# News



Issue 10 February 2010



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# President's Report Julie Walton

I have now started my second year as BMUS President, and it really does not seem a year since the inauguration in Liverpool 2008. Time really does fly.

Having just finished the Euroson Conference, we have come back to the BMUS office to start full speed ahead on the Brighton 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting. Please remember that this year the meeting will take place in September rather than the well established December date. It will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and the programme will be available on BMUS website www.bmus2010.org after the Council meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2010.



Clearly, given that the meeting is earlier in the year, there will be a change in deadlines for abstract submission, early bird and normal registration dates and hotel reservations. These dates will be repeatedly publicised as the meeting approaches, but BMUS is keen to disseminate this information to all prospective delegates. You will therefore find an advertising poster in this edition of BMUS News which can be removed and displayed in your department. We would very much appreciate your support by ensuring that this advert is prominently displayed to draw attention to the September meeting. I do hope that the coverage of Euroson in this BMUS News will inspire you to come to our 2010 ASM in Brighton.

#### Council news

The 2009 BMUS AGM was held on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC.) At that time 4 members of Council came to the end of their tenure – Dr Laurence Abernethy, Dr Simon Elliott, Mrs Janette Keit and Dr Pam

## "The best BMUS for 10 years!"

There are few phrases better designed to gladden the heart of a nervous new CEO at the close of his first BMUS conference! Yet this sentiment quoted at me by a very nice but unknown delegate, has been endorsed by the findings of the last few weeks as we examined the data in the feedback forms that those members and delegates who attended the Edinburgh conference handed over to us at the close of the meeting.

Perhaps I should say right from the start that the statistics we got back show that the delegates really rated the effort the speakers and the office put in to making the event a success. I will also mention that there was plenty of constructive food for thought in planning for the Brighton ASM too. With 323 forms with almost 50 questions coming back from the 878 delegates, speakers and faculty, the sample is also statistically sound and of course random and anonymised so that people could say what they thought and not sign it if they felt they wanted to!

There is clearly too much detail for me to do more than give you some of the choice highlights in this article but I hope that the following statistics give you a flavour of what the respondents said.

84% thought the conference overall was "Good", "very Good", or "Excellent"

95% were happy with the quality of the speakers

91% were happy with the standard and quality of the Posters on display

78% felt that the conference fulfilled their educational requirements

Can YOU help BMUS access £56,000 of FREE money!?! for further details, see inside

Use our pull-out A3 BMUS Calendar to plan your year's Training - essential for all department notice boards!



## Honorary Secretary's Report Roger Moshy

A new year has begun with new challenges. Our first case of the month has just been posted on the website. Please look & pass comments to Alice

alice@bmus.org. This is an experiment which we hope

will flourish as a benefit to all our members for education and fun. I have said before, and will say again, the success of the society is down to the members.

I remind you that this year the BMUS annual scientific meeting, and therefore the AGM will be in late September. There will be at least one vacancy on council open for election, but the winner will take up his/her post in December. Constitutional changes will be required to change BMUS rules to account for the change of date of the AGM in future, thus also the tenure of officers and council members. I will be working on these over the next months in time to present the changes to council later in the year. I will keep you up to date with the new proposals, but do not expect anything more concrete till May.

Details of the election procedure will be available sooner and will be posted on the website as will all the proposals in due course.

The message is keep an eye on our website on www.bmus.org

Recently, the National Ultrasound Group of the National Screening Board issued guidelines on clinical governance for ultrasound. I advise everyone to read these and apply in your trust if you can. In our trust, are just starting the process of getting to grip with the suggestions. They will be posted on our website www.bmus.org/policies-guides/pg-clinprotocols.asp

We will be interested to see the uptake of the recommendations around the country so please inform us as to progress with them – or if not taken up we would like to know too!!

That is all from me . I saw the sun today perhaps that bodes well for our society next year... On the other hand, it has just clouded over and I am told snow is on the way......

#### Continued from page 1- CEO report

92% were happy with the standard and variety of the Exhibition stands

As many of you will know, scores like this are definitely at the top end of anyone's expectations, but there is one thing I want to make very clear, I am sure that we can do better. We will be examining in detail what the minority who didn't find the conference as good as they had hoped and taking note so that we can make Brighton 2010 more relevant to a wider spread of the BMUS audience! Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for making my first BMUS event so enjoyable (but so tiring too!)



Since I started this article with a pleasing (but probably scientifically and statistically insignificant) phrase I will also end with something along the same lines.

