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The splendid foyer of the ACC, Liverpool

President's Report – Julie Walton

A warm welcome to the BMUS February 2009 newsletter. Having said warm, I am sitting here in my office in Liverpool watching the snow falling in vast quantities. Skis are needed to get home not a car!

This is my first newsletter as President and I start by thanking Dr Kevin Martin who has just completed his two year term as President of the Society. Kevin has steered the Society through some difficult times and I acknowledge all his hard work and achievements. In fact, he has moved to the past-President position with the Society on a much more stable footing. Kevin now becomes the European ambassador for BMUS and I sure you would all join with me in thanking him for all his hard work and wishing him well in his new role.

As always at this time of year there has been a change round of the BMUS Officers – the BMUS equivalent of the cabinet reshuffle! We welcome Dr Colin Deane to the position of President-elect and in this role Colin will assume Officer responsibility for the annual scientific meetings. Dr Paul Sidhu takes up the post of Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the Publications committee. Dr Roger Moshy is the newest Officer to the ranks and he will be the Honorary Secretary of the Society and also the Officer representative to the Scientific and Education committee.

Dr Carmel Moran has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Scientific and Education committee, normally a post with a three year tenure. Carmel has already chaired her first meeting back in January and she has lots of ideas and enthusiasm and I am sure will excel. She takes over from Jeff Bamber who has come to the end of his tenure in this post. I thank Jeff on behalf of the Society for all his hard work.



BMUS ASM Liverpool 2008

I am delighted to report that the annual scientific meeting (ASM) held in Liverpool in December 2008 was a tremendous success. In fact we had more registrations for this event than we have had in quite a few years, with some 770 delegates.

The venue proved very popular with both delegates and manufacturers (and I am not just saying that because it was on my home ground!). It has been really gratifying to have received so many letters and cards from all around the world with very positive comments about the conference.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all the faculty, manufacturers and exhibitors for contributing so whole heartedly to the event.

From our perspective this was a new venture with integrated training sessions and workshops. The feedback from delegates attending those sessions was excellent and this is something we will continue to build upon for future ASMs and study days. Any of you who have ever been involved in event management will be aware that to put on a conference of this magnitude and complexity takes a great deal of planning and execution.

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President's report continued...

BMUS owes a huge debt of gratitude to Laurence Abernethy, the Scientific Chair for the meeting, for pulling together a truly wonderfully attractive programme which was reflected in the delegate numbers. In addition, our office team of Rachel Meir and Alice Hepworth, ably led by Ann Taylor ensured that the event ran smoothly. We are very lucky to have such a strong team and they are already working hard on the Edinburgh Euroson event. Thanks girls! I must of course personally thank my colleagues in radiology and ultrasound and my students from the University of Liverpool as they contributed unreservedly to the workshops, training sessions and event management.

We were particularly honoured to have both Tom Brown and John MacVicar with us at the meeting. Both gave really excellent introductions to the Donald, MacVicar and Brown lecture and many of the delegates were delighted to have the chance to meet the pioneers of our field as without their foresight we would not be doing what we do now! I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Dr Jacques Souquet, who delivered a tremendous lecture in this session.



Tom Brown, Jacques Souquet & John MacVicar

The social programme was also a great success and the Cheatles evening proved popular with people entering into the true BMUS spirit and 'shaking their stuff' on the dance floor as well as enjoying dinner and the company of friends. We have had some wonderful email and letters saying how much fun was had by all and we have been sent lots of photos of the event.



As always, at the start of a period of office it is usual to set out some aspirations, against which you may be judged at the end. So here are mine and in two years time, we will see...

Financial stability: many of you will be

aware of the recent problems in respect of BMUS finances. I am delighted to be able to report that the society is now on a much more stable financial footing. However, that does not mean we can be complacent. I, together with the other Trustees, working with our accountants and investment brokers, will be watching this very carefully to ensure that our upward trend continues. It is essential that we continue to build on this financial situation to ensure that the society can continue to grow and develop to serve its membership.

The new face of the website: in this day and age, we are all used to working in an electronic environment and in fact many of us visit web pages as the first point of contact for many things in life. It is fair to say that currently the BMUS website requires some updating and I am delighted to report that the website is about to receive radical cosmetic surgery and updating of its content, under the guidance of both Alice and Roger. This is an important strategic development as I believe that this space is the true public face of the Society. In collaboration with the Scientific and Education committee we are keen to update the professional and public guidance on the website. BMUS is the learned society in this country for medical ultrasound and we should be leading the way with guidance, advice and educational materials. Within the Society we have brainstormed some ideas for this first wave development and these include: guidance on intimate procedures, use of chaperones, clinical governance, clinical guidelines etc. However, these suggestions are by no means prescriptive and we would welcome any suggestions directed initially to Carmel as Chair of S&E Committee.

carmel@staffmail.ed.ac.uk

Evolution of the annual scientific meeting (ASM): As I mentioned earlier, the new format in Liverpool appeared to be well received and I am keen to see the new format evolve further to allow more hands on scanning and practical teaching. We will continue to try to provide sessions at the ASM which will encourage new users of ultrasound from non-traditional specialities to attend. This is good for both the growth of the society and for the manufacturers.

