



COVENTRY arena  
Building Society

BMUS 

NEWS  
AUTUMN 2024

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## A Word from our President:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest edition of our BMUS quarterly newsletter and as the year comes to a close, this will be my last “Presidents Word”. I am however, delighted to share some of BMUS’ recent achievements and updates with you from over the autumnal months.



Through the month of September, BMUS worked in partnership with the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA), The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), and Sonography Canada to provide a selection of free access education and learning resources focussing on the topic of Ergonomics in the workplace, including; posters, journal articles, webinars and podcasts.

The prevention and management of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WRMSDs), which are known to be associated with ultrasound practice, were highlighted, and we hope that our BMUS community was able to take the time to learn more about safeguarding your own health and wellbeing. Personal well-being is an ever-growing point of focus within the Ultrasound community – and we strongly believe that it is imperative that for you to work at your best, you need to feel your best. As such, at the direction of our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) Organising Committee Chair, Miss Shaunna Smith, the team have taken this focus

to heart and included talks on well-being in the “Working From Within: Unlocking the Power of Self” stream. In addition, practical sessions to support well-being – such as Seated and Standing Yoga Sessions will be making its debut at this year’s ASM.

September also saw the release of two new sets of Ultrasound guidelines: the “Paediatric Neck Lump Guidelines”, and the “Guidelines for the interpretation and reporting of diagnostic ultrasound scanning in soft-tissue masses”.

The “Paediatric Neck Lump Guidelines”, produced by the BMUS Paediatric Special Interest Group, aims to assist healthcare professionals in managing paediatric neck lumps, with a focus on appropriate ultrasound use. There are clear criteria for when ultrasound is indicated allowing timely and appropriate care thus minimising unnecessary procedures while facilitating early detection of serious conditions.

Neck masses are common in children and are often benign (e.g. reactive lymphadenopathy or congenital

lesions), while malignancies, though rare, are more likely with increasing age. Ultrasound is highlighted as a crucial diagnostic tool but with selective use. The guideline recommends ultrasound for persistent neck masses over 2 cm, midline lumps, or palpable masses in infants under six months, as well as suspected congenital or developmental lesions. While ultrasound can be effective in characterising these lumps, it has limitations.

On the MSK side of Ultrasound, a small group of experienced musculoskeletal sonographers, with help and support from the BMUS Musculoskeletal Special Interest Group, produced new “Guidelines for the interpretation and reporting of diagnostic ultrasound scanning in soft-tissue masses”.

These guidelines were developed to assist with the differential diagnoses of soft tissue masses (STMs) using ultrasound.

STMs are a common indication for patients presenting to their general practitioner, and there are a broad range of benign and malignant pathologies. A differential diagnosis is not only based on imaging findings but also interpreted in conjunction with clinical examination and history.

The imaging of STMs may involve one or more Imaging modalities depending upon the specific presentation with each modality having its strengths and limitations.

In recent years, the use of diagnostic ultrasound has increasingly been the first line of investigation for STMs. Owing to the variable presentation and appearance of these lesions, it is important for ultrasound practitioners to acquire a significant amount of technical and clinical knowledge to accurately identify, categorise, and report these scans.

As such, these new guidelines focus on the use of ultrasound for the identification of STMs, highlighting in particular, the interpretation and reporting of ultrasound findings by registered healthcare professionals working within an imaging department or community-based services.

In October, results from a recruitment and development survey (in partnership with The Society of Radiographers (SoR)), were released in a document titled: “Recruiting international sonographers and those without a CASE accredited award.”

The UK has long been experiencing a shortage of sonographers, and with the ever-increasing demand for ultrasound services, and an ageing workforce, the situation is only likely to worsen. Thus, this document investigates the ever-

increasing rise in employment within the UK of sonographers without a CASE accredited award. It seeks to facilitate improved methods of successful integration; noting that there needs to be a better understanding of the current recruitment process and the level of support for the successful candidate, as well as a better understanding of what knowledge and skills they possess.

The document outlined findings of research which explored the following four aims:

- To investigate current recruitment methods that work well
- To investigate if additional help is needed by managers to aid future recruitment
- To investigate managers’ perspectives on how well those without CASE accredited awards integrate into the ultrasound department
- To identify what additional help, if any, these recruits might need for a smoother transition

The results showed that there was no standardised method of recruitment or integration of sonographers without a CASE accredited award within the current UK system. The experiences of managers differed considerably, and many had little support. In terms of recruits, the abilities were found to be mixed, with some better trained and more versatile than the UK workforce, and others requiring extensive support – an issue often not realised until after employment. The findings suggest that the development of bridging material for new employees and a recruitment tool kit aimed at managers, may be very useful in mitigating some of the issues found in the survey. Until this is available, though, it is the strong belief that it is essential that all candidates applying for a UK sonographer posts undergo a robust and detailed recruitment process and, on appointment, are provided with a comprehensive preceptorship programme.

