



ACADEMY NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIONAL IMAGING ACADEMY WALES



WELCOME

MAIR DAVIDSON
QUALITY MANAGER

I'm excited to introduce the latest edition of the National Imaging Academy Wales (NIAW) Newsletter. Inside, you'll find updates on what's been happening across the Academy and a glimpse of the exciting plans we have for the rest of 2025.

We begin with a look back at our Medical Student Teaching Day, where Cardiff University students joined us for an immersive introduction to Radiology and hands-on learning with our faculty. We also share the results of our fun word cloud project exploring stereotypes about radiology, and how a day of interactive teaching helped shift perceptions.

In August, we welcomed our new Radiology Residents at induction and celebrated colleagues completing training at NIAW and receiving their CCTs, congratulations and best wishes to all. We also highlight our expanding ultrasound training programme for student sonographers, plus details of upcoming courses and events.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING THIS EDITION OF THE
NIAW NEWSLETTER!



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MEDICAL STUDENT DAY

NIAW WAS DELIGHTED TO HOST A MEDICAL TEACHING DAY IN APRIL 2025 FOR CARDIFF UNIVERSITY MEDICAL STUDENTS.

The aim of the day was to provide students with an insight into radiology as a specialty. This included how best to utilise the Radiology department within a hospital setting (an essential skill for any future practising clinician) and an introduction to image interpretation.

Dr Nathan Hariharan, a ST1 resident on the South Wales Radiology Training Scheme, led the teaching day. Nathan collaborated closely with Cardiff University Medical Imaging Society representatives, Nimra Asim and Abbas Bilal, to coordinate the event and ensure it met the students' needs and expectations. The faculty included fellow residents from the South Wales Radiology Training Scheme: Dr Anastasia Constantinou, Dr Jack Sheppard, Dr Ai-Shern Tan, Dr Arsh Waris, alongside Dr Hariharan .

Throughout the day, students benefited from a series of engaging sessions designed to provide a real-world understanding of Radiology's role within clinical practice. Dr Constantinou and Dr Sheppard delivered a session focusing on interpreting chest X-rays using structured approaches and practical examples. Dr Tan led an Abdomen/Musculoskeletal X-ray session, covering fracture identification and normal anatomy understanding. Dr Waris's session on CT head scans dealt with recognising common intracranial pathologies, while Dr Hariharan's CT Body session focused on navigating CT examinations and recognising common abnormalities.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Students rated their understanding of the Radiology department before and after the teaching day and many students reported significant improvements in their understanding. Among those with limited knowledge, 78% progressed to "Moderately well," and 22% to "Very well." For those with a basic understanding, 53% improved to "Moderately well," and 41% to "Very well." Of those already at "Moderately well," 33% advanced to "Very well." Notably, 100% of attendees recommended the teaching day, and 83% believed similar days should be included in medical school curricula.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING MORE MEDICAL STUDENTS TO THE IMAGING ACADEMY IN THE FUTURE, INCLUDING THOSE FROM OTHER MEDICAL SCHOOLS, AS WE CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE VITAL ROLE OF RADIOLOGY WITHIN HEALTHCARE.



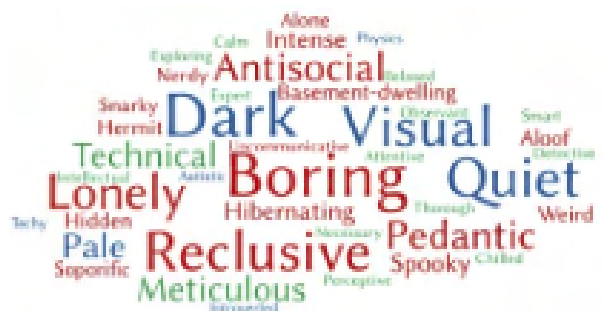


SPECIALITY STEREOTYPES

CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES: NIAW EXPLORED HOW FOCUSED RADIOLOGY TRAINING CAN SHIFT MEDICAL STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS FROM ISOLATION TO IMPACT.

NIAW frequently does searches of literature and other relevant information to help steer and inform future developments at the Academy. The Academy team found a study titled "Specialty Stereotypes Held by Medical Students", by Harriet Hunter (2018). This explored the stereotypes medical students hold about various specialties – including Surgery, Psychiatry, General Practice, Cardiology, Paediatrics, Radiology, Anaesthetics, Pathology, and A&E. The study used word clouds to visualise the adjectives students associated with each field.

