
Downloaded from: http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/3577/

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria’s institutional repository ‘Insight’ must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria’s institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available here) for educational and not-for-profit activities provided that

• the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form

• a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work

• the content is not changed in any way

• all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

• sell any part of an item

• refer to any part of an item without citation

• amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator’s reputation

• remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found here. Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.
Title: Charting the practical dimensions of understaffing from a managerial perspective: everyday consequences of the UK’s sonographer shortage

Authorship

1. Lorelei Waring, MSc., Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.*
2. Dr. Paul K. Miller, Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.
3. Charles Sloane, MSc., Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.
4. Gareth Bolton, MSc., Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.

*Corresponding author. Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, Bowerham Road, Lancaster, Lancashire, UK. LA1 3JD. Email: lorelei.waring@cumbria.ac.uk. Tel: +44 1524 385487

Keywords

Grounded theory; Medical sociology; Qualitative research; Sonography; Ultrasound; Workplace psychology
Abstract

Background: The Society and College of Radiographers reports that, by 2014, 18.1% of UK ultrasound vacancies remained unfilled, a substantial rise from the 10.9% reported in 2011, and the 10.1% reported in 2009.\cite{1,2} Indeed by 2013, the UK government’s Migration Advisory Committee had listed sonography as an official ‘shortage specialty’.\cite{3,4} The research reported herein is designed to lend qualitative depth to our current understanding of the “coal-face” situation in the UK’s ultrasound units from the perspective of their managers.

Methods: Using a Straussian model of Grounded Theory,\cite{5,6} extended accounts provided by N=20 ultrasound department leads in public (n=17) and private (n=3) units were analysed.

Results: Three global themes emerged from the analysis. The first addresses how a lack of staff in the broader economy has created a migratory system that works chiefly to the advantage of the most junior and the most senior clinicians, often leaving mid-career professionals in a borderline impossible situation. The second highlights how the knowledge economy in many departments is being stymied by early retirement and late-career migration, rendering questions about how advanced expertise in ultrasound might be obtained and sustained by the remaining experienced clinicians. The third underscores how it is often workplace instability, rather than simple short staffing, that is most damaging to staff morale, planning capacity and clinical self-efficacy.

Conclusions: This work ideally opens up debates on some largely undiscussed practical contingencies of the sonographer shortage, and can help ground future deductive research in the real-world experience of key actors.
References.


2. Society and College of Radiographers. Developing and growing the sonographer workforce: Education and training needs. SCoR; 2009.


