

Grabrovaz, Meaghan, Miller, Paul K., Bolton, Gareth and Waring, Lorelei (2020) The future of ultrasound Advanced Clinical Practitioner education: Mapping the views of programme leads in the UK. In: United Kingdom Imaging and Oncology Congress 2020: Pathways and Communication, 1-3 June 2020, ACC, Liverpool. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/5336/>

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.

The future of ultrasound Advanced Clinical Practitioner education: Mapping the views of programme leads in the UK

Meaghan Grabrovaz, Paul K. Miller, Lorelei Waring and Gareth C. Bolton

University of Cumbria, UK

Background: The apparatus presently involved in ultrasound Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) education, at UK University Level 7, is in need of radical change to adapt to the challenges of a healthcare environment in extraordinary flux (Sloane and Miller, 2017).

These challenges are, furthermore, exacerbated by an overall shortage of sonographers that is increasingly proving to be damaging to both patient service and practitioner wellbeing, albeit in a highly uneven manner across the country (Miller et al., 2019; Waring et al., 2018). The research reported herein, funded by Health Education England, explores the views of UK ultrasound programme leads regarding the facility of current educational strategies for addressing contemporary troubles in clinical ultrasound, and the adaptations that are likely necessary to render ultrasound education in higher education fit-for-purpose in coming years.

Methods: With institutional ethical approval, semi-structured interviews were conducted with N=10 ultrasound leads in UK universities. All data were transcribed verbatim, and corollary transcripts analysed using the thematic approach described by Braun and Clarke (2008).

Results: Four Global Themes emerged from the analysis. (1) Managing students' current ability to flexibly interpret clinical guidelines for everyday practice. (2) Highlighting students' own accountability in ongoing professional development. (3) Foregrounding the importance of "soft skills" in learning. (4) Foregrounding the importance of teamwork across clinical disciplines.

Conclusion: While the participants were generally content with current *standards* of Ultrasound ACP education, they also voiced a range of extant issues, born of recent experience, that might inform future curriculum adaptations to changing healthcare contexts.

References

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2008) 'Using thematic analysis in psychology', *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), pp.77-101. doi: 10.1191/1478088706qp063oa

Miller PK, Waring L, Bolton GC and Sloane C (2019) Personnel flux and workplace anxiety: Personal and interpersonal consequences of understaffing in UK ultrasound departments. *Radiography* 25(1): 45-50.

Sloane C and Miller PK (2017) Informing radiography curriculum development: The views of UK radiology service managers concerning the 'fitness for purpose' of recent diagnostic radiography graduates. *Radiography* 23(1s): 16-22.

Waring L, Miller PK, Sloane C and Bolton GC (2018) Charting the practical dimensions of understaffing from a managerial perspective: the everyday shape of the UK's sonographer shortage. *Ultrasound* 26(4): 206-213.