

Chief Executive Officer
Richard Evans OBE



CoR
THE COLLEGE OF
RADIOGRAPHERS

**MINUTES OF THE MAGNETIC RESONANCE ADVISORY GROUP (MRAG) HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF
RADIOGRAPHERS, 207 PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT:

Stephen Boynes {SB}
Carolyn Costigan {CC}
Darren Hudson {DH}
Denise Newsom {DN}
Rakesh Puni {RP}
Jacqueline Pursey {JP}
Darren Walls {DW}
Rachel Watt {RW}
Chris Wright {CW} {Chair}

IN ATTENDANCE:

Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}
Clare Leeson {CL} {P&E Admin}
Alex Lipton {AL}

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made, but especially for the benefit of new members Darren Hudson and Denise Newsome.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsten Farrell-Savage, Jill McKenna and Prasad Vadday.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2017, were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

- 3.1 MRI Planning Installation (Guidance) – minute 6.7

RW informed the group that the first teleconference been held and the working party has been set up to produce guidance on scanners.

3.2 MR Safety Week – minute 6.8

AL informed the group that this event went very well with postings on social media and an article in Synergy News

3.3 Profile of Group – Update and Next Steps – minute 9.1.2

AL informed the group that the BAMRR autumn edition of their newsletter printed an article relating to this group and its work. The BAMRR edition also highlights the role of the radiographer in MR leaflet published by MRAG last year.

- 3.3.1 There was discussion around methods of raising the profile of the group particularly using social media and also discussion as to whether the MR web pages could be more dynamic. AL will speak to Deasons re a twitter handle for MRAG and will review the web pages.

ACTION: AL

- 3.3.2 New members were asked to send in their profile and photo to VA for uploading to the webpage.

ACTION: ALL

4. **UPDATE ON WORK FOR NEW MEMBERS**

- 4.1 AL gave an update of ongoing work by this group and encouraged any new member who wished to get involved with any of the projects to please let her know.

- Workplan - The workplan for the group will be reviewed and finalised by the end of December 2017 **ACTION AL**
- MR Safety Document – This is an annual piece of work to review and update if necessary – updates are required this year and AL would like to complete this work Spring 2018
- New members were advised to look through the Safety Publication and let AL know if there are further areas requiring update
- PCUK – The clinical consensus for mp MRI Prostate is still in draft but likely to be published early in 2018. AL anticipates that the group may be involved in any impact assessment work following publication.

5. **REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

- 5.1 IPEM– AL updated the group. The latest meeting was around the MR Safety Update Day which took place on November 14th.

- 5.1.2 BIR MR SIG – To note that there are no updated minutes at the moment from the educational programme. They are looking at a joint day with IPEM for next year to run an advanced physics day.

- 5.1.3 MRSE – The work is progressing well. IPEM is supportive of considering being the accreditation body. Details are not yet finalised, and the WP has discussed grandfathering; panel of assessors is looking for radiographers to assess the competencies. AL suggested that the whole of MRAG should participate and will re-post the competencies onto synapse, the next meeting is forthcoming and AL would welcome an MRAG member attending if they wish.
- 5.1.4 eLfh MR safety module WP– AL gave an update. The last meeting was cancelled. Currently funding of the project is not finalised. Geoff Charles-Edwards and group will carry on developing the modules. Scotland is happy to implement this once ready as the whole project developed from the work of Barbara Nugent with funding from NES. AL will keep the group updated via synapse and group input will be required once the work starts on the content of the modules.

ACTION: AL

- 5.1.5 BAMRR Report – RW provided the following report:
- Membership is doing well and continuing to grow
 - A very rewarding BAMRR Introductory course was run on 11th/12th November at NCSEM Loughborough
 - A 'Further MRI Course' for more specialised techniques is planned for 10th March 2018 in London
 - BAMRR held a successful session at UKRC in Manchester Central Convention Complex on Wednesday 14th June 2017
 - Work is already underway for next year's BAMRR session at UKRC The ACC & Exhibition Centre, Liverpool from 2-4 July 2018
Please see UKRC website for more information <http://www.ukrc.org.uk>
 - 34th Annual BAMRR Conference was held on Saturday 7th October 2017 at the Golden Jubilee Hotel and Conference Centre in Glasgow, where delegates were also treated to an educational session on the Friday night.

Work is already underway for next year's 35th Annual conference in Nottingham. Please see BAMRR website for more details - <http://www.bamrr.org>

RW was thanked for her report.

6. UPDATE ON mpMRI WORK AND CLINICAL CONSENSUS

- 6.1 DW gave an update.
JP and DW attended the clinical consensus panel meeting on 16th June 2017. The meeting was a mix of consultants, radiologists, urologists, radiographers and physicists. It was a very interesting experience with some discussion on accreditation, QA, who can request etc. Following discussion JP and DW were asked to share the protocol. AL will upload to synapse the final publication and consensus documents when available.

ACTION: JP & DW AL

7. REPORT FROM DIAG

- 7.1 RP gave an update to the group informing them that the first meeting of this new advisory group (Diagnostic Imaging advisory Group) was held on 26th April 2017. The group went through the terms and conditions. This is a large group with representation from every modality. A very good meeting and two assistant practitioners will be recruited to join. Amongst the items discussed was an update on advanced apprenticeships scope of practice. One of the aims of DIAG is to produce one advisory document every year.

