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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

As we approach the end of another academic year it is important to reflect on the positive and negative aspects of programmes, practice and innovations and look at how we can build on what we have achieved. CASE has been extremely active with the accreditation and reaccreditation of a number of programmes, the continual annual performance monitoring exercise (APMR), the development of its website, the active recruitment and training of accreditors and the development of its own internal structure and role as well as numerous other endeavours. On reflection I am pleased to feel that progress is evident and CASE's involvement in maintaining standards of ultrasound education is as strong as ever. That aside we must learn from the less positive aspects, taking every opportunity to learn how best to meet the high standards that are expected. In view of this we have a number of very specific actions to take CASE forward for the next academic session.

- To develop communication avenues with accreditors.
- To increase the number of lead accreditors through a more efficient shadowing and mentoring process.
- To provide the opportunity for all accreditors to receive training irrespective of when they last attended a training day.
- To revise the CASE handbook and accreditor guidelines.
- To maintain and develop (re)accreditation / APMR processes in tandem with developments in ultrasound education.

This will be my final report as CASE Chair and therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported CASE over the last 20 months and I would like to welcome Gill Dolbear as incoming Chair.

So let us enjoy the summer and look forward to another successful academic year in ultrasound education. I think it will be a busy one!

David Oxborough
CASE Chair

Welcome to the New CASE Chair



My name is Gill Dolbear and I will be the new CASE Chair from June 2013. My career in ultrasound started way back in 1987 when I passed my Diploma in Medical Ultrasound and began working as a sonographer in an Ante-natal Clinic; however, like many sonographers, my scope of practice gradually extended to include abdominal, pelvic and vascular ultrasound examinations. An important part of my role at that time was to take part in the training and education of the future workforce and I have fond memories of working alongside radiographer colleagues, obstetricians and gynaecologists as they undertook their ultrasound training.

In 2002 I was appointed as Programme Director for the MSc Medical Imaging Programme at Canterbury Christ Church University and, since then, have embarked on a new career encompassing both undergraduate and post-graduate education.

I have been one of the Society and College of Radiographers representatives on the CASE committee since January 2007 and, during that time, have had the opportunity to work alongside, and learn from, a significant number of highly experienced ultrasound colleagues from the various member organisations that make up CASE. Being a committee member has been a valuable developmental experience for me, in that it has pulled together all aspects of ultrasound training and education, and I have been inspired by the amount of time and energy the CASE committee and accreditors willingly commit, as volunteers, to the work of CASE. I am looking forward to undertaking the role of CASE Chair and hope that my knowledge and experience puts me in a good position to be able to fulfil the role in these challenging times.

Gill Dolbear

Annual Performance Monitoring Review

Report of APMR for Academic Year 2011-12

All seventeen CASE-accredited post-graduate sonography education programmes had satisfactory reviews for the academic year 2011-12, and we thank the respondents for the effort they put into providing comprehensive information about their programmes. A general point to emerge from this year's monitoring was the constant pressure for the programmes to become more "efficient". The programme leaders and their staff are to be congratulated for managing that while still being innovative. Their hard work and dedication is very evident.

Several programmes reported that students may not have adequate opportunity for scanning practice in their clinical departments, and so have to defer their assessment or drop out altogether. The teams are working harder to support such students. There is even the problem that clinical departments are too short-staffed to release any students for training, which is of course a vicious circle.

A summary of student numbers for 2011-12 and a comparison with the previous year is as follows:

	Students enrolled				Students obtaining award			
	PgC	PgD	MSc	Total	PgC	PgD	MSc	Total
2011-12	260	273	97	630	150	133	42	325
2010-11	290	240	62	592	186	149	28	363

There appears to be an increase in the number of PgD and MSc students, which led to an increase in the total enrolled. The number of PgCs had reduced, possibly because of the staff-shortage in clinical departments noted above.

