

BMUS

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

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GREETINGS FROM DARTMOOR



It is disappointing that my confident prediction of an England world cup triumph did not come to fruition this summer although national pride in the team was partially restored. I apologise to the many BMUS members who are not English, and who may have different allegiances, for my somewhat partisan comments but the scars of defeat to Iceland in the 2016 European Championship are hard to lay to rest. I hope that you have all managed to take a well-deserved break from work and enjoy the hottest summer on record. The good weather is predicted to persist until November and we can still hope to enjoy an Indian summer for a few months to come.



I have just returned from a trip to the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine's Annual Scientific Meeting in Auckland as part of an exchange scheme between the ASUM and BMUS. I am very grateful for the hospitality and kindness that was extended to me during my visit, the meeting was superbly organised, diverse and highly educational. It was interesting to compare their ASM to the BMUS meeting, although there were many similarities there were also significant differences, some of which we might try to incorporate into our future meetings. I will not however be recommending that BMUS implement the current ASUM tradition of the President singing at the gala dinner (George Condous proving to be exceptionally talented in his rendition of the Summer of 69 sounding almost exactly like Bryan Adams, a hard act to follow!). I was surprised to meet so many sonographers who originally trained and worked in the UK and have now permanently moved to Australia or New Zealand; a somewhat worrying finding for the NHS and those of us that are tasked with staffing an ultrasound department with appropriately trained and skilled ultrasound practitioners.

Ultrasound is a skill that is more than ever in high demand worldwide. I am optimistic from my discussions that BMUS will further develop our collaboration with the ASUM over the next few years, as we continue to strengthen our ties with other ultrasound societies around the world.

One of the most striking aspects of the ASUM meeting was the number of point of care ultrasound sessions, demonstrating that ultrasound has now become an indispensable tool in modern clinical practice. Many of our clinical colleagues have realised that the role of the stethoscope can largely be consigned to history. As a medical student I can well remember trying, and largely failing, to hear the early diastolic murmur of aortic valve incompetence and trying to differentiate it from pulmonary regurgitation – an echo will always triumph over the ears of even a professor of cardiology, similar examples are evident in almost all areas of medicine. The POCUS sessions that I attended provided powerful evidence that ultrasound can be lifesaving in the acute setting, and fundamentally improve diagnosis and management in a wide variety of acute and chronic conditions. It was inspiring

to see that Australasian clinicians that are passionate about POCUS have aligned themselves with the ASUM and are aware of the need for adequate training, audit and recording of their ultrasound practice. It was also refreshing to hear the majority of speakers acknowledge the importance of a close collaboration with their specialist ultrasound practitioner colleagues and radiology departments, recognising and embracing our different areas of expertise. We cannot deny access to ultrasound to clinicians who choose to use it responsibly in the interests of improving patient care. Equally our clinical colleagues cannot profess that a well-trained ultrasound specialist is unable to apply their sonographic findings to the patient's clinical situation or perform a competent clinical evaluation to supplement the ultrasound examination. The best outcomes always happen in institutions when there is a culture of collaboration and support rather than competition in ultrasound practice.

As I write this column, the programme for the 2018 BMUS ASM in Manchester is almost complete and it looks as though

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it will be an excellent meeting for both the scientific and educational components, I hope to meet as many of you as possible there. The ASM is the highlight of the BMUS year and, above all, a chance to celebrate the unique multi-disciplinary nature of our Society.

This will be my final set of ramblings as BMUS President and I will hand over the mantle at the ASM gala dinner to Prof Rhodri Evans, supported by Pam Parker as President Elect and a very strong team of BMUS officers including some new faces for 2019. I am particularly grateful to the BMUS secretariat for the tireless work that they undertake on our behalf every day and who have made my time as President almost stress free. There has been a transformation in the organisation, professionalism and attention to detail that BMUS now enjoys, if you visit the BMUS HQ you will find a happy, creative and productive office. We are very fortunate to have Joy, Emma, Tracey and Mandy who do all the heavy lifting! It has been an honour for me to have worked with the office staff, BMUS Officers and Council over the past nine years.