The next meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 28th November 2017.

8. GD DEPOSITION

- 8.1 JP had raised this as an item as patients and the public are picking up on the issue around whether gadolinium based contrast agents will cause them any harm from Gd deposition. There was discussion around what radiographers should be saying when questioned by patients. AL reported that at the IPEM MR Safety Update Dr Nigel Hoggard who sits on PRAC presented on GD deposition and the position remains that there is not enough evidence to show any detrimental clinical outcomes from GD deposition albeit some papers emerging.

To note that the decision on whether to uphold the PRAC recommendations on suspension of certain agents by the European Council has been delayed.

To note that SoR/MRAG will work with MHRA regarding dissemination of information should the EC uphold the PRAC recommendations?

- 8.1.1 Following discussion the group felt it prudent to wait until announcements are made before drafting any statement /guidance. To note that the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) has withdrawn their IV standards. It was felt that the radiographer as prior to any administration of CA should have conversations with the patients and if possible have a leaflet to give them to read, this group can draft something they think is suitable.

ACTION: AL to draft a script/statement ideally a joint statement with the RCR and other organisations once the EC decision has been announced.

9. GD BREASTFEEDING

- 9.1 AL reported that she has had some conversations with a radiographer who is also a member of the UK breastfeeding network regarding the advice given to stop breastfeeding following Gd, it appears that there are variations in practice. The group felt that contrast manufacturers guidelines should be adhered to particularly regarding the current situation with GD CA.

AL will take this to the BIR MR Safety meeting in 2018 and also will report back to the radiographer.

ACTION: AL

10. TRANSDERMAL PATCHES

- 10.1 AL reported that she had been approached by a pharmacist who was questioning the need to remove medicinal patches (without any metal components) as they were doubtful regarding the risk of heating. Members of the group were aware of papers to support this and agreed to share with AL. AL will report back to the pharmacist.

ACTION: ***AL & GROUP***

11. NHSi SAFETY IN MR

- 11.1 AL informed the group that she has had discussions with NHSi regarding the safety of patients in MR Scanners (and CT) related to removal by the remote function. NHSi would like to work with us on some guidance and following discussion it was agreed that the pause and check materials could be adapted to include specific advice and that this should also be inserted into the next update of the safety guidance. The overwhelming consensus of the group was that the remote function should not routinely be used for removal of patients.

ACTION: ***AL***

12. PAUSE AND CHECK FOR REFERRERS

- 12.1 AL updated the group and presented the pause and check leaflet for IRMER Referrers published recently; the group considered whether there was a need for a separate leaflet for MR referrers. The consensus was that this wasn't required, however, they wondered if the IRMER one could somehow reflect MR referral criteria. AL agreed to discuss with colleagues.

ACTION\: ***AL***

13. WORKPLAN FOR GROUP

- 13.1 AL will make updates and upload to Synapse for action this is also required for the CBoT.

ACTION: ***AL***

14. UPDATED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

- 14.1 AL updated the group on the progress of this document informing them that she will take it to the College Board of Trustees and the College Council for final sign off in spring 2018.

ACTION: ***AL***

15. MR REPORTING

- 15.1 There was a discussion around MR reporting radiographers, how many reporting radiographers there are in the UK. Group members were tasked with sourcing information. It was agreed that this should be a recurring item on the agenda along with other areas of advanced practice

ACTION: ***ALL***

16. THE ROLE OF ASSISTANT PRACTITIONERS IN MRI

- 16.1 AL gave an overview of this work for new members, informing them that the Scope of Practice of Assistant Practitioners was first published in 2003 and is now due for an update. MRAG have been tasked to feed into this work with a report on the role of APs in MRI. This subject invokes much discussion and varying opinions and it was agreed that AL would speak with SJ regarding the format and deadline of the report. AL asked the group to upload any comments, information they have to Synapse as everyone input is needed for this.

ACTION: AL & GROUP

17. VETERINARY MR

- 17.1 AL informed the group that she had a query from a radiographer who was concerned about safety and governance in veterinary MR and following discussion it was agreed that she should be asked to write a paper highlighting their concerns to be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: AL

18. MR SIMULATORS

- 18.1 There was a request from an HEI around MR Simulators. A discussion followed and it doesn't appear that there are any available for practical use. It was agreed that AL would contact Maryann Hardy or Philip Cosson in regard to this query. She will keep the group updated.

ACTION: AL

19. BLANKET POLICIES

- 19.1 AL informed the group that blanket scanning policies were presented at the IPEM Safety Update Day. AL was disappointed with the presentation which appeared to show a lack of knowledge amongst MR radiographers; it seems that the evidence for this was gathered via a quick survey; and that this work is to be extended via a further survey. The group agreed that we should have insight of the 1st survey and input into the 2nd survey. AL to contact the Chair of this working party.

ACTION: AL

20. ROLE OF CHAIR

- 20.1 The Chair spoke to the group about becoming Chair when his time is up. Something for everyone to think about. To note the current Chair will continue as Chair for the 2018 meetings.

ACTION: ALL

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 21.1. Following a query from DW, AL agreed to share with him our position statement on NM and CT.

***ACTION:** AL*

22. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 22.1 The dates of future meetings have been agreed as:

- Wednesday 18th April 2018
- Wednesday 21st November 2018