers for the future.<sup>2</sup>

## SONOGRAPHY WORKFORCE SUBGROUP

Whilst superficially it may appear to be quiet, there has been a significant amount of work done to develop an education and career framework strategy for sonography to support the aim of providing a sustainable future for the profession.

As outlined in the recent HEE briefing statement: "Sonography is a priority area, which contributes towards objectives in the Cancer Strategy (NHS Independent Cancer Taskforce, 2015) and the Cancer Workforce Plan (HEE, 2017). HEE, in partnership with key stakeholders, including; BMUS, CASE, Royal College of Radiologists, Sonography Apprenticeship Trailblazer, Society and College of Radiographers, individuals from services and education providers, have been working to meet the shared objectives of delivering a sonography workforce which will meet current and future needs".<sup>2</sup>

The stakeholders have been working together through the HEE Sonography Steering Group (SSG) which is a subgroup of the large HEE Integrated Imaging Workforce Working Group.

Led by stakeholders and those in service, the SSG has developed the outline of a career and progression structure for sonography which has wide-spread support. The initial draft of this was presented at the HEE stakeholder event in November 2017 and subsequently in the February 2018 BMUS Newsletter. An updated draft is in production having taken account of feedback and developments through the SSG.

## ULTRASOUND SERVICE PROVISION

Two important and crucial documents have been produced by the SSG, the first is a vision document presenting the optimum NHS Ultrasound service provision. This vision document outlines the ultimate goal and achievable results of changing the sonographic education and career framework. As mentioned the major concern facing the profession is what a graduate sonographer at career level 5 will actually do. Second reporting is not an acceptable solution and undergraduate training cannot replicate current post graduate education; there has to be a significant difference to avoid disparity and unfairness for our students.

“Assertions of the Standards to be met within/through Sonographic Education”.<sup>3</sup>

Recognising these challenges resulted in the production of a second document authored by CASE and commissioned by HEE, "Assertions of the Standards to be met within/through Sonographic Education".<sup>3</sup>

## SONOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

There is acknowledgement that sonographic education at level 6 is new and work will need to be done to determine how this should be delivered. In defining meaningful education standards at level 6, it is also important to review and update current expectations of sonographic education at academic level 7. As such, HEE commissioned CASE to define expectations of sonographic education at academic level 6; to review and update expectations of existing academic level 7 education; and to explore and define expectations of education which will enable staff to bridge from career level 5 to career level 6.

The key aims of this standards document is to ensure that the sonographic education standards align with academic and professional expectations of level 6 and 7 education, and that there are

sufficient educational opportunities to support staff progression from career level 5 to career level 6.

The three key documents are available via the BMUS or HEE website <https://www.bmus.org/sonographer-workforce-development>

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The standards document has been produced and ratified by the SSG. It is expected that this document will inform education providers to enable robust undergraduate programmes to be developed and post graduate programmes to be enhanced. This will support life long career development for sonographers, both currently in service and those new to the profession.

Whilst there has been much positive activity in 2018 there is much still to do to support and embed a sonography profession into practice. Questions still remain:

- How sonographic job roles are defined at different career levels, to ensure that there is clear differentiation but that the roles are meaningful in relation to workforce, service and patient care needs.

- How preceptorship arrangements are defined and developed to support sonographers' professional development and career progression.
- How expectations of professional practice and behaviour are defined in related areas, including in terms of responsibility, accountability, autonomy and professionalism

## SONOGRAPHER REGULATION

The SSG is committed to presenting a solid argument to the Minister of Health for the regulation of sonography and establishing sonographer as a protected title. There is no guarantee that the profession of sonography will achieve statutory regulation. There are logistical hurdles that need to be cleared, but HEE and its partners believe that the case for the statutory regulation of sonographers as clinical practitioners is compelling. Regulation of newly-qualified sonographers is a key underpinning principle which would ensure that patient safety is put at the forefront of the proposed changes. Partners have indicated that if statutory regulation were to be withheld then the risks of training a large cohort of unregistered sonographers, within the proposed



# DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

framework, would need to be re-examined, and could make this development unfeasible.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore the work of the SSG continues. We want to hear your views. The new BMUS sounding board is an ideal forum to debate the issues that will and do arise related to changes in education and the defining of a career framework. Please join us; every opinion is valid.

**Pam Parker**

- [1] The British Medical Ultrasound Society 'BMUS Position Statement on NHS Ultrasound Services'. 2018. [Online] Available: [https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/NHS\\_Ultrasound\\_Service.pdf](https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/NHS_Ultrasound_Service.pdf)
- [2] HEE 'Sonography Workforce Development Briefing Note' 2018 [Online]
- [3] CASE 'Assertions of the Standards to be met within/through Sonographic Education' 2018 [Online]

“Sonography is a priority area, which contributes towards objectives in the Cancer Strategy (NHS Independent Cancer Taskforce, 2015) and the Cancer Workforce Plan (HEE, 2017).”