This is a time of change and uncertainty for ultrasound in the UK and we all face challenges and threats to maintaining the quality of our favourite imaging technique. I believe that we can address these challenges with confidence and optimism. BMUS will continue to fight for maintenance of the highest standards, promote innovation and champion advances in ultrasound practice. My final thanks go to all of you who choose to become BMUS members, believing as I do, that we deliver a unique and fundamental role in maintaining and improving all that is good about ultrasound

Simon Freeman
President

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A WORD FROM MY BIKE



The leaves are fluttering down, autumn is nigh; a crisp evening sun is low over the fields as I head west on the bike – a good day's work is over but the conversation I had with our lead surgeon earlier is now coming back. A familiar one, which isn't unique to Wales. "Where have all the Radiologists gone, who can sort out my patients? I want someone who can scan, stick a drain in my patients and sort them out for me". Sound familiar?

A WORD FROM MY BIKE

"Sorry, I don't do drainages, not my field", understandably these comments don't sit easily with my hard-working general surgical colleague. Me neither. Is this just a "grumpy old gits" scenario playing out here? Mmm steep hill coming up - dig in and blast this one - not so much of the "old" I kid myself. But is my embarrassment at hearing tales of a lack of skill or a lack of will, just an age thing?

I can remember going to see Prof Evans (good name, but no relation) of Radiology in Cardiff and telling him as a fresh-faced young houseman that I wanted to do Radiology. His first question was, "are you good with your hands?" My answer that woodwork was my best subject at school (definitely not the sciences!) and also being good at sport seemed to be the right answer - luckily my academic ability wasn't questioned. "Radiology is a practical subject in my book you see", I remember his words. He was right then and he is right now - especially when we consider Ultrasound. But the Radiologist who can use an ultrasound probe and biopsy, insert drains/nephrostomy tubes, aspirate a suspected septic arthritis etc, etc seems to be an

increasingly rare species in these days of sub specialisation. Why?

Are we training a cohort of geeks (I use the term in an illustrative, endearing way - you know what I mean) who prefer to sit behind a workstation all day and let their mouse do the talking? It is funny to think how Radiology has evolved; we started our training doing barium lists, IVUs and Ultrasound. But we were with patients and the time spent looking at old light boxes and X- Rays was much reduced in comparison with today's trainees. Now we have improved, haven't we? CT colonography and CT urograms - ah bliss, no patient contact, the joys of right click, windowing, left click and scrolling through the 937 images back and forward, up and down. Ultrasound? Let the sonographers get on with it.....?!

We want doctors who can relate and communicate with patients and colleagues, and who have the practical skills to treat patients in Medicine and in Radiology. Currently Radiology is the second/third most sought-after training speciality - we have lots of good doctors who want to become Radiologists. There are good

trainees coming through, albeit not nearly enough. So how do we get them to get their hands covered in gel and sort my surgeon's patients out in future?

The current centralised selection process for radiology training is a bit of a mix between speed dating, portfolio design and creation. Thankfully we are still able to probe, question, have a face to face assessment and can choose the right candidates. But, woodwork skills? Do we assess hand eye coordination or practical dexterity? We are not alone in not doing so, surgical trainees do not undergo assessment in hand eye coordination/manual dexterity. Should we? "Yes" from me!

White horses in the haven are now in view, five more minutes, easy downhill, let's let the endorphins induce some positives here:

Integration of Ultrasound skills into undergraduate training is a positive step, we need to introduce probe handling and needle placement skills into medical student training, realise the potential for those who can pick up a probe and get their brain and hand eye coordination

“White horses in the haven are now in view, five more minutes, easy downhill, let’s let the endorphins induce some positives here:”

going and sow the seed. They are the future and will be the ones using micro ultrasound machines to insert lines etc, as a matter of course.

The GMC are trying to influence training curricula to embed a more generalist approach to training across many specialties – hopefully, a plus move. Reinforcement that core skills are not there to be quickly forgotten on becoming a consultant would be good, and shouldn’t be beyond us. The introduction of Ultrasound skills labs into the various academies and the ability to learn needle placement skills safely and develop the necessary hand eye coordination must be a plus and a huge advance on the old training ways of yore (I can’t be alone in thinking back to my early attempts at biopsy on patients, with a deep sense of unease). We are hopefully going to do better and am sure our patients will thank us.