These are only some of the highlights of all the extensive and excellent work that goes on within our ultrasound community and more will be showcased at our upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all in Coventry very soon!

Best wishes,

**Adrian**

**Professor Adrian Lim, MD FRCP FRCR**  
BMUS President





## Annual Scientific Meeting Update

November; the clocks have gone backwards, Halloween has passed, the nights draw in and the countdown to Christmas begins. For ultrasound users, the Christmas celebrations kick off with the Annual Scientific Meeting, taking place this year in Coventry, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December. For those of you that have already booked, thank you and we look forward to seeing you. For those who haven't, be sure to as soon as possible for the ultrasound networking and education event of the year!



Our programme is now almost finalised and we have the usual mix of expert speakers and seasoned manufacturers, alongside some new faces and manufacturers to inject extra vigor into our educational programme. We have our robust educational streams covering all major clinical applications alongside some of the less common clinical applications that lead to conundrums for ultrasound users. The practical workshops have been revamped – covering a bit of something for everyone! On top of that, there's the ever-popular technical exhibition, where you can wander through the stands, chat with our friendly,

knowledgeable industry colleagues and try out all the latest equipment. This years' gold sponsorship spots see the return of Canon Medical Systems, GE Healthcare and MIS Healthcare; we are very appreciative of their continued generous support.

The Donald MacVicar Brown keynote lecture this year will be delivered by Dr Colin Deane at 4pm in Plenary 1. Dr Colin Deane PhD, FIPeM is a Clinical Scientist and Honorary Senior Lecturer at King's College, London UK. He is actively involved with education and training in medical ultrasound and has taught and led on the KCL MSc in Medical Ultrasound. He has published about ultrasound

and its use in vascular diagnosis particularly on neurovascular, renovascular and peripheral vascular applications. He retired from King's in 2022, having spent the last six years as Director for the MEP care group. He was also President of the British Medical Ultrasound Society from 2010 to 2012.

This years' programme is relevant to multiple areas of clinical practice but also maintains a light-hearted and entertaining element (see the 'big fat ultrasound quiz of the year' on the final day for more details). On day 1 (Tuesday), we've got a full day of general medicine and physics, including talks from Dr Tom Watson on paediatric abdominal masses, and Prof Vassilis Sboros on microbubbles. We have our much-loved head and neck stream, teaching us the value of working as a multidisciplinary team to allow better care for patients with head and neck presentations, as well as the "student, trainee and newly qualified" stream, with educational talks for the up-and-coming members of our profession.

Day 2 of the meeting (Wednesday), brings us a full day of all things MSK and gynae; from lumps, to rheumatology, to fertility and gynae-oncology. We have talks from Dr Jonathan Gaughran revisiting diagnosing ovarian tumours and Ms Angela Clough for the use of ultrasound in assisted contraception. This year we have secured an incredibly exciting partnership with SANDS and SOFT charities, delivering a workshop surrounding breaking bad news in obstetrics, run by Mrs Kate Stanton and Dr Una Macfadyen. We also have an incredibly exciting PoCUS stream put together by Prof Bob Jarman. Finally, there's the young investigators' session, with presenters battling it out to become the UK's competitor at next year's Euroson meeting in Poland.

Thursday, the final day, has a full day of obstetrics and professional issues, including a talk by renowned Australian sonographer, Ms Alison Deslandes, in the stream "Accountability, Taking Responsibility & Providing Intelligent Care" with a talk titled, How Do We Deliver Continued Improvement? There are also two debut streams; focussing on ultrasound user well-being, and breast ultrasound. Another major highlight of the meeting will be practicals in sitting and

standing yoga, which is likely to attract a large, varied audience, so make sure you book your ticket early at £5!

If that isn't enough for you, we've also got our highly regarded practical workshops going on all the time in the background. These include MSK Upper and Lower limb, Interventional, Perfecting Liver and Doppler Imaging Technique and a PoCUS Practical Session. The Endometriosis Simulator Session is now completely sold out – sorry if you have missed the opportunity to book onto this but please do take a look at our other practical sessions! These are already extremely popular with our attendees, so please book as soon as you can if you'd like to take part in them.