We are always interested to have comments from programme leaders, students, clinical staff or commissioners on the above or any other aspect of APMR, or on sonography education in general. It is hoped that changes to our website and other developments in our communications will encourage this exchange of views and ideas. They are described elsewhere in this Newsletter. Meanwhile, our Coordinator is already happy to receive emails on any matter concerning CASE.

The monitoring review for the academic year 2012-13 will begin in August, when programme leaders will be given a link to the on-line questionnaire.

Andrew Fairhead
Chairman, APMR sub-group.

Validation and Accreditation Handbook

The CASE Validation and Accreditation Handbook now needs revising, as the current version was last updated in 2011. It is proposed that the new version should be less prescriptive to enable greater flexibility and innovation by programme leaders. However, to ensure sonographic education continues to meet the needs of stakeholders, certain core minimum requirements will be included to provide guidance to course providers.

Audrey Paterson on behalf of SCoR has agreed to lead on the development of this document. Vivien Gibbs and Crispian Oates have volunteered to assist with the project, and they would welcome any ideas you may have for the format and content of the document. Please email Vivien.gibbs@uwe.ac.uk or crispian.oates@nuth.nhs.uk if you have any suggestions for the new handbook.

CASE Training Day

The next CASE Accreditors Training day will be arranged for September 2013.....and we're going to do things a little differently this time!

For the first time, the training will be opened up to all accreditors (not just those who are due for training) and also to anyone else who is interested in knowing what the role of CASE Accreditor entails and/or may be thinking of becoming one themselves. The latter half of the day will be dedicated to an open-forum session where people can raise and discuss any issue they wish with regard to the accreditation process and ultrasound education in general.

The requirement for accreditors acting on behalf of CASE to attend the training at least every three years still remains but we believe that by opening the events up to everyone in this way, they will become a useful vehicle not just for training purposes but also to allow all the accreditors to get together as a group, both to meet socially and to discuss and debate the issues they face. With this in mind, we encourage you to make it a priority to attend this year's session and make it a successful day for everyone.

Further details regarding date, location and programme will be available on our website as soon as they are confirmed and also in the next newsletter but if you have any questions in the meantime or would like to volunteer yourself, or anyone you know to be contributors on the day then please get in touch with the CASE Co-ordinator, Sally Hawking (sally@ipem.ac.uk)

CASE Website

Hopefully by now most of you will have had a chance to visit our new-look website which we launched in January – if not, take a look here: www.case-uk.org.

While we have been able to expand the website and put more useful and up to date information on there, this is still a 'work in progress' and we are looking develop the site further as we identify our users' needs.

For those of you who like statistics, here are a few about our website in the three full-months since it's re-launch (February to April):

- There have been a total of **6965** visits to the site (a 'visit' is defined as all page impressions from the same computer)
- This is an average of **78 per day**
- The Course Directory has been looked at **834** times
- The Focused Course directory has been looked at **471** times
- Newsletters have been read a total of **636** times (across all the archived ones)
- The top search term which brings people to our site is '**Ultrasound**'
- The top 3 websites which refer visitors to our site are:
 - www.nhscareers.nhs.uk
 - <http://www.bmus.org>
 - www.google.co.uk/url
- While our visitors come from across all continents, **48%** are from **Europe** with a further **36%** from **North America**,
- Somewhat surprisingly, the top 3 cities are:
 - **Sayreville** (New Jersey, USA!) with **6.62%** of visitors
 - **London** with **6.44%** of visitors
 - **Beijing** with **5.27%** of visitors

Any feedback you may have on the website or any useful information and links you would like us to put on there will be appreciated, please email your comments and suggestions to the CASE Co-ordinator sally@ipem.ac.uk or use the 'Contact-Us' form on the website.

CASE Accreditors

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

Jan Dodgeon - University of Salford

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 Hospital of South Manchester

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

Sue Tennant - Northern General Hospital, Sheffield

Heather Venables - University of Derby

Wendy Williams - Llandough Hospital, Penarth

Jean Wilson - University of Leeds

