

EFSUMB Newsletter meets the United Kingdom



Dr Grant Baxter

- ▶ Population: 60 million
- ▶ Area: 244,820 km²
- ▶ Capital and largest city: London (7 million)
- ▶ Area: 1,579 km²
- ▶ EFSUMB members: 2,517
- ▶ Host city for the next EUROSON Congress Edinburgh - Population 468,000

Grant Baxter was the President of British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS) from 2004 to 2006 and for the last two years he has been the delegate at EFSUMB. Interview by Professor Michael Bachmann Nielsen December 2008.

Grant is radiologist at The Western Infirmary in Glasgow; he has served the BMUS council since 1993. "I have always liked practical work, this was probably how I ended up being involved in ultrasound and guided intervention and when colour Doppler came around many years ago I started doing a lot of vascular examinations". Since that the organisation within radiology departments has changed from being modality based into being area based. "Nowadays my main work is within oncology and transplants."

BMUS - 40 years in ultrasound

Originating in 1969 as an informal ultrasound group the society took its present name in 1977 when it became affiliated with the world federation WFUMB.

BMUS is multidisciplinary and has approximately 2,500 members. Of these sonographers have the greatest number but there are also many radiologists and physicians.

The president of the society serves for 6 years: 2 year as President Elect, 2 years as President and 2 years as Past President. At the council meeting during the BMUS meeting in Liverpool in December 2008 Ms Julie Walton took over as President and the previous Honorary Secretary Colin Deane, a physicist from London, became President elect.

In the BMUS council six seats are reserved: two for medical doctors, two for physicians and two for sonographers, the rest of the seats any member can be elected. In

the current council the majority of medical doctors are radiologists. "Many clinicians tend to go to their own societies, but the BMUS is now encouraging them to come to BMUS meetings by having special topic sessions that can attract e.g., urologists, OB/GYN etc."

BMUS meetings and study days

BMUS has its annual meeting in December. In 2008 it was in Liverpool and attracted 7-800 participants and had a scientific programme with 5 parallel sessions. The next annual meeting will be in Edinburgh in December 2009 and will be held together with the EUROSON meeting.

Apart from the annual meeting BMUS have 1-day courses, called BMUS Study Days. They are held between 6 and 8 each year. The topics from recent study days have been "Essential Ultrasound for Nephrologists", "Contrast ultrasound", "DVT", "Musculoskeletal Ultrasound" and upcoming events are gynaecological as well as obstetric ultrasound. For more details please visit www.bmus.org.

Generally 60-80 people attend the BMUS Study Days but often many more. The meetings are not arranged according to the three levels of competences described in EFSUMB, instead they focus on a specific topic.

Training in ultrasound in the UK

Radiologists have their own training programme decided by the Royal College of Radiologists (www.rcr.ac.uk). "It takes 5 years to complete the training programme and after that you are eligible for consultant ship. You have to pass an exam between the 3rd and 4th year, this exam is in all imaging modalities and topics. Sonographers have their own training programme, which takes 2 years to complete.

After this some will continue with a MSc project. Also some physicists will be involved in patient examinations, mainly vascular Doppler and there are training programmes for them also".

Website and official journal

The BMUS Newsletter is electronic and available at the website. "Ultrasound" - the official BMUS journal is published quarterly. "The journal which used to be called The BMUS bulletin has now changed into being a scientific journal and we are still hoping to be approved for impact factor." It publishes a mixture of review articles, current research, and descriptions of new techniques and equipment. The Editor is Dr. Emma Chung from Leicester.

Welcome to Edinburgh - everyone is invited to wear a kilt

In December 2009 BMUS will host the EUROSON meeting for the second time in Edinburgh. "Edinburgh is a great city; it's a fantastic tourist city and has a fantastic conference centre."

The meeting starts on Sunday the 6th of December. "We hope many participants and delegates will take the opportunity to arrive early in the weekend to enjoy the historical city which is particularly beautiful in the Christmas time"

"We will do our best to make a first class programme both scientifically and socially. There will be traditional dance and dinners, and everyone is invited to wear a kilt if they want to. It is also the only change for a man to wear a skirt and look smart," Grant Baxter says with a smile.

