

C onsortium for the A ccreditation of S onographic E ducation

NEWS
September
2012

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

In this edition of the Newsletter: -

Report from the Chair

CASE Training Day

APMR Report

CASE Update on
Modernising
Scientific Careers

Report from the Chair

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those universities who value the importance of standardised, quality ultrasound education across the UK by continuing to support the activity of CASE. Activities have continued successfully over the past 5 months with 18 universities running CASE accredited ultrasound programmes. We have had a number of requests from individuals wishing to be CASE accreditors and we have also undertaken a number of successful accreditation events. The Annual Performance Monitoring exercise is now complete and has been insightful in developing a national picture of ultrasound education. The accreditor training day programme has been finalised and will take place in York on the 7th December 2012. If you are due to attend a training event you will be receiving an invitation shortly.

Although activity is on-going, it is not difficult to be reminded that we are still in a challenging period of financial and political instability. It is more important than ever to remain up-beat and to try and see the possible benefits of having to work within these constraints. Difficult circumstances often bring out the best in individuals and the ability to change and adapt is driven by creativity and innovation.

Ultrasound education is no exception, CASE has seen a number of innovative approaches that maximise resources whilst maintaining and improving quality, student experience and practitioner competence. We cannot stand still; we see the value of negotiated imaging modules, blended learning, focussed courses and unique methods to formative and summative assessment. That aside, it is also important to understand the value of other traditional methods of learning and teaching; the challenging balance of innovation and conservatism is key. In view of this we are currently working on CASE's internal structure as well as the CASE handbook in order to adapt to the changing face of ultrasound education.

CASE is evolving in tandem with the variable nature of ultrasound programmes BUT our remit is still clear; to continue to ensure standards are maintained and ultrasound practitioners educated in the UK are competent, reflective practitioners who are envied throughout the world. This means we do not lower standards but we engage with creativity and innovation whilst not forgetting what we have learned over the past 20 years.

Dr. David Oxborough, CASE Chair



CASE Training Day

Friday 7th December 2012 VENUE: IPEM Offices, YORK

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration, coffee and Welcome
- 9.30 – 10.30 The Accreditation Event – the roles and expectations
- 10.30 – 11:15 Negotiated Imaging: Is this the future
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee
- 11:30 – 12:30 Evaluating Blended Learning
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 Group work – Assessing Course Documentation
- 2:30 – 2:15 Coffee
- 2:15 – 3:00 Assessments – do they assess learning outcomes
- 3:00 – 3:45 Professional Learning Modules - CASE requirements
- 3:45 – 4:00 Evaluation and close

Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
Fairmount House
230 Tadcaster Road
York
YO24 1ES

Tel:01904 610821
cathy@ipem.ac.uk

Any CASE accreditors who have not received training in the last three years are urged to attend this session.

APMR Report

The review for the academic year 2010-11 was completed in June 2012 – later than we would have wished largely because some programmes submitted their information very late. At the end of this article, programme leaders will be reminded of the timetable for the review of 2011-12, and we must ask them to adhere to this for the sake of other programme teams.

Sixteen CASE-accredited programmes were reviewed, on which there were a total of 290 students enrolled on PgC programmes, 240 on PgD, and 62 on MSc. The number of students obtaining an award at these levels in 2010-11 were 186, 149 and 28 respectively. We remarked in the last Newsletter that almost 20 different types of health professional are now seeking to become qualified in diagnostic ultrasound.

The timetable for the 2011-12 review is as follows:

During this month (August), we are making further improvements to the on-line form, based on your feedback and our own thoughts.

We hope to inform programme leaders by the end of August that the new form is ready for completion. This is earlier than in previous years, but we understand that results are often ready by then, and many leaders prefer to start their report while the academic year is still fresh in their mind.

The end of November 2012 is the deadline for return of the on-line form. We must ask programme leaders to adhere to this.

Nov – Feb	APMR team scrutinises the returns and requests clarification / further information where necessary.
March 2013	Interim results reported in CASE Newsletter.
April 2013	APMR completed. All programme leaders informed of the outcome.
July 2013	Final report in CASE Newsletter.

CASE's APMR is a team effort, and I am indebted to the other members of the team: David Oxborough of the University of Leeds and Valda Gazzard of Truro Hospital.

Andrew Fairhead
Chairman, APMR sub-group

CASE update – Modernising Scientific Careers

The Department of Health's strategy for improving education and training in Healthcare Science is now being implemented nationwide and three of our member organisations are directly affected by this change (IPEM, BSE and SVT). The framework of Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC) utilises an undergraduate pathway (Practitioner Training Programme (PTP)) for Healthcare Practitioners and a postgraduate pathway (Scientific Training Programme (STP)) for Healthcare Scientists / Clinical Scientists. Ultrasound education for echocardiography, vascular ultrasound and medical physics will be predominantly taught at STP level and therefore CASE has been monitoring developments closely.

The following universities are currently accredited to run the PTP Healthcare Science programme for Cardiology, Vascular or Medical Physics:

Anglia Ruskin University
De Montfort University
Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Leeds
University of Plymouth
University of Southampton
University of Wolverhampton

Whilst the STP Clinical Science programme is currently accredited at the following:

Kings College London
University of Liverpool
Newcastle University

It is apparent that the Academy for Healthcare Science will be involved directly in (re)accrediting programmes at both levels and we are hopeful that CASE will also be involved in ensuring standards of ultrasound education are maintained. As a British Society of Echocardiography representative to CASE we feel that MSC may provide an opportunity to provide a professional requirement for formal ultrasound education to be delivered by Higher Education Institutes in these disciplines. The exceptional work CASE has achieved through the commitment of our accreditors is integral to the CASE agenda and we will work hard to ensure that CASE has a seat at the table in this new education pathway.

As the MSC wagon continues to roll we will continue to keep you updated on CASE's position....please watch this space.

Dr. David Oxborough
CASE Chair