

## Online Education, an actuality

**Radu Badea**

“Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj Napoca, Romania

Ultrasound education is nowadays a matter of strict necessity given the continued development of technology, equipment diversification, and increasing number of applications. The efficacy of professional learning structures is obvious, taking into account the importance of the operator and the equipment in clinical practice. Education in ultrasonography has many levels: from elementary, now considered to be the one of a medical student (see the initiative of Professor Richard Hoppmann - Medicine Univ. of South Carolina, USA published in *Crit Ultrasound J* 2011;3:1-12), to the level of the clinical specialist resident and finally to the continuous medical training one. Each stage requires competent teaching personnel, a well-developed curriculum and constant content updates. The tools for providing information are, in turn, varied: courses, demonstrative practice stages, direct practice on patients or individual study. Regardless of the level of competence (we mainly refer to clinical practitioners) a permanent connection with the training center must be available and information on events that are centered on or related to ultrasonography must be provided on a regular basis. All of the above are arguments in favor of the development and expansion of educational activities through the Internet.

The Romanian Association for the Study of Clinical Ultrasonography (ARSUS <http://www.arsus.ro>) in collaboration with the “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine



and Pharmacy’s Training Center in Cluj-Napoca has developed a multimedia platform named “Ultrasonografia.ro” (<http://www.ultrasonografia.ro>). It is an instrument for transmitting relevant information focused on the clinical applications of ultrasound. Information presented will be diverse: from courses and workshops held by ARSUS academic staff, to clinical case presentations, handbooks for practitioners, important events, etc. A key element of this platform is dynamic information. Presenting videos related to blood flows, movements of organs, tissue compliance or contrast agent penetration is the very definition of this platform, which serves to highlight the dynamic nature (“real time”) of ultrasound imaging. Interactivity is another key element provided by “Ultrasonografia.ro”. It is extremely important for doctors to have the possibility to ask experts questions and for them to be able to command materials of direct in-

Received Accepted  
Med Ultrason

2014, Vol. 16, No 2, 186-187

Corresponding author: Radu Badea

Department of Ultrasonography,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Medical Clinic, Gastroenterology  
and Hepatology Institute,  
“Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine  
and Pharmacy,  
19-21 Croitorilor str  
400494 Cluj Napoca, Romania  
E-mail: [rbadea@umfcluj.ro](mailto:rbadea@umfcluj.ro)

terest. Such tools and mechanisms speed up the flow of information and clearly improve the process of learning. Finally, all teaching staff will be subject to the rigors of online dissemination of information that, when lacking quality, will bring direct harm to the platform by losing its vote of confidence from the users.

Our project is in its inception stage and will develop through later versions. The concept is not novel; similar products exist worldwide (see for example [www.sonoworld.com](http://www.sonoworld.com)). However, the fact that it is addressed to

Romanian speaking doctors already makes it original. Think of “Ultrasonografia.ro” as a logical and mandatory development of mature training centers such as ARSUS and CECUS, educational centers of Cluj’s medical university.

We invite you to visit [www.ultrasonografia.ro](http://www.ultrasonografia.ro). We look forward to your opinions, criticisms and suggestions with regard to the idea, layout and content. These will all add to the knowledge of those who practice ultrasound!