

# Ultrasound training and accreditation

**Peter Corr**

*MBChB, FFRAD(D)SA, FRCR,  
M Med(UCT)*

*Department of Radiology,  
University of Natal*

Ultrasound has become the fastest growing modality in radiology internationally over the last few years. It is no wonder considering the rapid advances in transducer and computer technology. With these improvements new applications are being found on a monthly basis.

Colour and power Doppler are now standard on most units. Endovascular and endoscopic transducers are still very expensive but the price will drop as technology improves. Three dimensional scanning will be available in a few years.

The big question is who should perform ultrasound examinations? The answer is clear - the sonologist who can perform an accurate diagnostic study after adequate training. Ultrasound has never been the sole domain of the radiologist. To believe otherwise is wishful thinking. The largest user group in this country is the general practitioner.

There is an urgent need to provide adequate training and accreditation for ultrasound practitioners. A national ultrasound society to enhance standards and provide skills training is required. Such societies exist throughout the western world. Why not South Africa? A national ultrasound diploma for medical practitioners and specialists recognised by the medical council would be a big step forward.

**The Editor**