Let’s hope we can still the tide and inspire a generation, to learn, develop and most importantly maintain the necessary Ultrasound expertise, let’s try. And if we can’t then why not really solve the problem and take the funding away from Radiology and put it into extra

sonographer funding and training for sonographers to do the biopsies and drainages - that would go down well wouldn’t it?!

The sea spray is coming over the harbour wall; this then is home tonight, bike away, shower and a shandy. Nos da!

Rhodri M Evans
President Elect





Taking ultrasound to new heights **ACUSON Sequoia** ultrasound system

**BioAcoustic™
Imaging
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The original ACUSON Sequoia™ is arguably the most popular ultrasound system we have ever created. In image quality, colour sensitivity and advanced imaging modes, ACUSON Sequoia was – and still is an industry benchmark. The new ACUSON Sequoia is a remarkable evolution of a product that was so right in so many ways.

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DEVELOPMENT REPORT



The Annual Scientific Meeting is almost upon us and if you haven't registered yet, why not? We have some excellent sessions that you really don't want to miss.

This year's professional issues sessions are, as ever, capturing the essence of the hot topics facing ultrasound practitioners.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF SONOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

**Professional Issue Session 1,
DAY 1 13.45pm-15.30pm**

What could be hotter than the sonographer career framework being developed in conjunction with Health Education England?

In the first of our four professional issues sessions Sonographer Education and the proposed undergraduate and apprenticeship programmes will be discussed.

Have an opinion? Want to be up to date with progress?

Join us to share, debate and inform members of the HEE development team.

WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF INTERVENTION

**Professional Issue Session 2,
DAY 2 9.00am – 10.30am**

Clinical practice is the focus of our day 2 professional issues sessions. There is an increasing reliance on ultrasound guided interventional procedures with demand outstripping capacity in most units.

The result of which is a need for interventional service development. If you are undertaking these procedures, or are looking to start, then join us for a session of top tips and then hone your skills under supervision with our expert clinical team in the hands-on workshop. There will be an opportunity to practice needle placement skills, biopsy skills and fusion guided imaging within the hands-on session. Book now before places are sold out – it's an opportunity not to be missed.

DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICE

**Professional Issue Session 3,
DAY 2 13.30pm – 15.00pm**

Extended clinical practice is an excellent career development for all practitioners but how confident are you that your quality is optimum? Session 3 offers a chance to reflect and pick up advice on how to evaluate and manage clinical quality issues. The BMUS peer review tool was launched in 2015 and is in widespread use but what have we learnt from this? Join us to find out.

BMUS QUESTION TIME

**Professional Issue Session 4,
DAY 2 15.30pm – 17.00pm**

Join our very own Question Time chair, Dr Simon Freeman, BMUS President as we visit The Point for a special edition of Question Time in the professional issues session 4 on day 2. The panel include a wide and varied group of experts who will give their own views on the hot topics of the day. An enlightening and entertaining session as Teesside goes to head to head with Swansea via input from Hull and Derby. Hot topics are likely to include apprenticeships, education, independent reporting and the emerging 'college of sonographers'

So, some highlights of the ASM are described. I hope you can join us for the 50th BMUS ASM; a time for debate, discussion and socialising of course!

Register your attend at
www.bmus.org/ultrasound2018

Pam Parker
Development Officer

2019 MEMBERSHIP RATES

Membership rates are due to rise by 3.2% on 1st January, in line with inflation. The rates applicable to existing members are as follows:

Sonographer/Doctor in Training/Clinical Scientist/Physicist	£92.08
Consultant Sonographer/Consultant Clinical Scientist/ Superintendent Sonographer	£105.56
Consultant Radiologist/GP/ Veterinarian	£118.52
Vascular Scientist/AAA Technician/Technical Staff	£79.36
Retired/Unwaged/Maternity Leave	£68.80
Student (electronic single year)	£28.00
Preceptorship Year 1*	£50.00
Preceptorship Year 2 **	£75.00
European Member	£97.67
International Member (Outside UK & Europe)	£122.00

*Preceptorship rate applicable to BMUS 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.