Closer collaboration with other learned societies: There are several organisations

who are involved with ultrasound and I am keen that we develop some better collaborative links and joined up thinking about what is happening in the national ultrasound arena. Collaborative working can help us all to best serve the entire ultrasound community. I am already in contact with some of these organisations and I have requested meetings between them and BMUS to try to move this forward. I hope to be able to report positively on this in my May report.

Governance issues and education and training: Those of you familiar with my background in education and training probably would probably faint with shock if I failed to mention education, training and public protection issues! This is a real passion of mine as whoever is wielding the probe has a duty of care to the patient and there are some serious patient protection issues to consider. We are all aware of the differences in levels of practice, training, assessment and in some cases, a lack of any proper training. This is a major worry, but BMUS has representation on a number of national committees who are involved in this area and feel that we can contribute hugely to these discussions. I am keen to push this forward.

Your views: The purpose of any society such as BMUS is to serve its members and so I would encourage all members to speak out and to tell us what you want. YOU can help steer the society and ensure it best provides for you. So PLEASE, I urge you to come forward with any suggestions/ideas. You can email them to me at julie.walton@liverpool.ac.uk

I am more than happy to receive them and discuss with the Council.

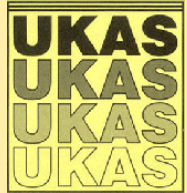
I firmly believe that any organisation is really dependent on team working and so I leave you with this quote: ***'I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it because the team, not the individual is the ultimate champion'***

And finally, it has stopped snowing and so maybe we are not skiing home after all – but here is Liverpool in the snow.



United Kingdom Association of Sonographers

On 9th January 2009, we received formal notification from the Society and College of Radiographers that The United Kingdom Association of Sonographers (UKAS) and the College of Radiographers (CoR) had reached agreement to merge with immediate effect. I mention this here as BMUS has enjoyed a close working relationship with UKAS over many years. On behalf of BMUS I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those members of UKAS Council who have contributed to BMUS activity. **Julie Walton**



Honorary Secretary's Report: Roger Moshy

Welcome to this months' newsletter from your new Honorary Secretary. My first words will be to introduce myself as a Radiologist from Peterborough District Hospital. Please feel free to contact me anytime preferably via the BMUS office.



BMUS has been going through rough times. I wish to thank the office staff and previous officers for steering us through this difficult period. The fact that this newsletter is being published is a sign of their success so far. Ultimately however it is you, the members, who will ensure our survival. We are not out of danger yet. This is my rallying cry to you all to help us go from strength to strength.

You may wonder what you can do so I will make some suggestions – perhaps you have more ideas. We need help with organising successful study days, where many come to be updated and to learn new horizons in our craft. We need you to attend and participate in our annual scientific meeting – participate in the science, the workshops and the social side. Consider writing articles for the journal; help with our website; and help on the ground with sending us news & recruit your friends.

This newsletter has a photo of me attached. Its not the true me- I have been sponsored to grow the "tash" for my local hospice. Many around me have been doing the same. A lot of members have sponsored me locally so many thanks to them. I hope my picture has not put you off opening the pages of this au gust journal for ever!

I am writing on a day where a little snow brought the capital of our country to a standstill. I am sure that the BMUS office will not come to a standstill from the deluge of enthusiasm from our members in response to these words!

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Ultrasound Overseas

By Patricia Baker

During the Overseas Uganda Training Initiative BMUS set up in 2000, I was fortunate to be sponsored by BMUS on two previous occasions to work and teach in Uganda. I cannot emphasize enough the usefulness of Ultrasound in Africa and it has been a privilege to be able to work there.

Following these experiences, alongside Robina Parvez, another advanced medical ultrasound practitioner, I got involved in the Umubano Project in Rwanda.

The purpose of our visit to Rwanda last July, was to help the people of Rwanda recover from the dreadful events of 1994. The majority of medical staff were killed or were involved in the Genocide, the country is still acutely short of qualified Medical staff at every level.

The population of Rwanda is in excess of 9,000,000 and there were, I believe, only 4 Ultrasound machines in the country. Robina was able to get a small one to take with us which as you can imagine was met with delight.

The work Robina and I did was very different in Rwanda, as we were based in a University teaching hospital where scanning was already being practiced, but without any formal training. So the problems were very different.



I have just returned from a holiday in Ethiopia, and whilst on a visit to Lalibela I visited their hospital. Someone had provided the hospital with an x-Lalibela has a population of 22,000 people and no x-ray facilities. This is obviously a very distressing situation. I have recently been approached by a charity in England. They need

Ultrasound training for a new hospital in Kenya, that is about to acquire an Ultrasound machine. The hospital is managed by an "Irish Nun"

If anybody reading this would like to get involved in helping these communities in any way, please contact me on pbaker@uwclub.net

For the full Umubano Report, go to the on-line version of this newsletter <http://www.bmus.org/publications/pu-bmusnewsletter.asp>

SIEMENS PRESS RELEASE

ACUSON Antares customers gather at Loch Lomond for Regional Education Seminar Scottish hotel provides the setting for engaging ultrasound training Session.