Last but not least, we must not forget our wonderful Winter Ball and Awards Ceremony, which is taking place at the Coventry Building Society Arena itself on Wednesday evening. I'm sure many of you are well aware, this is a fantastic opportunity to let your hair down and have some fun with your friends and colleagues from across the country. As usual, the tickets for this event are already selling like hot cakes, so make sure you get yours well in advance.

We very much look forward to seeing you there!

**Miss Shaunna Smith**

Chair of the 2024  
Scientific Organising Committee

“ a fantastic opportunity to let your hair down and have some fun with your friends and colleagues ”



# Development Officer's Report



So, the time has finally arrived; after 6 years this is my last contribution to the newsletter as BMUS Development Officer.

I will shortly be handing the reins of the role, and chair, of the Professional Standards Group (PSG) over to Ruth Reeve, who I am sure you will get to know very well in the next newsletter and beyond!

I know I am leaving the responsibility of this role in extraordinarily knowledgeable and capable hands, and look forward to supporting Ruth. Don't worry (if you were !?!), I will still be very much involved within the BMUS fold for the foreseeable future, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the ASM too!

In the last 12 months, the PSG group and its' clinical interest groups have been doing what they do best, and as a collective group of experts, have produced several sets of guidelines in 2024 to try to aid your practice and enhance quality and safety for ultrasound practitioners and service users everywhere.

## Guidelines released in 2024 include:

The "Guidelines for the interpretation and reporting of diagnostic ultrasound scanning in soft-tissue masses". Soft tissue masses are a common indication for patients presenting to their GP surgery. These guidelines focus on the use of ultrasound for the identification of soft tissue masses, and in particular, the interpretation and reporting of ultrasound findings – sometimes we can underestimate the complexity of a lump or bump!

In September, the "Paediatric Neck Lump Guidelines" were released. This document gives advice on the indications for ultrasound, scan timings, and the urgency of follow up of paediatric neck lumps - which we all know can cause anxiety in the parents and the ultrasound practitioner!

The well-received guidelines on TV scan eligibility has a minor review, and is due for re-release very shortly!

BMUS, in collaboration with SoR, released some guidance for employers on the recruitment of sonographers without a CASE accredited award.

## In other collaborations, our experts have been working with:

NHSE to produce new guidance on "Hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance: minimum standards", and "Hepatocellular carcinoma: delivering quality ultrasound surveillance". These documents have the potential to change the way many departments scan, report, and appoint their Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) screening patients. If you want to know more, make sure to seek out this year's educational talks at the ASM

in Coventry! If you can't make it – fear not! BMUS will be running a full study day in 2025 – as we know how important this will be to ultrasound departments – and we will be there to support you. Keep your eyes peeled!

Dr Susanne Johnson has been BMUS' representation on the NICE working group updating the advice and guidance on the diagnosis of endometriosis; you can check out the recently updated "Endometriosis: diagnosis and management guidelines". But we also have a special interest group hard at work to bring some practical advice, education, and guidance to us in 2025.

We have been going from strength to strength in our relationship with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), and many of our experts (including myself!) have been working with the iRefer team in order to ensure that the most up to date, evidence-based, referral advice is out there via the RCR and BMUS. More projects and plans afoot for 2025 too!

Myself and the Professional Officer continue to enjoy a blossoming relationship in the World Sonography Collaboration Group, with our ultrasound colleagues in Australia/New Zealand, Canada and the USA ensuring that we collaborate on common ground. Look out for a guide to medico legal aspects of ultrasound – incoming soon!

So, there we have it – 2024 in a nutshell of advice and guidance. I've been truly honoured and privileged to have served in the role as Development Officer for BMUS for so long. I would personally like to thank the experts in the PSG and the specialist interests' groups; without your time and expertise none of this would be possible, and I am so proud of what we have achieved over the years. Onwards and sideways, as they say, and looking forward to new challenges!

## Mrs Catherine Kirkpatrick

BMUS Development Officer and Chair of the BMUS Professional Standards Group



55th Annual Scientific Meeting of the British Medical Ultrasound Society

# ULTRASOUND

10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Coventry Building Society Arena  
Coventry 2024



PRE-REGISTRATION closes midnight 29 November 2024

The conference will feature:

- ▶ Over 100 invited speakers
- ▶ 30 plus industry exhibitors
- ▶ 3 days of ultrasound education incorporating 6 practical sessions, 1 role play based session and Chair & Standing Yoga

## DAY 1 - Tuesday 10th December

Sessions on General medical and Paediatrics, Head and Neck, Professional Issues, Ultrasound Physics, Student, Trainee and Early Career Education