A quarterly direct debit option is presently open to the majority of members, should you wish to move to this form of payment please contact Tracey in the BMUS office on tracey@bmus.org. The Society is hopeful that it will be able to offer the option of moving to monthly payments in the not too distant future.

AGM NOTIFICATION

All members are cordially invited to attend the **35th Annual General Meeting** of the British Medical Ultrasound Society to be held at **The Point, Emirates Old Trafford, Talbot Rd, Stretford, Manchester M16 0PX on Wednesday 5th December at 12.45pm.**



**31/01/19
and
01/02/19**

Fetal Cardiology Course

Hosted by Birmingham Women's Hospital

The Fetal Cardiology Course offers comprehensive lectures, video display and hands-on experience to give delegates added confidence in recognising normal cardiac anatomy and in identifying and managing cardiac anomalies.

The course is aimed at fetal medicine consultants and trainees, screening sonographers and trainees in fetal medicine and paediatric cardiology.

Course fee:

1 day: £75

1.5 days: £150

2 days (course includes a hands-on practical session): £250

Register at

www.siemens-healthineers.co.uk/ultrasoundcourses

siemens-healthineers.co.uk/ultrasoundcourses

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ULTRASOUND

2018



Preparations for this year's Annual Scientific Meeting are in full swing and the organising committee and office are all systems go for the last couple of months before the meeting. If you haven't booked your place already, why not?

I think this year's ASM programme is well balanced and provides something for everyone. I wish I could say this was all my doing, but the stream leads have done an excellent job in putting together an interesting and varied programme for 2018.

This year there is a number of different elements that have been introduced to offer additional interest to delegates. We have sessions on Breast, Perfecting Liver and Doppler Technique, Interventional and a Bowel Masterclass. Re-introduced for 2018 is the Veterinary stream bringing a different focus and to embrace our multidisciplinary roots. A full outline of the scientific programme can be found below.

We are fortunate to have past BMUS President and current EFSUMB President, Professor Paul Sidhu delivering the keynote DMB lecture on Tuesday 4th December. Prof Sidhu will be presenting 'Paediatric Contract Enhanced Ultrasound – A 'No Brainer?'. This lecture is not to be missed and is the final lecture of Day 1 at 4pm.

A particular favourite session of mine is always the Young Investigator session. During the 3rd Session on Day 1 this session will see young presenters battle it out to be the BMUS 2018 Young Investigator. The winner will represent the UK and compete to be European Young Investigator at the Euroson 2019 Congress in Granada, Spain.

As it is the ASM's 50th celebration we have tried to give the scientific programme a little something extra, with a satellite session on each day. Day 2 will see the sessions on Clinical and Preclinical Research and Therapy in Ultrasound being merged into a single day. For the other two days new sessions

have been introduced. A Student Focused Study Day to actively encourage students at any stage of their training to present their work in a safe and supportive environment. Day 3 will have a half-day Clinical Education Forum and will focus on sonographer education, mentoring and preceptorships. Both these sessions will offer another element to the scientific programme.

The meeting wouldn't be complete without the technical exhibition as this provides an excellent opportunity to see the latest technology and innovation in Ultrasound. This year Siemens Healthineers is our platinum sponsor and many of the other exhibitors are taking part. Please take the opportunity to drop by and say hello.

The ASM isn't only an opportunity to learn, brush up on your skills and sample new technology it is an excellent opportunity to meet and catch-up with colleagues old and new. With both the Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner there is plenty of opportunities to socialise with colleagues. Don't forget to book your Gala Dinner tickets at time of booking. This year the Gala Dinner is being held in the magnificent Monastery. This is an evening not to be missed with an awards dinner followed by fun and dancing. It's the perfect way to get you into the spirit for the Christmas party season.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the ASM and hope this year proves to be as successful as previous years.

DAY 1 will see lectures on Gynaecology, Head and Neck, Vascular and the Young Investigator Session. There will be practical sessions on perfecting liver doppler technique and the ever-popular carotid masterclass. This day will also include the Student Education satellite session.

