



# ACADEMY NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIONAL IMAGING ACADEMY WALES



## WELCOME

CAROLINE PARKER  
CLINICAL SYSTEMS MANAGER

I am thrilled to bring you this introduction to our latest edition. In this newsletter, we are excited to welcome and work with our new trainers.

We have received excellent feedback from the RCR regarding our recent exams, which is a testament to everyone's hard work and dedication.

Over the festive period, we had the Breast Test Wales van in our car park, and the feedback from this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive. Additionally, we recently held a successful POCUS showcase for point-of-care ultrasound, highlighting the advancements and applications in this field.

Looking back, we are proud to share that we had a poster at the RCR AI event in February, designed by Dr. Phil Wardle, Dr. Daniel Brzozowski, and myself, Caroline Parker. We were eager to share our insights and innovations with the broader community.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We hope you enjoy this edition of the NIAW Newsletter!



## GET IN THE KNOW:

### TRAINING UPDATE

2

### FRCR EXAMINATIONS

3

### TRAVELLING PROFESSOR

4-5

### POCUS SHOWCASE

6-7

### BREAST TEST WALES

8

### COURSES AND EVENTS

9-11



# TRAINING UPDATE

NIAW WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ACADEMY TRAINERS.



## DR PATRICK FIELDING

Dr Patrick Fielding is a Consultant Radiologist at the University Hospital of Wales and PETIC, serving as Clinical Director since 2010. With a focus on nuclear medicine and PET imaging, he contributes to several UK national committees, including the Nuclear Medicine Specialist Advisory Committee and the BNMS Professional Standards Committee. He also represents Wales as BNMS regional advisor. Dr Fielding is committed to advancing radionuclide radiology training, ensuring all radiologists gain a solid foundation in nuclear medicine and PET imaging, while expanding opportunities for higher-level trainees.



## DR ALEXANDER HOLBOROW

As a newly qualified Consultant Clinical Radiologist, now based in Swansea Bay UHB, Dr Holborow's career has grown from postgraduate medical training in Wales to advanced clinical radiology roles, underscored by a strong dedication to education, with a special interest in Musculoskeletal Radiology. Their teaching portfolio includes creating digital learning resources, designing comprehensive lecture series for junior colleagues, and guiding small-group sessions to enhance practical skills – with a history of creating award winning regional and national teaching programmes. He has a strong commitment to fostering the next generation's clinical proficiency via modern teaching techniques.



## DR RHYS THOMAS

Dr Rhys Thomas complete his radiology training in South Wales in 2021, specialising in musculoskeletal (MSK) imaging. Following training, he pursued advanced MSK training through Fellowships in Adelaide, South Australia, and Christchurch, New Zealand, gaining expertise in diagnostic and interventional MSK radiology. Dr Thomas worked as a Consultant Radiologist in Christchurch, contributing to both public and private healthcare sectors for one year and has now returned to Cardiff and is now practicing as an MSK Radiologist at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW), delivering specialist imaging services and interventional procedures.



# FRCR EXAMINATIONS

NATIONAL IMAGING ACADEMY WALES HAS PROUDLY SUPPORTED THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGISTS BY HOSTING AT LEAST 35 EXAMINATION SITTING ANNUALLY FOR BOTH CLINICAL ONCOLOGY AND CLINICAL RADIOLOGY SINCE 2020.



Spaces are open to all applicants, and we regularly welcome candidates from around the world, with most based in Bristol, South of England and South Wales.

Many select NIAW for its facilities as well as its convenient location. Candidates consistently praise the Academy's facilities, welcoming atmosphere, and provide positive feedback and willingness to recommend NIAW to colleagues reinforce its reputation as a RCR examination centre.

NATIONAL IMAGING ACADEMY WALES REMAINS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR EXAMINATION SUCCESS



**SOUTH WALES CLINICAL RADIOLOGY TRAINEE**

I just wanted to pass on thanks from myself and the rest of my year for running 2A for us yesterday. Everything went smoothly. Henry and Steve were cheerful and kind which put us at ease. The biggest thanks of all go to Andy of course. He ran the exam flawlessly - I don't think anyone had a single issue.

This is obviously really helpful during what is a very stressful time. We also appreciate the ability to take the exam in a familiar and close setting so thank you to all who play a part in putting it on.



**SOUTH WALES CLINICAL ONCOLOGY TRAINEE**

I have attended NIAW for training days and exams and have found it an excellent venue for both. The staff, IT set up and break out areas and have been really good.

I think it's one of the best facilities we have in South Wales and looking forward to attending future events there.



**SOUTH WALES CLINICAL ONCOLOGY TRAINEE**

I sat my clinical oncology FRCR part 2 exam in September 2022 - it was a really straight forward process. The venue was really easy to find, there were only 3 of us sitting it together at the venue but staff were extremely welcoming, they helped put us at ease. I remember lots of smiles and words of encouragement after the end of each day. It was great not to have to worry about parking, and the close proximity to Starbucks meant I was able to get my caffeine boost before the sitting!

