



Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

NEWS
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This newsletter aims to provide up to date information regarding CASE activities & requirements regarding validation, annual programme monitoring & other relevant issues.

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Report from the Chair

I have now been CASE Chair for approximately nine months and would like to start my first report by saying a big “thank you” to the previous Chair, David Oxborough, for his excellent work, dedication and commitment to the role. Thankfully David is remaining on the CASE Committee and will now be taking part in the work of the APMR team. I would also like to thank the CASE Administrator, Sally Hawking, and the CASE Committee members for all their help, input and support, as it makes my job as Chair an enjoyable one.

The 2013-14 academic year has been incredibly full for me so far and, as usual, CASE has been extremely busy with the reaccreditation of a number of programmes and focused courses, the APMR process and moving forward with improvements initiated during David's time as Chair. In particular, CASE is actively working on the following:

- Upgrading the functionality of the CASE website to include a secure password protected area for accreditors with the aim of improving channels of communication;
- Increasing efficiency by developing a process by which CASE Committee members can approve accreditations and reaccreditations electronically in-between CASE meetings;
- Revision of the CASE Handbook and accreditor guidelines;
- Continuing to expand the number of CASE accreditors and, in particular, the number of Lead Accreditors.

cont.



Report from the Chair continued.

My aim is to ensure that CASE continues to evolve to successfully meet the requirements of its intended purpose of maintaining the standard of ultrasound education. We live in interesting times, as new and innovative ways of solving the chronic sonographic workforce shortage are being designed and developed across the UK. CASE therefore needs to continue to grow from strength to strength in order to meet the challenges associated with the diverse range of ultrasound education models that may exist in the future.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and find it informative.



Gill Dolbear
CASE Chair

Training Future Sonographers

Ultrasound education has evolved over the years, and will need to continue to change and adapt in response to changing pressures and opportunities as they arise. The Society of Radiographers (SoR) introduced an ultrasound training programme in 1977 which led to a Diploma in Medical Ultrasound for radiographers, or a Certificate in Medical Ultrasound for practitioners from other backgrounds. This continued to be offered until it was replaced in the early 1990s by a postgraduate higher education institution (HEI) based qualification open to all healthcare professionals. In 1993 the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE) was formed to oversee the provision of sonography education, this consisted of representatives from a number of organisations whose members were working as sonographers, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of sonography.

The growing demand for qualified sonographers in the workplace is now driving an exploration of alternative methods of training the future workforce. CASE has recently been approached by a number of different organisations who are considering setting up their own sonographer training

programmes. These range from HEIs who are exploring undergraduate level training, to small independent companies intending to establish their own short focused training courses. CASE will be considering all these proposals in an attempt to balance the requirement to address the current problem of a severe shortage of sonographers, with the need to ensure high standards of training and assessment are maintained.

If you would like to be part of the CASE team of accreditors looking to shape the future of ultrasound education, then please email your details to the CASE Co-ordinator at case@ipem.ac.uk

Ultrasound Simulation

Simulation as an effective pedagogy is gaining momentum at all levels of healthcare education, and ultrasound simulators are playing a role in both practice and academic settings. The Higher Education Academy has facilitated a series of interactive workshops to explore how simulation in relation to sonographic education may be one of the drivers in transforming and enhancing practice. The invited audience comprised clinical practice-based educators with expertise in sonographic education. Each workshop enabled participants to gain experience with a number of simulation devices. Small groups discussed how such devices could be effectively used to change and transform sonography education. It is anticipated that these concepts will enhance and transform practice and assist in the continuation of improving the patient experience.

The outcome of the events will be to develop a simulation 'toolkit' that that can be endorsed/ accredited by the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE), and applied within the education and training of sonographers throughout the UK.



Report of APMR for Academic Year 2012-2013

CASE's APMR (Annual Performance Monitoring Review) applies at the moment only to full postgraduate programmes, though we are planning to extend it to focussed courses in the near future.

Most PG programme leaders have received letters telling them that our review of their programme for the academic year 2012-13 review is now complete. We have managed to complete it on time even though several leaders submitted their data late this year. It is an understatement to say these people are busy, but we would ask them to attend promptly in future to our request for APMR data, as it is not an arduous task.

General information that has emerged from the review is given below, starting with a comparison of student numbers for the three most recent years to be monitored.

	Students enrolled				Students obtaining award			
	PgC	PgD	MSc	Total	PgC	PgD	MSc	Total
2012-13	251	207	91	549	152	106	38	296
2011-12	260	273	97	630	150	133	42	325
2010-11	290	240	62	592	186	149	28	363

The number of PGCs has not changed significantly, but the number of PGDs has declined significantly after a "bulge" in 2011-12. There are still a good number studying for MSc. The total number of awards appears to be decreasing. Perhaps the decrease in students enrolling and getting awards on these post-graduate programmes might be partially compensated by increasing numbers on focussed courses, but we don't have data to investigate that.

