

For Immediate Release

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A Celebration of Ultrasound



[L-R: Dr Stephen Davies (President, BIR), Julie Walton (Outgoing President, BMUS), and Dr Colin Deane (Incoming President, BMUS)]

A Celebration of Ultrasound was a well attended three day event jointly organised by The British Institute of Radiology (BIR) and the British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS) and was held at the BIR headquarters in Portland Place on 13-15 December 2010.

Dr Stephen Davies (President, BIR) commented: "The BIR welcomed the opportunity to join the British Medical Ultrasound Society in the development and hosting of this event. This has been a successful collaboration. "

The journey marked the centenary of the birth of Professor Ian Donald, who pioneered the use of diagnostic ultrasound in medicine. In 1958, Ian Donald, John MacVicar and Tom Brown published in *The Lancet* the paper that transformed maternity care: 'Investigation of Abdominal Masses by Pulsed Ultrasound'. The celebration explored the extraordinary subsequent advances in medical, diagnostic and industrial ultrasound throughout the decades.

Tom Brown launched the celebration by taking delegates right back to the beginning of ultrasound where he and John MacVicar worked in conjunction with Professor Donald. The day also featured speakers talking about the use of ultrasound in the most unusual places such as Antarctica, the zoo and the battlefield.

Bob Jarman (Queen Elizabeth Hospital), who spoke about the latest technology, commented “Ultrasound at the patient’s bedside will be the new electronic stethoscope”.

Derek Adrian-Harris (University of Portsmouth) introduced the audience to the role of F.A.S.T (Focused Abdominal Sonography in Trauma). He commented on the day “It is inspiring that regardless of specialism, ultrasound has a major impact on patient management”.



[Professor Kypros Nicolaides (Fetal Medicine Foundation)]

Day two was a full scientific meeting under the chairmanship of Darryl Maxwell of Guys and St Thomas’ Hospital. Highlights of the day included world renowned Professor Kypros Nicolaides (Fetal Medicine Foundation), who spoke about *A Pyramid of Care* and Dr Helena Gardiner (Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust), who discussed *What are our Targets in Screening for CHD?*



[St Mary's Bryanston Square Primary School]



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Day three was a real climax to the celebration as seventy children from St Mary's Bryanston Square Primary joined Philip Rose (Scitech) and Dr Kevin Martin (BMUS Past President) as they explored the history of ultrasound. They even had the opportunity to scan unusual objects such as grapes and chocolate bars using equipment kindly loaned by Philips.

Throughout the celebration delegates had the opportunity to visit the interactive exhibition with fantastic stands from CAE, ISUOG, Philips, Zonare, About Health Professionals and GE. In the historical section of the exhibition delegates had the opportunity to view the original Bed Table Scanner as put together by Tom Brown and Ian Donald back in 1957 which had been specially brought down from Hunterian Museum for the event.

To find out more about the BIR please visit www.bir.org.uk and to find out more about BMUS please visit www.bmus.org.

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Notes to Editors:

The British Institute of Radiology (BIR) is an independent member-based charity bringing together all the professions in radiology and allied medical and scientific disciplines to share knowledge and educate the public, thereby improving prevention and detection of disease and management and treatment of patients. The BIR is the oldest radiological society in the world. The origins of the BIR can be traced back to a first meeting held in 1897 to form "The X-ray Society".

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The British Medical Ultrasound Society is a multi-disciplinary body whose objectives are:

- The advancement of the science and technology of ultrasonics as applied to medicine.
- The maintenance of the highest standards in these fields
- The advancement of education and research in these areas, and dissemination of the results.
- The provision of advice and information regarding ultrasound to the public at large.

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