Also, it was lovely not having to commute all the way to London, and it felt a lot more personal than previous exam experiences (perhaps as there were less of us!). It was nice not to have as many trainees all crowded around waiting to go into the exam, which I remember contributed so much to my pre-exam anxiety!





# TRAVELLING PROFESSORS

NIAW HAVE HOSTED VISITING PROFESSORS SINCE 2019 ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH WALES TRAINING SCHEME.

This year, NIAW hosted Travelling Professors Dr Rajesh Botchu, Dr John Adu and Dr Sarah McWilliams, who shared expertise and highlighted their specialties.



## DR RAJESH BOTCHU

In January 2025, Dr Rajesh Botchu delivered an engaging virtual session as part of the Travelling Professor lecture series, aimed at South Wales Radiology Trainees. Dr (Prof) Botchu, a highly respected Consultant Musculoskeletal Radiologist based at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham, shared invaluable insights on a range of topics. His lecture offered practical advice on getting involved in research, highlighting the importance of building a diverse and skilled team to ensure successful outcomes. He also provided useful tips on bone tumours, emphasising that identifying tumours often depends on factors such as the patient's age and the tumour's location.

## DR JOHN ADU

Dr John Adu, Consultant Paediatric Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist at St George's Hospital, impressed South Wales Radiology Trainees with a series of paediatric-focused lectures. Renowned as an enthusiastic and knowledgeable trainer, Dr Adu's session offered valuable insights into paediatric plain films, trauma guidelines, and abdominal emergencies. His interactive teaching style, including practical techniques for reviewing X-rays and identifying subtle signs like "angles" and "crinkles," left a lasting impression. The session underscored the importance of paediatric radiology as a vital subspecialty and inspired trainees to deepen their expertise.





# TRAVELLING PROFESSORS

NIAW HAVE HOSTED VISITING PROFESSORS SINCE 2019 ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH WALES TRAINING SCHEME.

## DR SARAH MCWILLIAMS

In March, Dr Sarah McWilliams, Consultant Breast Radiologist at St George's Hospital, delivered an insightful breast radiology session. A leader in global education and research, and Principal Investigator for the FAST MRI trial, Dr McWilliams covered topics like contrast-enhanced mammography, breast implants, and biopsy techniques. Trainees valued the hands-on biopsy practice and refresher on breast pathology, with highlights including subtle mammogram signs, implant appearances, and recognising that even innocuous lesions can be malignant.



## UPCOMING TRAVELLING PROFESSOR SESSIONS

17TH JUNE 2025

DR MOHIT AGARWAL

Head and Neck Imaging



19TH JUNE 2025

DR LALANI CARLTON JONES  
& DR HELEN CLIFFE

Neuroradiology



Travelling Professor lectures are open to all imaging professionals across NHS Wales with an interest in advancing their knowledge and expertise.

To register or find out more, scan the QR code or get in touch with the NIAW Administration Team.







# POCUS SHOWCASE: LOOKING BACK

On January 21st and 22nd National Imaging Academy Wales hosted a POCUS (Point of Care Ultrasound) Showcase Event. This event brought together leading industry sponsors, including Butterfly, Canon, Celtic SMR, eSaote, Fujifilm Healthcare, Fujifilm Sonosite, GE Healthcare, Mindray, MIS, and Philips. Each sponsor showcased a variety of POCUS machines, providing NHS staff with hands-on interactions and opportunities for in-depth discussions. The event supports NHS professionals in making well-informed procurement decisions, ensuring they are acquainted with the most effective and innovative ultrasound technology available.

The recent POCUS Showcase event proved to be a valuable experience for attendees, with largely positive feedback highlighting its usefulness.

The venue and facilities received strong approval, with the majority of attendees rating them highly, alongside similarly positive feedback for the refreshments provided. Overall, the event was considered worthwhile and many attendees appreciated the opportunity to engage with exhibitors and explore new and existing equipment, with most finding the showcase to be highly effective in facilitating these demonstrations.

Encouragingly, a majority of attendees expressed interest in attending future showcase events, reinforcing the value of these gatherings. The organisers are grateful for the insightful feedback and will take these suggestions into consideration to ensure future events are even more engaging and beneficial for all participants.



JOANNE SEWELL - NWSSP

This showcase event offered valuable insights into the latest technological advancements whilst demonstrating innovative applications in POCUS.

It provided networking opportunities for suppliers and professionals, fostered collaboration, and enhanced understanding of ultrasound's role in diagnostics and treatment, all within the amazing National Imaging Academy! We look forward to the next event.





# POCUS SHOWCASE: LOOKING BACK

NATIONAL IMAGING ACADEMY WALES WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL EXHIBITORS WHO  
ATTENDED THE EVENT:



BUTTERFLY



CANON



CELTIC SMR



ESAOTE



FUJIFILM  
HEALTHCARE



FUJIFILM  
SONOSITE



GE  
HEALTHCARE



MINDRAY



MIS  
HEALTHCARE



PHILIPS





# BREAST TEST WALES MOBILE UNIT AT NIAW

National Imaging Academy Wales provided a parking space to Breast Test Wales Mobile Testing Van during December 2024 and January 2025. The mobile unit is often situated at Sainsbury's, Bridgend, but due to the Christmas period and increase in shoppers they needed to find an alternative location and NIAW was happy to oblige.