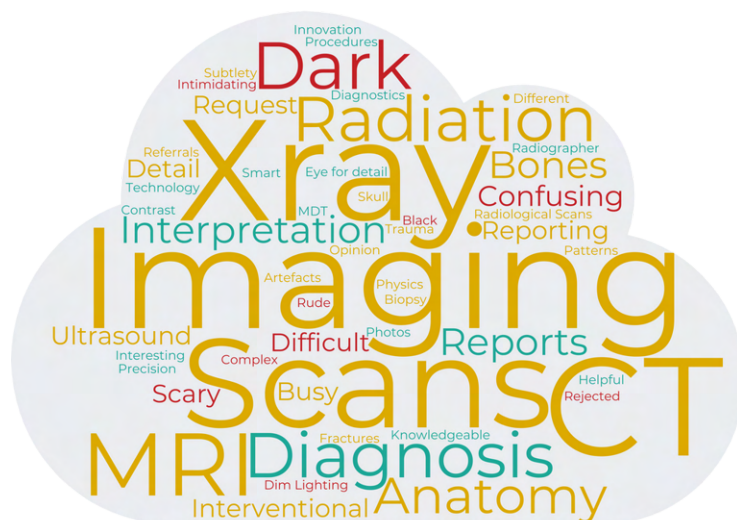
Focusing on Radiology, students often described radiologists as "isolated" and "sedentary," reinforcing a persistent stereotype of the specialty as having limited patient contact and a more solitary working style. The study suggested that these stereotypes might influence career choices, potentially deterring students from considering Radiology despite its ever increasing role in diagnostics. It also highlighted that such perceptions may stem from limited exposure to Radiologists during training and the reinforcement of stereotypes through jokes and media portrayals.



HUNTER, 2018

NIAW explored this further during its registration and feedback process. All students were asked to list the first three words that came to mind when they thought of Radiology – both before and after the study day. We were curious to see whether a dedicated day of Radiology training with Radiology Residents would shift perceptions from the negative associations suggested by the study findings towards a more positive view.

In our word clouds, negative words appear in red, neutral words in yellow, and positive words in green. The size of each word reflects how frequently it was mentioned.



BEFORE STUDY DAY
NIAW, 2025



AFTER STUDY DAY
NIAW, 2025



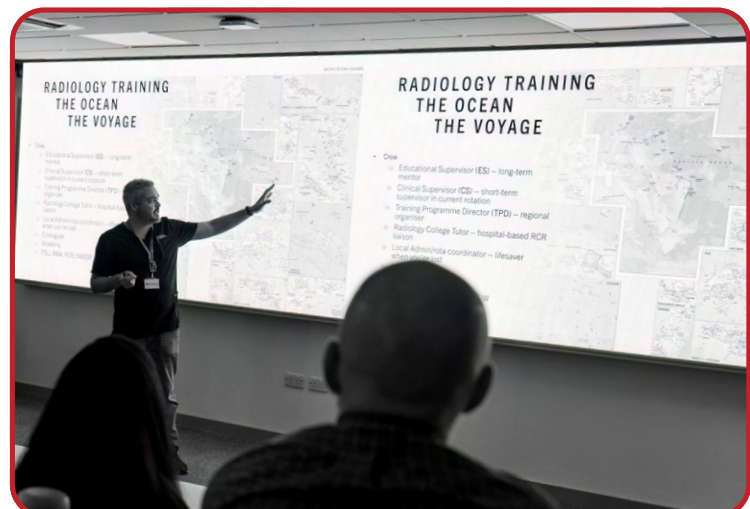
TRAINING UPDATES

WARM WELCOMES

This August, the Academy welcomed 17 new residents to the South Wales Radiology Training Scheme. Among them are two residents who have joined at ST3 level and 15 residents beginning their training as ST1s, forming the eighth cohort of residents at NIAW.

The new starters took part in a two-day induction programme held at the Academy. The induction included introductions to the Academy Team, the Training Programme Directors, and the HEIW speciality training team. The induction also featured contributions from current residents, who shared their experiences of training at the Academy, spoke about their individual training journeys, and provided practical advice on making the most of the programme.

The induction programme is an important first step in preparing the residents for their training and supporting their integration into the scheme, ensuring they are well informed about both the academic and professional expectations of their residency.





TRAINING UPDATES

FOND FAREWELLS

This summer, 11 residents successfully achieved their Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and concluded their time on the South Wales Training Scheme.

As part of the completion process, exit interviews are being undertaken. Feedback to date has included positive reflections on the Academy and the wider training experience in South Wales:

“Overall, I have had a positive experience through my radiology training in South Wales and am incredibly grateful for the time and efforts that have been invested in me by many highly skilled clinicians over the past few years. As well as receiving excellent training, I have met excellent people whom I will maintain friendships and working collaborations with.

CCT RESIDENT, 2025

“I would like to express my sincere thanks to the inspiring consultants, academy staff, and fellow trainees who have made my training in South Wales such a rewarding experience. I'm especially grateful for the genuine interest shown in my development, and for those who went out of their way to support me in reaching my full potential and achieving my CCT.