DAY 2 features a full day's lectures on General Medical Ultrasound, MSK Fundamental lectures and practical sessions, 3 Professional Issue sessions – one with a focus on the whys and wherefores of interventional ultrasound. This lecture is complimented by a practical session focusing on core interventional skills. Veterinary and Breast sessions will also feature on this day and will be a real highlight of the conference. Parallel to this day will run the joint Clinical & Preclinical Research and Therapy in Ultrasound satellite session.

DAY 3 and the final day of the conference will contain Obstetrics, MSK Advanced and Physics lectures. Practical sessions will be Elastography, a Bowel masterclass and the MSK Advanced session. The satellite session will focus on Clinical Education and will feature presentations on preceptorships, mentors, CASE and education providers.

Gerry Johnson

2018 Scientific Organising Chair

HONORARY SECRETARY FAREWELL



As my term as a BMUS Officer comes to an end in December, I thought it would be fun to interview myself about a few of the highs (and lows!) of my involvement with BMUS.

“I have great admiration for my fellow officers and the BMUS office for their hard work, commitment, and leadership.”

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A BMUS MEMBER?

I have been a BMUS member for 14 years. I attended my first BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in 2005, and since then have never missed an ASM. I joined the BMUS Journal as Deputy Editor from 2008-2010, and then Editor-in-Chief from 2010-2012. I had the pleasure of Chairing the 44th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society in Telford in 2012. I was elected to BMUS Council in 2014, becoming Honorary Secretary in 2015. Over the last 10 years I have edited and authored countless issues of the journal, articles, editorials, and newsletters. My favourite role was as Journal Editor - I have a passion for copy-editing!

WHAT WAS YOUR WORST MOMENT?

When I realised Choledocholithiasis was spelled incorrectly on the front cover of the Journal. It had already gone to print, how embarrassing?

SILLIEST MOMENT?

The LGNobel Prize is a parody of the Nobel Prize awarded to celebrate unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research 'that first make people laugh, and

then make them think'. "Fetal Facial Expression in Response to Intravaginal Music Emission," published in Ultrasound in 2015 (vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 216-223) won an Ig Nobel prize in 2017! I always wondered why that article received so many downloads.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE BMUS MEMORIES?

Winning the EUROSON European Young Investigator prize at Leipzig in 2007 was amazing. I am always impatient for the gala dinner to be over so that we can move on to the legendary 'BMUS disco' - the physicists have a reputation for being the most alarming dancers. I really enjoyed working with Hazel Edwards, Colin Deane, Kevin Martin, Carmel Moran and Paul Sidhu.

WHAT NEXT?

The Society faces many challenges, but the next few years will also present great opportunities. I just have a couple more tasks to complete, including a review of the Pump-Priming award, and development of ultrasound physics revision materials to support the FRCR Part 1 ultrasound examination. Other than that, I am looking forward to my BMUS retirement!

I have great admiration for my fellow officers and the BMUS office for their hard work, commitment, and leadership. In my time with BMUS, I have seen the Society transition from a loveable, but slightly chaotic organisation, into an efficient well-oiled machine. Thanks to Joy's quiet leadership as Executive Officer, the role of Honorary Secretary is very well supported. Joy and her team should all be very proud of the Society's transition into a financially stable, well-organised, professional society, run exclusively for the benefit of BMUS members.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve BMUS. I am extremely honoured to have held such prestigious roles within the Society, made so many friends, and been able to contribute to BMUS in so many different ways. It just remains to wish my successor as Honorary Secretary every success, and to thank fellow Officers and Council, as well as BMUS members I have worked with along the way (both past and present).

There is not much more I can say other than 'Thank you, and see you on the dancefloor'!

Emma Chung
Honorary Secretary



BMUS 

General Medical Ultrasound Study Day

Glasgow, Scotland

22nd March 2019

For the first time in a while we are holding a study day
in Glasgow, Scotland.

As a new location we have a lower than normal registration fee

More information can be found at
www.bmus.org/mediacentre/events

This course is CPD approved
Member £85 | Non-Member £120