● Attended ● DNA ● Rearranged ● Persistent DNA



The mobile unit was operational for 14 days whilst situated at NIAW and during this period 821 women were invited for breast screening appointments. 46% of women attended their appointments, 23% of women rearranged, 22% of women did not attend their appointment (DNA) and 9% of women are persistent non-attenders and have never attended following invitation.

“NON LAWRENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH WALES

From a service perspective we are grateful to have been able to park at NIAW at such short notice. As yet accurate figures of screening participants recalled for further assessment cannot be given but working on expected figures, of the 378 screened 23 screening participants will have been recalled for further imaging and of those, 4 will have cancers diagnosed. I hope the presence of the mobile didn't cause too much inconvenience for everyone working or visiting NIAW and thank you again for allowing us to be there.





# NIAW AGORED COURSES

## ADULT PERIPHERAL VENOUS CANNULATION COURSE

The Agored Cymru Level 3 Adult Peripheral Venous Cannulation course, (pilot course on 17th September 2024) has been designed to provide Radiology Clinical Support Workers with the necessary skills and knowledge for performing adult peripheral venous cannulation for NHS clinical services. This important training has been led by NIAW to address a need, shared by Radiology Departments at the NHS Wales Imaging Workforce and Education Group due to bottlenecks in other training provision. This short course provides the knowledge and supervised simulation practice to attain competence needed to safely insert intravenous cannulas. These cannulas enable access to the peripheral venous system for diagnostic investigations (such as injection of intravenous contrast in CT examinations) or treatments (such as intravenous hydration therapy and antibiotics).

The primary aim of the course was to ensure that delegates gained a solid understanding of adult peripheral venous cannulation within the framework of legal guidelines, their own scope of practice, and local protocols. By the end of the session, participants were expected to demonstrate safe and effective practice in this essential clinical procedure.

### COLLABORATIVE EFFORT IN COURSE ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

The course was organised by Patricia Mathias-Lloyd and Teresa Davies-Elin from HEIW (Health Education Improvement Wales), alongside Mair Davidson and Lea Owen from NIAW. The training was delivered by two of NIAW's trainers, Dr Alison Yates (Consultant Radiologist, CTMUHB) and Dr Christopher Williams (Consultant Radiologist, ABUHB). Seven delegates attended the course, receiving in-depth instruction in both theoretical knowledge and practical clinical skills.



### POSITIVE FEEDBACK AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Feedback from the delegates was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of attendees finding the course engaging and interactive. All participants agreed that the session was pitched at the appropriate level for their professional needs. Given the success of this pilot, the course is currently under review for further development to enhance the experience for future cohorts (there is already a waiting list!). It has been great that this collaboration between NIAW and HEIW have been able to respond so quickly to a current service need with training that is formally recognised.





# UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS

## COURSE/EVENT NAME

EM Image Interpretation Course  
FAMUS & FUSIC - Abdominal/Renal Course  
FAMUS & FUSIC - Lung Course  
Ultrasound Guided Vascular Access Course  
FUSIC Heart Course  
Ultrasound Guided Vascular Access Course  
FRCR IIB Revision Course  
FAMUS & FUSIC - Abdominal/Renal Course  
FAMUS & FUSIC - Lung Course

## DATE

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (AM)  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (PM)  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (AM)  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (PM)

## FRCR IIB REVISION COURSE

The NIAW FRCR course is being updated to reflect recent changes introduced by the RCR to the FRCR 2b exam format. These include replacing Rapid Reporting with Short Case Reporting, which focuses on plain radiograph interpretation and management steps, and introducing a standardized Viva Examination with domain-based marking.

Our June and September courses will align with these updates to support trainees in their preparation.

REGISTER FOR THE FRCR IIB  
REVISION COURSE HERE







# UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS

## NATIONAL IMAGING PROGRAMME ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

Continuing the tradition of celebrating World Radiography Day, the National Imaging Programme is delighted to announce the return of its annual conference. Once again, the event will be held at the National Imaging Academy Wales and promises to inspire with this year's theme: Shaping the Future and Transforming Imaging in Wales through Innovation and Research.

The 2024 conference received overwhelmingly positive feedback from delegates, with 100% of respondents expressing their eagerness to attend future events. The National Imaging Programme Annual Conference will take place on **FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2025**.

Registrations will open soon, with further announcements shared via our newsletter and social media channels.

# NATIONAL IMAGING PROGRAMME ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

*Shaping the Future: Transforming Imaging in  
Wales through Innovation and Research*

## SAVE THE DATE

National Imaging Academy Wales  
Friday 7th November 2025



Academi Ddelweddu  
Genedlaethol Cymru  
National Imaging  
Academy Wales



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Rhaglen Delweddu  
Genedlaethol  
National Imaging  
Programme



Academi Ddelweddu  
Genedlaethol Cymru  
National Imaging  
Academy Wales



GIG  
CYMRU  
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