The website for the meeting www.euroson2009.org is now online greeting you with "Fàilte gu Dùn Eideann - Welcome to Edinburgh".



Dr Grant in a kilt

Welcome to Edinburgh and Euroson 2009

Euroson 2009 will be a great opportunity to see and hear the latest in ultrasound technology, clinical applications and practice, through our programme of expert reviews, research sessions and technical exhibition. You can also enhance your practical knowledge and skills through our extended programme of hands-on workshops and training sessions. We will again be working closely with all major manufacturers to provide the latest equipment to delegates, as well as our traditional technical exhibition.

The host city, Edinburgh, is a thriving, dynamic city with every modern amenity, as well as many fine historic buildings. It has been the capital of Scotland since 1437 and is the seat of the Scottish Parliament. The Old Town and New Town districts of Edinburgh were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995 with over 4,500 listed buildings within the city.

The Edinburgh International Conference Centre, the venue for Euroson 2009, is a large, state of the art facility in the city centre close to many shops, hotels and restaurants.

The city is alive with activities and attractions throughout the entire year. It is a perfect destination for a weekend of both cultural and retail occupation. Rich in history, visitors to the city will find places to explore literally around every corner: -

Edinburgh Castle the best known and most visited tourist attraction in the Scottish capital. Visitors can also gain panoramic views over the city and the Firth of Forth. Royal apartments and the ancient Honours of Scotland - Crown, Sceptre and Sword of State - can all be viewed.

Palace of Holyroodhouse the Queen's official residence in Scotland nestles at the foot of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags. The extinct volcano is a favourite of tourists, providing views of the city and the Kingdom of Fife and East Lothian.

National Gallery the oldest of the city's five galleries, it is home to Scotland's greatest collection of European paintings and sculpture, from the Renaissance to post-impressionism.

Shopping Edinburgh is increasingly becoming a shopper's paradise; all budgets are catered for, from the high street stores on Princes Street to the more upmarket stores on the elegant George Street. The arrival of Harvey Nicholls, has cemented the city's reputation as one of the UK's best shopping cities.

Winter Wonderland in winter the city is also a special place to be as Princes Street Gardens become a Winter Wonderland. With an ice rink, German market and a big wheel, the Wonderland is one of the most popular attractions in December.

Ceilidh traditional Scottish entertainment with live music and flamboyant dancing. Come along to the conference Ceilidh and experience a Celtic party at its very best! It is a night to remember.

Numerous restaurants across the city serve traditional Scottish food, while a number of familiar chains also cater for the less-adventurous. It is often claimed that Edinburgh has more restaurants per capita than London and a brief stroll around its myriad of cobbled streets and back alleys make this a tough claim to disprove.

Please do join us in Edinburgh in December 2009 for Euroson, where you can enjoy some Scottish entertainment and be sure of a great Scottish welcome.

Website: www.euroson2009.org



Edinburgh Panorama



Pipers and Edinburgh Castle



Shopping in Princess Street



Winter Wonderland night in Edinburgh



EFSUMB Calendar

EUROSONS, EUROSON Schools and WFUMB Meetings

- ▶ 6 - 8 December 2009 - EUROSON Congress in Edinburgh, UK
- ▶ 15 May 2009 - Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound. Bucharest, Romania
- ▶ 22-23 May 2009 - Thoracic and Small Parts Ultrasound. Kosice, Slovakia
- ▶ 30 August - 3 September 2009. WFUMB Congress. Sydney, Australia
- ▶ 17-19 September 2009 - EUROSON School Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound In Liver, Biliary, Pancreatic And Gastrointestinal Disease. Bologna, Italy
- ▶ 15-18 October 2009 - EUROSON School Vascular Ultrasonography. Opatije, Croatia
- ▶ 13-14 November 2009 - EUROSON School Doppler and CEUS Ultrasound. Kosice, Slovakia
- ▶ 27-29 November 2009 - EUROSON School CEUS. Hannover, Germany
- ▶ 21-25 August 2010 - EUROSON Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark

Committee Meetings in 2009

- ▶ 21 March 2009 ExB Meeting in Palma
- ▶ 23- 24 March ECMUS Committee Meeting in France
- ▶ 19 June 2009 Education Committee Meeting in London
- ▶ 29 May 2009 Publication Committee Meeting in Lausanne