# BMUS

50th Annual Scientific Meeting of the  
British Medical Ultrasound Society

## Ultrasound 2018

4th - 6th December 2018

Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester

### Day One - Tuesday 4th December

Gynaecology, Professional Issues, Perfecting Liver & Doppler Technique Practical Session, The Student Experience, Donald MacVicar Brown Lecture

### Day Two - Wednesday 5th December

General Medical & Paediatrics, MSK Fundamental, Professional Issues, Breast, Veterinary, Interventional, New Technologies for Clinical and Preclinical Research into Ultrasound Therapy and Imaging

Don't forget to book your Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony tickets

### Day Three - Thursday 6th December

Obstetrics, MSK Advanced, General Medical, Physics, Elastography, Bowel Masterclass, Clinical Education Forum

Further information can be found at

[www.bmus.org/ultrasound-2018/](http://www.bmus.org/ultrasound-2018/)

See outline programme for all streams of education



3  
Practical  
Masterclass  
Sessions

9  
Streams of  
Education

100+  
Speakers  
across 3 days

Technical  
Exhibition

# SOCREPORT



2018 will be marked for many momentous events not least the long hot summer that most of us are enjoying; I hope that you all have a fantastic summer break. Our 50th anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting in December at The Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester is fast approaching. I am looking forward to welcoming you to my adopted city, known throughout the world as the birthplace of industrial revolution. Manchester has a proud history in science, politics, music, arts and apparently football.

## “Paediatric Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound- A No Brainer”

My thanks go to the stream leads for creating an exciting programme, we have included some firm favourites, with some international speakers expected to help celebrate our special year, including;

- **Dipl.-Ing. Christian Degal**, from the Fraunhofer-Institut für Biomedizinische, speaking on *'Transducer Technology and Design'*, on Thursday 6th December in the Medical Physics stream.
- **Dr. rer. nat. Heiko Tzachtzsch**, from the Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, speaking on *'Time Harmonic Elastography'*, on Thursday 6th December in the Medical Physics stream

*Other keynote lectures not to miss are:*

- **Professor Paul Sidhu**, from Kings College Hospital, London speaking on *'Are we ready to incorporate Shearwave Elastography in routine standard of care ultrasound assessments?'* Wednesday 5th December during the Liver session in the General Medical stream
- **Dr William Ramsden**, from Leeds Children's Hospital, speaking on *'Congenital anomalies of the Urinary tract in children'*, Wednesday 5th

December during the Renal Tract session in the General Medical stream.

To complement the three main scientific streams, we have a number of Masterclasses, (Carotid, Bowel and Elastography). Integrated training and Practical sessions (Perfecting Liver and Doppler techniques, Interventional and MSK), to add to delegates continued professional development. On Day 3 of the conference a half day 'Clinical Education Forum' will take place, this session will encompass mentoring and preceptorships. New for 2018, we are delighted to include Breast ultrasound for the non-specialist, Veterinary ultrasound, and a Professional Issues session on the Whys and wherefores of intervention.

We are also delighted to have two satellite sessions running in parallel to the main programme where abstracts are invited.

**Day 1:** 'Sonographer Education' for student sonographers, novice researchers and clinical educationalists

**Day 2:** 'New technologies for clinical and preclinical research into ultrasound therapy and imaging'



Complementing the new elements of the programme are some firm favourites, A full day of Obstetrics, General Medical and Paediatrics, Gynaecology, MSK and 4 full sessions on Professional Issues. In particular a Question Time styled session, on Wednesday 5th December. Hot topics are likely to include apprenticeships, education, independent reporting and the emerging college of sonographers; we anticipate that this will be a lively session as Teeside goes to head to head with Swansea via input from Hull and Derby.

The scientific programme for all 3 days is available to browse in greater detail on the BMUS website. Early bird registration is due to close on 30th September, and normal conference rates will apply thereafter - so book now to take advantage of the highly discounted rates!

I look forward to welcoming you all to Manchester in December 2018.

**Gerry Johnson**  
2018 Scientific Organising Chair

*P.S. Don't forget to book your Gala Dinner tickets for Wednesday 5th December!*

# Study Days 2018

BMUS 

## September

BMUS Obstetrics Ultrasound Study Day  
*8th September, Nottingham*

BMUS General Medical Ultrasound Study Day  
*15th September, Bristol*

BMUS Paediatric Study Day  
*28th September, Leeds*

## October

BMUS Prostate Cancer Study Day  
*5th October, Hull*

BMUS & UCD Study Day: Hints &  
Tips to Excellence (Obstetrics &  
General Medical)  
*13th October, Dublin*

## 2019

BMUS Gynaecology Ultrasound  
Study Day  
*4th April 2019, Manchester*

MSK Study Weekend  
*11th - 12th May 2019, Keele University*

MSK Dissection Cadaveric Course  
*21st September 2019, Keele University*

All courses carry BMUS CPD Points.

For all of BMUS's educational programmes and to register,  
please visit [www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org)