A two day, Continuing Medical Education (CME) accredited training course seminar for Siemens ultrasound customers was recently held in Scotland. Each course is run twice yearly and offers expert tuition from Siemens application specialists on the ACUSON Antares™ ultrasound system.



The course took place at the De Vere Cameron House Hotel, a stylish facility on the shore of Loch Lomond on the West coast of Scotland. Customers attended mini sessions with hands-on training in various ultrasound applications such as SieClear™, a spatial compounding process that uses multiple lines of sight to improve contrast resolution and border detection.

Siemens' Regional Education Seminars take place across the UK with free accommodation to all ACUSON Antares customers.



NEW BMUS WEBSITE TO BE LAUNCHED...

A new-look BMUS website will shortly be launched to replace the current site. The new site will be going **LIVE** as of **MONDAY 16th March**. Our aim is to update to a more user-friendly and livelier site. The majority of current content of the site will be preserved, but transferred and re-formatted to make it more accessible. We will also be adding new pages, policies and functions which will be of use to both our members and serve to inform and educate the public about ultrasound.

Tell us what you think! For the first month, the new site will have a feedback form on the homepage, so log on and check out your updated website. Send us any comments and we will do our best to incorporate these into the design.

www.bmus.org

Professor Peter Wells receives CBE

Professor Peter Wells has been honoured by the award of CBE in the 2009 New Year Honours List. Peter served IPEM as its first President when the Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine and the Biological Engineering Society merged in 1995.

He had previously been President of the British Institute of Radiology and the British Medical Ultrasound Society. His principal research interests are, and always have been, in medical imaging, particularly in the development of medical ultrasound Imaging.

Peter became the first Chairman of the Science Council's Science in Health Group when the Science Council was re-constituted from the Council of Science and Technology Institutes in 2000. He also became the first Chairman of Radiology and Oncology Congresses when it was formed as a charitable company to oversee the annual and biennial congresses for radiology and radiation oncology, organised jointly by BIR, CoR, IPEM and RCR.

Throughout his career, Peter has continued to be active in scientific research and scientific publishing, as an author and as an editor. His scientific achievements have given him an international reputation and have resulted in him being elected first as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, then as a Fellow of the Royal Society and latterly as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. The award of CBE is a further recognition of all he has achieved and continues to achieve in the advancement of science in health-care.

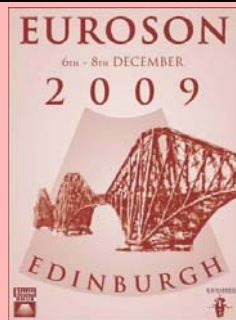


Professor Peter Wells, CBE,

EUROSON 2009: 6 - 8 December, Edinburgh

In 2009, Edinburgh will be the host city for Euroson, the annual meeting of EFSUMB. Euroson 2009 will be held in conjunction with the BMUS 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting and we are delighted to invite all of our ultrasound colleagues from the U.K, Europe and elsewhere to join us.

Euroson 2009 will be a great opportunity to see and hear the latest in ultrasound technology, clinical applications and practice through our programme of expert reviews, research sessions and technical exhibition. You can also enhance your practical knowledge and skills through our extended programme of hands-on workshops and training sessions.



ABSTRACT DEADLINE: 21st August 2009

Put the dates in your diary now and join us for a warm Scottish welcome! www.euroson2009.org

BMUS study days

Saturday 6 June
Ultrasound for Nephrologists Study Day
King's College Hospital, London

Thursday 18 June
Contrast Ultrasound Study Day
Chandos House, London.

Friday 18 September
Quality Assurance of Ultrasound Systems and Management Procurement Study Day
Edinburgh University

We will also be running the following events in 2009-

3 day Summer School
2 day DVT & Carotid day
Carotid day
MSK days

Go to www.bmus.org for regular updates

The effect of Agenda for Change on career progression: an opportunity for radiographer sonographers and support workers to have their say

A major study commissioned by The Society of Radiographers to investigate the effects of Agenda for Change (AfC) on career progression among the NHS therapy and Imaging workforce in England and Wales is now underway. The project is being conducted by the University of Hertfordshire in partnership with the Institute of Employment Studies and Oxford Radcliffe NHS Hospitals.

Don't miss your opportunity to contribute to this important study. If you are a helper, assistant or radiographer sonographer in England or Wales and wish to participate please log on to <http://sdu-surveys.herts.ac.uk/effect-of-afc> You can also access this survey via the BMUS website homepage.

It is open to all grades and specialties of NHS radiographers and support workers only. If you are a midwife, physicist or medical practitioner you are not eligible to take part. This survey is anonymous and should take less than 20 minutes to complete. All participants are eligible to enter a free prize draw for £50 shopping vouchers. Follow the instructions online. Further information about this study and paper copies of the questionnaire are available from Hazel Edwards, Project Lead.
Email: h.m.edwards@herts.ac.uk

If you are completing the survey at work please ensure you are adhering to Trust policies on the use of IT services, and ensure you are not delaying any patient service.

Ethical approval number: HEPEC 01/09/36.