

Highlights of the BMUS MSK Travelling Ambassador's Experience 2024

Amanda Parry

Clinical Lead Sonographer, UHL NHS Trust.

Background

- Sonographer for 23 years.
- Trained in Brisbane, Australia therefore practiced MSK ultrasound from the start of my career.
- Moved back to the UK in 2011, struggled to get an MSK sonographer position in an NHS Trust, therefore worked for an AQP for several years.
- Came into the NHS in 2018 as an MSK sonographer at UHL.
- In 2021, became a clinical lead for training and development at UHL.
- Combine the two things I am passionate about, MSK ultrasound and education.

BMUS Travelling Ambassador



- Any ultrasound provider / Trust / individual Sonographer could apply to have the travelling ambassador visit them at their place of work.
- For advice and top tips with anything MSK Ultrasound related.
- And obviously promote the great work of BMUS!

Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Glasgow



Morag and Donna

- Both extremely experienced sonographers and practice Educators at the Scottish Academy.
- Patients and trainees from all over Scotland attend the academy.
- Currently, no MSK service but were wanting to set up a Lumps and Bumps service.
- Required guidance in setting up the service, vetting referrals and some scanning tips.



Challenges

- Vetting - Poor GP referrals, poor vetting by the local Trust practitioners
- Radiologist support – minimal
- Reporting and onwards management
- Governance



Macclesfield Health Hub

Chris



Challenges

- Vetting being done by someone else or not at all.
- Lack of mentorship and very little support from local radiologist.
- No feedback from cases that referred into the local Trust.
- Lack of protocols and guidance for onward management.
- No governance or audit programme.

Southmead Hospital, Bristol.



Emily and Rosie

- Emily and Rosie are 2 of the members of the MSK team at Southmead.
- Also met Jeremy and Ahanna.
- Limited scope of practice because certain examinations they are unsure of and no one to support them.



Challenges

- Minimal radiologist support.
- Need for mentor support, particularly for Rheumatology, which was currently outsourced but wanting to bring it back to the department.
- Also discussed vetting, which seemed to be that most referrals got accepted.

Great Western Hospital, Swindon



The team



- Self described as an old-fashioned, small but busy department.
- Good Radiologist support but tend to keep MSK for themselves
- However, sonographers getting more hernia's, lumps and bumps to scan.

Northwick Park Hospital, North London



Themes

- Deficit in expertise - Lack of mentorship / Radiologist support.
- Lack of vetting or meaningful vetting
- Struggles with protocols around onward management of concerning lumps and bumps
- Governance and audit.

The logo for the British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS), featuring the letters 'BMUS' in a serif font followed by a stylized sound wave icon.

**Guidelines for the
interpretation and reporting
of diagnostic ultrasound
scanning in soft-tissue masses**

What I learnt from my experience

For many, Radiologists are still doing the majority of diagnostic MSK scanning but offering little support for teaching.

Need for an MSK mentorship support programme.

Need for networking within the MSK sonographer world.

Need to share experiences / good practices.

A travelling ambassador type role could be permanent fixture.

Reflection of my own practice



- Tertiary Sarcoma centre – easier to obtain feedback and join MDT meetings. Good physician support.
- Work with a great team of experienced MSK sonographers and have some radiologist support.
- Dedicated MSK guidance and protocols in place, including haematoma pathway, sarcoma pathway, acute imaging pathway and pathway for sonographer direct referral for MRI for large or deep lipomas – led by our Consultant Sonographer/Radiographer.

- Dedicated MSK vetting guidance which allows rejection of large numbers of referrals which do not give sufficient information.
- Peer audit system which allows us to audit 10% of the MSK sonographer's workload per week, again introduced by Catharine, our consultant sonographer.



Summary

- Interesting experience visiting other centres.
- Feel fortunate to be able to help others and would like to acknowledge my Trust for allowing me to do this.
- Fortunate in my current working environment, with great sonographer support and reasonable radiologist support.
- Gap in the MSK ultrasound world of support and mentorship, not only in teaching and supporting scanning technique but about in vetting, onward management and governance guidance.
- I don't have the answers!!

Thank you