Practical Training on MSK Practical Sessions

Donald MacVicar Brown Keynote Lecture delivered by Dr Colin Deane

## DAY 2 - Wednesday 11th December

Sessions on Gynaecology, MSK, Vascular, PoCUS, ThUNDDAR and the Young Investigator 2023

Practical Sessions on Interventional Ultrasound, Breaking Bad News, Liver Doppler, PoCUS

The Winter Ball

## Day 3 - Thursday 12th December

Sessions on Obstetrics, Professional Issues, Wellbeing, Breast for the Generalist and Veterinary Ultrasound

Practical Training in Endometriosis and Chair based and standing Yoga





Celebrating BMUS endorsed departments of the

# Preceptorship Endorsement Scheme



James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust



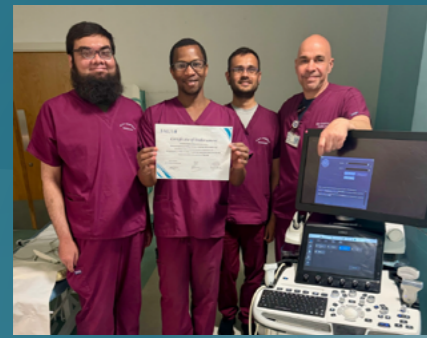
Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust



King George Hospital



Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust



Queen's Hospital

### Endorsed Trusts and Hospitals:

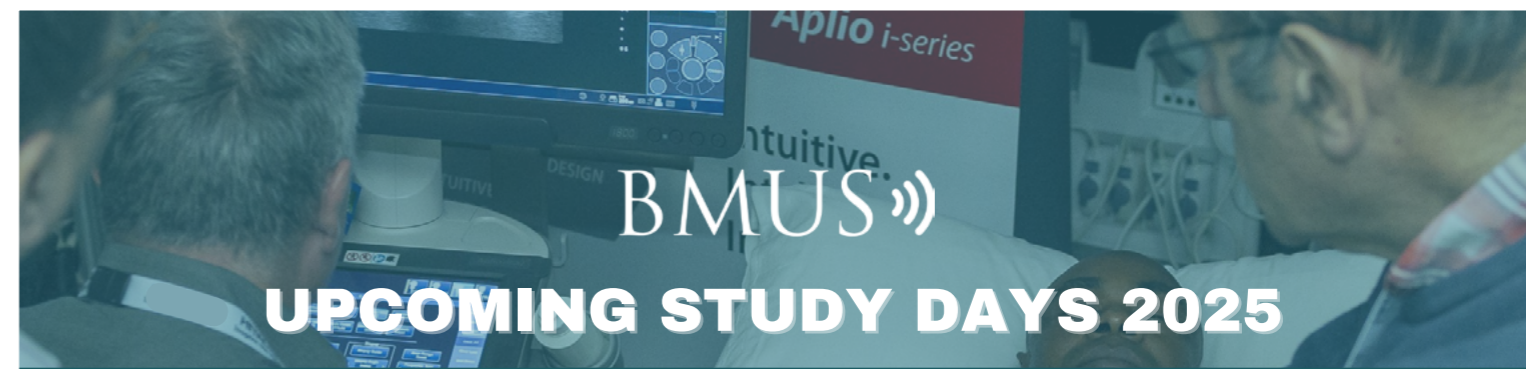
- Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust,
- The James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
- Hull University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Newham General Hospital
- Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
- The Royal London Hospital - Barts NHS Trust
- Whipps Cross Hospital
- Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
- North Cumbria Integrated Care
- Liverpool Womens Hospital



Scan the QR Code

### Endorsement can help you:

- support, encourage and retain your staff
- prepare for Care Quality Commission inspections
- prepare applications for the Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI)



5th MARCH	WEBINAR: Physics FRCR Part 1 Revision
7th MARCH	General Medical Study Day - Liverpool
TBC MARCH	LATP Biopsy and Diagnosing Prostate Cancer Study Day - Leeds
25th APRIL	Gynaecology Study Day - Glasgow Edition
10th - 11th MAY	MSK Study Day - Manchester
13th JUNE	Gynaecology Study Day - Milton Keynes Edition
25th JUNE	Students and Trainees Study Day - Milton Keynes
10th JULY	Train the Trainer Study Day - Leicester
12th SEPTEMBER	Obstetrics Study day - Glasgow
26th SEPTEMBER	Paediatrics Study Day - London
9th - 11th DECEMBER	BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting 2025

At BMUS, we run a varied programme of ultrasound study days and courses throughout the year. These courses all carry BMUS CPD points. For more info:

✉ [bookings@bmus.org](mailto:bookings@bmus.org)

🌐 [www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org)