"there can be few learned society dinner dances where the dimmed lights are turned back up at the end of the evening and the dance-floor is *still packed* with energetic dancers".

## **BMUS Ultrasound Image Competition Winners**

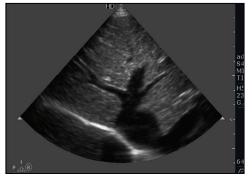
Congratulations to the following entrants, who all won a top of the range Sony digital camera, and a years subscription to Ultrasound.

TRIPLETS - Joan Maycock, Dublin
DANCING LADY- Dr G Camali, Rome
MICROBUBBLES - Raniska Tente, Edinburgh
BMUS phantom made of fridge magnets - Rizwan Patel,
Leicester

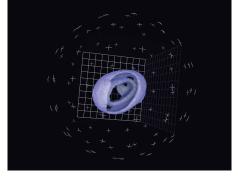
We will be re-running this competition in 2010 Go to www.bmus.org for updates



Triplets: Winner BMUS Image competition



Dancing lady: Winner BMUS Image competition



Microbubbles: Winner BMUS Image competition

#### Continued from page 1: President's report

Loughna. On behalf of the Society, I express sincere thanks to them all for all their hard work and commitment to BMUS which has been much appreciated. This necessitated a postal vote as we had 5 nominations for 4 open positions on Council. I am delighted to announce that those successfully elected were Dr Peter Hoskins (Medical Physicist, Edinburgh), Ms Sue Halson-Brown (Sonographer, Portsmouth), Dr Bob Jarman (Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Gateshead) and Prof Edward Leen (Professor in Radiology, London). They are all most welcome to the Society and we all look forward to working with them and hope that they enjoy a fruitful and rewarding time on BMUS Council.

#### **Euroson from the President's perspective**

For this February BMUS News, I have been asked to write about the recent Euroson conference from the President's perspective to give an insight of my activity, in a blog style! So here we go......

For me, the meeting started on Friday morning. No – I haven't gone completely mad, but the core BMUS team always travels to the conference a number of days before for 'the build'. When you take over a conference centre like the EICC for a big international conference, it is a basic shell and it bears no relation to how the delegates see it on their arrival. It undergoes a rapid transformation to BMUSify (new word!) the centre to receive the delegates. So, after a short hop from Manchester to Edinburgh airports the core team moved into EICC. By close Friday evening EICC was ready to receive our first guests for the additional NPoCUS part of the meeting. We then enjoyed some personal time and a number of us enjoyed a quiet dinner in the hotel restaurant, after which we were able to greet guests as they arrived in the hotel.

#### **NPoCUS Saturday**

On Saturday, BMUS welcomed delegates and Faculty from the National Point of Care Ultrasound Society to Edinburgh. There were 75 delegates and expert and internationally renowned faculty. Bob Jarman and Jim Connolly had put together a truly innovative and inspirational day of lectures and hands on sessions covering many aspects of point of care ultrasound. This first day culminated in the NPoCUS social event, which was held at Tiger Lily, where guests enjoyed a fabulous dinner and were able to party into the early hours.



The NPoCUS crew in action!

Later that day, Paul Sidhu, Kevin Martin and I addressed various European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB) committees about the progress of the conference. Euroson is a joint meeting between the host organisation, in this case BMUS, and EFSUMB. EFSUMB and BMUS were delighted with the large number of delegates who had registered in advance of the conference, and we left the meetings as confident as we could be, that the conference would be successful.

# Go even further with your BMUS membership fee

All members will be aware of the decision taken by the membership at the BMUS AGM held at the EUROSON meeting in



Edinburgh last December to put up the membership fees for 2010. As you can imagine this was not a proposed lightly, particularly as we know that everybody's wallet and purse is under pressure in these straitened times. To help us keep our costs to members as low as possible, we have looked into the government's "Gift Aid" scheme and feel sure that if you, the membership, can help us access this money **AT NO COST TO MEMBERS**, then we should be able to keep future membership rises down for longer.

Gift Aid only works for those tax paying members who pay the subscription themselves and who don't claim it back on their Annual Tax return. With 2400 members, we have estimated that even if there are only 1,000 members who fall into this category, (ie: that handed over £60 from their own pocket last year and paid tax on their salary or income) then we could claim up to 25% of the whole subscription. It gets even better... tax payers can do this for up to 5 years retrospectively!!! Thus, we have calculated the membership costs for the last 5 years for the hypothetical 1,000 and we can see a potential "free gift" to BMUS of over £50,000 from Revenue and Customs.