CCT RESIDENT, 2025

“I enjoyed the training scheme and we were lucky to have the brand new academy and all the teaching which gave me time to focus on exams and gain a good clinical knowledge. Thank you for all the teaching and training

CCT RESIDENT, 2025

WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TO THESE RESIDENTS AS THEY MOVE INTO THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR CAREERS AND LOOK FORWARD TO MAINTAINING CONNECTIONS WITH THEM IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

JULIA KENNEDY



In recent months, we have bid farewell to our respected Sonographer trainer, Julia Kennedy. Julia has been integral to our Ultrasound Training since August 2020. Her contributions have been invaluable, as evidenced by the consistently positive feedback from trainees over the years. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and wish her all the best in her new position as Superintendent Radiographer within CTMUHB.



CLINICAL ULTRASOUND TRAINING AT NATIONAL IMAGING ACADEMY WALES

We are delighted to share that NIAW has recently been able to provide dedicated Clinical Ultrasound training sessions for registered student Sonographers from across Wales. These sessions are open to students from all professional backgrounds and are designed to give them valuable, hands-on experience in a supportive learning environment.

The scan lists are drawn from CTMUHB patients who are already on normal waiting lists, ensuring that students are able to gain real clinical exposure while patients continue to receive the care they need. Each student is paired with a NIAW Sonographer for a one-to-one training session, giving them the opportunity to develop their skills under expert guidance. We are very pleased to say that this training opportunity has been taken up by all University Health Boards in Wales, reflecting the strong demand for such practical, high-quality learning experience.



Training sessions are tailored to meet the specific requirements of each student. This may include examinations of the upper abdomen, urinary system, or pelvic ultrasound, including transvaginal scans. At present, we are unable to offer obstetric ultrasound training on patients at NIAW, but we are continually reviewing and developing our services aiming to meet current and future need.



LOOKING AHEAD, OUR AMBITION IS TO MAKE THESE CLINICAL TRAINING SESSIONS MORE FREQUENT, REGULAR, AND PERMANENT AS OUR STAFFING LEVELS GROW AND RESOURCES EXPAND. WE BELIEVE THIS INITIATIVE WILL NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN THE SKILLS OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF SONOGRAPHERS BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES ACROSS WALES.



UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS

COURSE/EVENT NAME

FAMUS & FUSIC PoCUS Course
Gynaecological Imaging Event
National Imaging Programme Annual Conference
Ultrasound Guided Vascular Access Course
Image Interpretation Course

DATE

Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th October 2025
Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd October 2025
Friday 7th November 2025
Monday 17th November 2025
Thursday 11th December 2025

GYNAECOLOGICAL IMAGING EVENT

Hosted by National Imaging Academy Wales in Partnership with NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

This conference will:

- Introduce a varied line up of speakers including:
Dr Helen Howson, Chief Executive of the Bevan Commission
Dr Alan Treharne, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Hywel Dda UHB
Sage Ellis, GP Registrar, Aneurin Bevan UHB
- Explore diverse applications of ultrasound in gynaecological imaging
- Include a small supplier exhibition, refreshments and lunch, providing networking opportunities throughout

 **Join us for free**

 **National Imaging Academy Wales,
Pencoed, Business Park, CF35 5HY**

 **Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd
October 2025**

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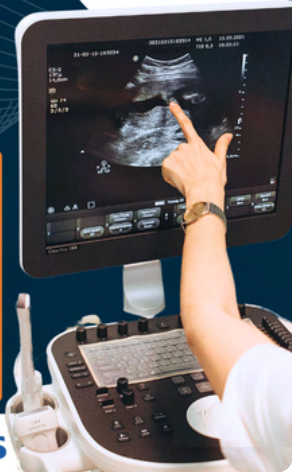
SIEMENS

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OR
CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER



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BY
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IF COURSE REGISTRATIONS ARE NOT OPEN AND YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN ATTENDING AN ACADEMY COURSE, PLEASE
COMPLETE THE INTEREST FORM

THIS WILL PLACE YOU ON A COMMUNICATION LIST AND YOU
WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL AS SOON AS DATES AND CONFIRMED
AND REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING WORLD RADIOGRAPHY DAY



NATIONAL IMAGING PROGRAMME ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

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



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National Imaging
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DR STEVE CROSS
KEY NOTE ADDRESS

This year's conference will include:

- A diverse line-up of speakers, including a keynote address from Dr Steve Cross, presenting on *"Let's get Imaging Out: What can imaging professionals do to bring research to the public eye?"*
- Opportunities to connect and collaborate, with a small exhibition showcasing a diverse range of suppliers, alongside breakfast, refreshments, and a hot buffet lunch. All designed to support networking with colleagues from across Wales.
- Insightful updates on national and regional initiatives



Date

Friday 7th November



Location

**Pencoed Business Park,
Bridgend, CF35 5HY**



Join us for free

Please be aware that availability is limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please use QR code to secure your place.

REGISTER HERE





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