

### Royal United Hospital chooses SonoSite

The Royal United Hospital in Bath has a range of SonoSite point-of-care ultrasound systems for use in various departments, in both diagnostic and treatment guidance roles. Dr Mike Coupe, a consultant anaesthetist at the hospital, explained the benefits of having the different systems: "When we first introduced a regional anaesthesia service last year, we looked at various hand-carried ultrasound devices. SonoSite's systems offered the best balance between image resolution and ease of use, giving good image quality while still being intuitive for new users. We have an S-Nerve™ tool for use in theatre and the chronic pain clinic, and this instrument is used almost exclusively for peripheral nerve blocks. The focused design is a real advantage for needle guidance, allowing you to obtain a clear image very quickly."



Dr Mike Coupe

"By contrast, we have an M-Turbo® system for use in intensive care, where ultrasound is used for various diagnostic applications, such as abdominal and thoracic scans. Both systems are very reliable, so I would not say we have tested SonoSite's customer service to the limit, but we receive a good level of support and training. Our SonoSite representative has always been available if we've needed help or guidance."

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### Anaesthetist receives top award for work on world's largest charity hospital ship

A British Anaesthetist who has volunteered in Africa more than 20 times in the last 18 years has received a top honour from The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland.

The 'Pask Certificate' named after Professor E A Pask, has been awarded to Scottish-born Dr Keith Thomson, a consultant anaesthetist at the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust, in recognition of his volunteer work with the international charity Mercy Ships.



Speaking about the award, Dr Thomson said, "I am truly honoured to receive this award, especially as it has been given to me by my peers. The charity Mercy Ships has been in my blood since the first time I volunteered for one of their ships in 1991 and I honestly believe it's the best medical charity anyone could support."

"Working on board as part of an international team of volunteer medics is hugely exciting but the most rewarding aspect is seeing the patients after surgery and realising that their lives have literally changed overnight. Their surgeries aren't just operations – they give them back the hope and a chance to lead a normal life. Often our patients are outcasts in their communities because of their physical deformities but after surgery they are once again accepted into their families."

"My experiences with Mercy Ships have been the most rewarding of my life and I would encourage everyone who is considering volunteering to look at Mercy Ships."

Judy Polkinhorn, Executive Director of Mercy Ships UK, said, "I would like to congratulate Keith on behalf of everyone at Mercy Ships and on behalf of the thousands of patients he has helped treat over the years. Keith is a truly remarkable man whose enthusiasm for Mercy Ships, his fellow volunteers and most importantly the patients, has never wavered over the years."

"His work on board is so highly thought of by the rest of the medical volunteers that there are surgeons who phone up to check when Keith will be there as they want to work alongside him in the operating theatre."

"Without the dedication and hard work of volunteers like Keith, Mercy Ships simply couldn't help the people of Africa and we are eternally grateful for their commitment and support."

Dr Keith Thomson is an international board member and Vice-Chairman of Mercy Ships UK. He is married with two children and has been an anaesthetist for 30 years. He lives in Ascot in Berkshire but is originally from Dundee.