Somewhere in the middle of the afternoon we had a technical and stage rehearsal for the Euroson opening

ceremony and myself and the EFSUMB team had 6 practice runs until the BMUS CEO, David Roberts-Jones, pronounced us 'fit to perform'. His theatrical background came to the forefront to ensure that we had a grand opening. After David's exhaustive stage direction, we were allowed a bit of down time to relax.



Here is me and the new EFSUMB President, Christian Nolse, enjoying some this interlude.

Then it was back to the hotel for a quick 20 minute make over, then off out again to the Thieme EJU Journal dinner. We had a wonderful dinner at The Atrium restaurant. I felt very humbled to be dining with many famous faces in ultrasound from all over the world. It was a great opportunity for me to do some networking to promote our Society and its related activities to a worldwide audience. Feeling well fed and very tired, it was back to the Sheraton Hotel for an early night to get some much needed shut eye in preparation for the forthcoming 3 days of Euroson...

#### Day 1 Euroson - Sunday

The BMUS team were up at the crack of dawn and over at the EICC by 7.30 a.m. to meet our esteemed guests for the opening ceremony and to ensure that delegate registration ran effectively. Whilst we were meeting and greeting our guests and putting the final touches to the choreography for the procession of dignitaries' in the Pentland auditorium, the swirl of the Scottish bagpipes could be heard permeating the EICC from the piper in the foyer. This signified the formal start of the conference and as we say at BMUS it was now 'show time!' The piper led the procession of dignitaries into the auditorium and following welcome addresses from myself and Dr Norbert Gritzman (EFSUMB President) the conference was declared open.



Myself with Dr Norbert Gritzmann, EFSUMB outgoing President



The procession at the opening ceremony

There were nearly 900 people registered for the conference over the 3 day period—one of the best delegate registrations for our conference to date. Approximately two-third of the delegates were from the UK, but the remainder were from some 43 countries, from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan and everywhere in between. We were also delighted to welcome colleagues from both EFSUMB and WFUMB to the meeting, and thank them for their support.

The scientific programme was very ambitious, with 3 rather than the usual 2 scientific sessions as well as the integrated training sessions and the hands-on work-

shops. We were treated to fantastic lectures and hands-on sessions by expert faculty, supported by access to state of art technology.

BMUS is indebted to all sponsors and exhibitors and the atmosphere in the exhibition hall was described as 'buzzing!' I lost count of how many times people commented that the atmosphere was like 'the BMUS of old'. It was pleasing that people really seemed to be enjoying themselves.



After an exceptional first day, day one culminated in the prestigious Donald, MacVicar and Brown lecture, which was given by Professor Yves Ville of Paris. Yves is an internationally renowned obstetrician, who delivered a fantastic lecture entitled 'From ultrasound in obstetrics to obstetrical ultrasound.' We were hugely privileged to have Tom Brown as co-Chair for this lecture. It was particularly special that Tom presented the DMB medal for the first time in person to Yves. I am truly grateful to both for their input into this session.



My dear friend Mr Tom Brown with Professor Yves Ville, DMB lecturer 2010

Immediately after the DMB lecture, the day one social events commenced with the welcome drinks reception in the exhibition hall of the EICC.

This, as always, was extremely well attended and provided an opportunity for people to mingle and to see the exhibits and to enjoy a glass of wine with friends! Then we were on a coach to take us to the President's drinks reception at the Balmoral Hotel, where I played host to guests from BMUS, EFSUMB, WFUMB,

as well as some Faculty and honoured guests. This allowed us to show our visitors the best of Edinburgh at night as they were entertained overlooking the castle. Again it provided an excellent opportunity for all societies' representatives and guests to meet and exchange ideas.

After another long day, it was back to the hotel to get some much needed rest for day 2.



#### Grazia Gianna

Gianna Stanford, EFSUMB General Secretary, has retired after working for EFSUMB for 13 years (1996-2009.)

We all enjoyed working with Gianna over the years, particularly during the last 2 years as we geared up for the BMUS/EFSUMB joint Euroson meeting.

In 2008, the EFSUMB office moved into 36 Portland Place, also the home of the BMUS HQ, making it easy to pop in and exchange ideas over a coffee. We will miss your support, humour and never-ending supply of KitKats....

We would all like to wish Gianna a healthy and happy retirement.

Lynne Rudd takes over from Gianna as EFSUMB General Secretary. We look forward to working with you, Lynne.