Other common points to emerge are:

1. Students, once released for study, often find it difficult to get enough clinical practice, and so have to defer their assessment or drop out altogether. The teams are working harder to support such students.

2. In an attempt to compensate for the above problem, universities are investing more in ultrasound machines and simulators. Such facilities are seen to have other potential benefits as well, for example in assessment.
3. Many programme leaders (though not all) voice concern about the quality of mentorship in clinical departments, and are consequently increasing their support for mentors. This would be hoped to lead to a general improvement in students' experience and performance.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, CASE is currently considering what data collected via APMR could be released nationally for use in workforce planning, training provision, etc. Clearly, any such data would be collective, rather than pertaining to individual HEIs, and would be governed by strict rules. If you have any comments about the type of data you think would be useful, either nationally or locally, CASE would be very pleased to receive them.

Finally, I would like to thank the other members of the APMR team – David Oxborough of Liverpool John Moore's University and Valda Gazzard of Royal Cornwall Hospital Trulisk in Truro – for their part in this annual review.



Andrew Fairhead
Chairman, APMR sub-group

CASE Training Day 2014 – Save the Date!

The next CASE Training Day will be on Monday 1st September 2014 at the Society & College of Radiographers headquarters in London.

CASE has recently introduced a three-year rolling programme for the training days in order to ensure that each accreditor receives an equitable training and up-dating experience. In other words, the content of the 2014 and 2015 training days will be the same as the one held in 2013. New sessions on key and topical issues will then be developed for the 2016 to 2018 programme of training days.

CASE accreditors must attend training once every three years and accreditors who are due for training in 2014 will be individually invited to the next Training Day due to be held on 1st September 2014; however, anyone thinking of becoming an accreditor is more than welcome to attend. We would love to see you there!

The 2013 Training Day was really enjoyable and well-evaluated. Sessions included small group work on 'how to scrutinize programme/course documentation' and taking part in a mock validation event. So, kick-off the 2014-15 academic year with a training day, as it's the taking part that counts! As Benjamin Franklin said,

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn”!

Our New Logo

Hopefully you will have noticed that CASE has a new logo which can be seen at the top of this newsletter. Our thanks and congratulations go to CASE accreditor and Committee representative for BMUS, Heather Venables, who won the competition to design the new logo.

We are in the process of updating all our current documents, forms and publications to show the logo and the new versions can now be accessed from the website so please ensure you are using the latest version when completing any applications or accreditor forms.

The logo is also available to our member organisations and accredited HEIs for use in their publications or on websites as applicable, please contact case@ipem.ac.uk to make a request.



Heather Venables

CASE Accreditors

CASE would like to extend a warm welcome to three new accreditors who have recently joined our team:

Bob Jarman

Bob is a consultant in Emergency Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead where he has worked for over 10 years; his specialist interest is in the area of training and education in point-of-care ultrasound.



Robert Jarman MD

Rachel Wilson

Rachel is an advanced ultrasound practitioner at the Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Hospital Trust where she has worked for about seven years, her area of speciality is musculo-skeletal ultrasound and she is currently a member of the BMUS Scientific and Education Committee.



Jane Anderson

Jane Anderson

Jane has worked for Portsmouth NHS Hospitals Trust for the last two years and is an advanced practitioner in ultrasound, currently acting up Superintendent with responsibility for obstetrics and gynaecology ultrasound. Jane has been a CASE accreditor previously and has now re-joined the team.

CASE could not exist as it does without volunteer accreditors so if you are interested in joining our team then email case@ipem.ac.uk for an application form. You will be given training and mentorship to ease you into the role and it will provide good evidence for your CPD.

We are particularly keen to recruit more accreditors with an academic background so if this is you – get in touch!

The following are our current CASE Accreditors; their input into the accreditation process is very much appreciated:

Annemarie Bevan - University of South Wales, Pontypridd
Gareth Bolton - University of Cumbria
Peter Cantin - Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Elizabeth Chapman - Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline
Gill Dolbear - Canterbury Christ Church University
Theresa Fail - University of Portsmouth
Andrew Fairhead - University of Aberdeen
Jan Forster - Leeds General Infirmary
Ben Freedman - Kings College Hospital, London
Dr Valda Gazzard - Treliske Hospital, Truro
Dr Vivien Gibbs - University of the West of England, Bristol
Sue Halson-Brown - University of Portsmouth
Gill Harrison - City University, London
Gerry Johnson - University of Salford
Rosalind Lea - Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Crewe
Dr Adam Lovick - Sandwell General Hospital, West Bromwich
Frith Noble – Glasgow Caledonian University
Dr Crispian Oates - Freeman Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Dr David Oxborough - Liverpool John Moores University
Pamela Parker - Hull Royal Infirmary
Simon Richards - Teesside University
Prof Malcolm Sperrin - Royal Berkshire & Battle Hospitals NHS Trust
Heather Venables - University of Derby
Wendy Williams - Llandough Hospital, Penarth
Jean Wilson - University of Leeds

