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## Rheumatology Ultrasound Training Programme

### Lucy's Background

Following years of interest in Rheumatology Ultrasound and a few trials at meetings, I started using the Sonosite, used for placing central lines, to guide joint injections. I enjoyed it, found it useful and patients valued it.

So in 2011 I developed a business case to acquire an ultrasound machine for the department. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful until NES advertised funding for SAS doctors to undergo training projects with position backfill in 2013. Meanwhile, as the Scottish Rheumatology Ultrasound Group were developing a training programme with mentored sessions, I had the perfect opportunity to train for an approved qualification and have funding to allow extra hours for others to fill the gap in my absence. My Health Board approved the business case on that basis and I began training in 2014 on a two-year course, practising all day with my mentor in Edinburgh one day a month.

### Training and Teaching

Since that initial CASE-accredited course, I have gone on to successfully complete the EULAR Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and then Teaching qualifications in Rheumatology Ultrasound, plus ESUMB level 1. I also mentor other Doctors/AHPs and others at the annual SRUG meeting with hands-on training.

I have now trained our Rheumatology Podiatrist, then my former Consultant Rheumatologist colleague and then my Associate Specialist Colleague - the latter two both with NES funding too.

Now all Rheumatologists in Dumfries scan, and two do GCA scanning too. I take a portable machine to a distant clinic, ensuring equitable access for patients across the region.

### Benefits to Patients and Service

Without hesitation, I can say that this has been the most enjoyable and fulfilling thing I have achieved in my career. It has made an enormous difference to my assessment and management of my Patients, saving time and money, as this is a “point-of-care” investigation. Patients love it and I am very grateful to NES for the opportunity to up-skill in something so valuable to me, my colleagues, and the patients of Dumfries and Galloway.