Gianna with Dr Fabio Piscaglia, President-elect EFSUMB

**Darryl Maxwell,** Consultant in Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynaecology Ultrasound at Guy's and St Thomas Hospital, has joined the Scientific and Education committee of BMUS.

It is a priority of the Committee to augment the obstetric ultrasound education opportunities offered through BMUS.



In order to directly meet the wishes of all the membership, Darryl invites all BMUS members, particularly sonographers, to contact him on e mail or in person, with their suggestions as to seminar and study day topics, content and suggested speakers.

His contact e mail at St Thomas is Darryl.Maxwell@gstt.nhs.uk or telephone 020 7188 7905.

Please do take this chance to directly influence committee planning by sending your suggestions to Darryl as soon as possible.

#### President's report continued.

#### Day 2 Euroson - Monday

This was a more relaxed day for me, giving me the opportunity to visit the exhibition stands. It is always exciting to see new emerging technologies. The return to the more traditional format of stands seemed to be well received from both exhibitors and delegates. In the afternoon I presented the Department of Health work - 'National Minimum Standards for Medical Ultrasound' in the Professional Issues session. This work details national acceptable standards for abdominal, urology, testicular and male and female pelvis ultrasound examinations; models for audit, preceptorship and mentorship and a competence framework for assessment of first post and ongoing fitness to practise. This work is now in its final stages, and is approaching its consultative phase after which it requires final ratification by the Department of Health. Following this it will undergo a formal launch and will be freely available to the ultrasound community. I have had a number of enquiries about this work since Euroson. As soon as the document is available notification will be given on the News page on the BMUS website.

After the Professional Issues session, I was off in the late afternoon to my first Education and Professional Standards Committee meeting of EFSUMB. It is always somewhat daunting to attend a new committee particularly as the 'new kid on the block' but I thank my European colleagues for such a warm welcome.

Day 2 of our conference always plays host to the much acclaimed 'middle night', our big social event. This year was no exception, as we headed off to the céilidh in the EICC. Amazingly, their basement was transformed into a truly atmospheric sparkling setting, with starlit walls and tables dressed with a true Scottish thistle theme.

After a terrific buffet dinner, it was time to shake off some of those calories, as budding contenders for 'Strictly Come Danc-

#### **European News**

At the recent EFSUMB meeting it was announced that Dr Paul Sidhu has been appointed to the EFSUMB publications committee and Julie Walton to the Education and Professional Standards committee. BMUS wishes them both every success in these new roles.



\*\*\*\* \* \* \*\*\* Dr Kevin Martin



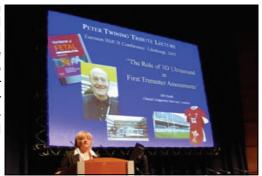
ing' took to the floor to show their expertise in Scottish dancing, with professional callers and demonstrators leading. It was great fun and thankfully there were no injuries despite some very energetic dancing in true BMUS style! Utterly worn out, it was bed time again, but this time with very sore feet!

#### Day 3 Euroson - Tuesday

The final day dawned. This was to be a manic day for me. It started with the EFSUMB Young Investigator Presentations. It is always very heartening to see young scientists and medics presenting cutting edge work in ultrasound. It was a thoroughly enjoyable session, and after much deliberation the judging panel were pleased to announce the following prize winners at the closing ceremony. All prize winners are announced later on in the Newsletter. Many congratulations to all.

The second part of my day was far more sombre, as we held a memorial event for my dear friend Dr Peter Twining, who sadly passed away suddenly in July last year. We were joined by Peter's wife Beky, his daughter Gabriella, and his father, as well as family friends to remember Peter and to celebrate his life. Bill Smith and Stephen Brookes, both good friends of Peters, as well as knowing him for many

years through the ultrasound community led the tributes. We all had time to remember Peter as 'Land of our Fathers' resounded around the auditorium.



We then moved into the obstetric ultrasound scientific session, which ended with the first Dr Peter Twining obstetric lecture which was given by Mr Bill Smith and was titled – 'The role of 3Dultrasound in first trimester assessments'. It was particularly moving that Peter's daughter, Gabriella, presented the first Twining medal to Bill.



Over lunchtime, BMUS officers and CEO attended the meeting with AXrEM which is an annual event held at the conference on the last day. It acts a debriefing session where we discuss how the event has gone.

After this meeting – it was off to Chair another Professional Issues sessions, which generated much interesting debate about advanced practice in ultrasound, banding and extended scope of practice where Sonographers described their experiences in performing amniocentesis, drainages, biopsies and HyCOSY. It is pleasing to see so many Sonographers pushing forward their professional boundaries. They should all be extremely proud.

All that was left was for me to head off to the closing ceremony, where Carmel Moran presented the poster prizes for the conference on behalf of BMUS and Hazel Edwards presented the prizes for the recent BMUS image competition. (see page 2 for a list of the winners)

After giving my vote of thanks to all those involved in the successful execution of Euroson 2009, it was time to formally hand over the 'Euroson baton' to Dr Fabio Piscaglia, President-elect of EFSUMB, with every good wish from BMUS for a successful Euroson in Copenhagen in 2010.

With the conference formally closed, it was time to pack bags and head back to Edinburgh airport. We had plenty of time to reflect on Euroson as we were subject to a four hour flight delay! We all arrived home eventually, very late and very tired.

#### Messages from colleagues

It has been very rewarding over the weeks following Euroson for BMUS to receive many messages of congratulations from all over the world. I finish my column by sharing with you just a few-

'The pleasure and honor was mine, to share a part of my 20 year research (lung ultrasound being this small part) in this part of Europe which is so near to my culture! I had highly enriching informations, and again, new friends.' Sincerely, Daniel Lichtenstein NPoCUS

#### Dear Julie,

we need to thank you for the excellent opportunity we had of attending a great conference, meeting nice people and seeing a wonderful City!' Thanks, Piero Tortoli

'It was really a honour for me to take part to the event. Thank you for the invite and for the kind hospitality in Edinburgh! Best regards' Edaordo Vicenzini

#### 'Dear Julie

It was a pleasure for me to take part in your inspiring congress and to be able to contribute to its success. I hope that you will have enjoyable and reflective days of Christmas and at the turn of the year!'

Sincerely yours, Christian Jenssen

#### Thank yous

Clearly a conference on this scale takes a huge amount of planning and organisation and so I would like to express my thanks to:

- The BMUS office team David, Alice and Rachel for their commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism in planning and delivery such a successful event.
- The members of the scientific organising committee, under the expert leadership of Dr
   David Pilling, for designing an innovative and multi-professional programme, the strength of which is reflected in the delegates numbers.
- Colleagues from EFSUMB who were hugely supportive in the planning and delivery of the programme.
- The Past President, Prof David Evans and President of EFSUMB Prof Norbert Gritzmann for their commitment and support to BMUS in making this event so successful.
- All the speakers who presented or participated in hands-on teaching sessions. Your expert input is hugely valued.
- All our sponsors and exhibitors, without whose support an event on this scale would not be possible.
- Drs Bob Jarman and Jim Connolly for their inspiration and commitment to successfully bringing NPoCUS into the meeting.
- To the BMUS operational support team –
  Kathy Ford and Janette Keit, who with the
  help of students from the Universities of
  Leeds and Liverpool, were responsible for
  stage management of the event.

I will be back in the May edition with an update on wider BMUS activities. Until then, have a great spring.

Bye for now.

Julie Walton BMUS President





The Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE) is holding a one day 'Open Forum' on Ultrasound Science + Technology

29th March 2010 at the University of Derby

This Interactive Workshop will be of interest to ultrasound practitioners, mentors and CASE accreditors who would like an up-date on scientific principles and their application in practice. We promise very limited use of formulae!

For more information please contact Michele Landau- michele L@sor.org or 020 7740 7226

Member Organisations:

British Medical Ultrasound Society, British Society of Echocardiography, College of Radiographers,

Institute of Physics & Engineering in Medicine, Royal College of Midwives, Society for Vascular Technology of Great Britain and Ireland

## Green spring clean

With spring around the corner we are doing a spring clean of member's details, in an attempt to keep the database as up-to-date as possible.

Conscious of doing our little bit for the environment, we would like email to be the choice method of communicating with you all.

We promise not to bombard you with emails. We will however, send monthly updates on items that may be of interest.

We assure you that we will not pass your email onto any third parties.

Please email office@bmus.org if you think we may not have your current email contact.



## **Competition winners**

Congratulations to all the following:

## **BMUS** poster prizes at Euroson

First prize

89. 'AAA screening – the missing dimension?' McQueen AS, Newcastle

#### Runners-up

**100.** 'An in-vitro study of air emboli characteristics using transcranial Doppler sonography and optical imaging'. *Banahan C, Leicester* 

**101.** 'Usefulness of acoustic radiation force impulse (ARFI) technology (Siemens) for the evaluation of liver stiffness.' *Sporea I*<sup>1</sup>, *Romania* 

## **BMUS** paper prizes at Euroson

#### First prize

'Ultrasonic thermography of diagnostic power ultrasound.' Liang H, Bristol

#### Runner-up

'Use of contrast enhanced ultrasound in the investigation of indeterminate focal testicular lesions: evidence of vascularity is an important diagnostic parameter'.

Lung P, London

This paper is the BMUS entry for the Young Investigator Award, Copenhagen, 2010

#### **BMUS Postgraduate Journal prize**

Long C, Leicester

## EFSUMB Prizes Poster Prize Winners

First Prize No 12 Stock KF, Munich Germany Second Prize No 92 Cantisani V, Rome Italy Third Prize No 103 Havre RH, Bergen Norway

## EFSUMB prizes Young Investigators' Award 2009

#### **Joint First Prize**

'Automated analysis of three-dimensional stress Echocardiography'. Ester Leung, The Netherlands

'Molecular imaging with ultrasound'. *M Palmowski, Germany* 

#### **CASE OF THE MONTH LAUNCHED**

We have launched our first Case of the Month on the BMUS website

To view the current case, read the clinical history, comment and give your views on diagnosis and treatment go to www.bmus.org





## **British Medical Ultrasound Society**

Beyond the Stethoscope: an introduction to using ultrasound in the assessment of a sick patient

BMUS: Point of Care Ultrasound Workshop Series Friday 16th April 2010 Kettering Conference Centre, Kettering NN15 6PB

Delegate rate: £130 + VAT (non-members £150 + VAT). This cost to include delegate bag, lunch, tea/coffee etc and the opportunity to visit over 50 trade stands.

To register call 01322 660434 or visit: www.lifeconnections.uk.com

## Advances in ultrasound technology

**REAL-TIME TISSUE ELASTOGRAPHY** 

Hitachi Medical Systems in association with Clinical Diagnostic Services

Current Developments in Real-Time Tissue Elastography– A Review of its Expanding Clinical Application

Venue: Clinical Diagnostic Services, London Date: Friday 19 March 2010

#### Programme-

- Principles of Real-Time Tissue Elastography and Scanning Techniques
- Clinical Applications of Elastography
- Practical Demonstrations/Clinical Cases

For further info about the course and for registration forms, please contact:

Mrs I. Sharp, Ultrasound Course Co-ordinator Clinical Diagnostic Educational Tel: 020 7483 1717 i.sharp@clinicaldiagnostics.co.uk





#### **BMUS looking for Focus Group members**

Some of you will know from experience that the Chief Executive of BMUS has been calling members from time to time as part of his "mystery shopper" plan to get to know more about what the average member thinks of BMUS.

With so much new jargon to learn, new policies and procedures **and** being a part-time worker as well, he is wondering if it would be possible to speed this up by recruiting willing members into a couple of focus groups? It is genuinely one of the quickest ways of getting good and genuine feedback!



Broadly speaking, most people seem to fall into one of two camps in respect of focus groups and general feedback questionnaires.... and they either hate them, or ........ they fill them in (notice I didn't say "they love them!"). The idea is to access via this newsletter those who wouldn't mind spending five or so minutes on filling out an electronic form (done in a "click, click, click" way so as to save time for those filling them in) on the BMUS website or via e-mail.

Those who agreed would be asked to send us an e-mail at the office (to office@bmus.org), saying "I consent to being in the BMUS Focus Groups!" That way those people who don't like the idea could avoid it, those people who might have a few minutes to put aside to make BMUS better informed on say, a two or three-times-a-year basis, could do so and everyone could be happy together! I think it's also fair to say that our intention is that focus group members can decide on a case-by-case basis if they are too busy to click on the responses, so you are not trapped into a commitment nor indeed will the office call you to repeatedly "chase"!

Turning now to those members who do not use the internet......Since BMUS is obsessively trying to save money to pump back into Ultrasound education and with paper and postage at the premium they are, we think that doing this on an electronic basis is the best value way to go. Nevertheless, we would be happy if those members who wanted to play a part by post sent us self-addressed envelopes so that we could get feedback on questions sent out via the newsletter from a wider group.

Clearly this is at the wishful thinking stage of planning at the moment, but if the office@bmus.org starts to fill up with positive responses, then I will take that as a sign that members are interested. Over to you!