**Brachytherapy Radiographers Forum**

**Rationale**

Brachytherapy is a small specialised area within radiotherapy with approximately 3% of radiotherapy patients receiving brachytherapy (The Royal College of Radiologists 2007: *The Role and Development of Brachytherapy Services in the United Kingdom*). Recent developments in brachytherapy include much more widespread use of prostate seed brachytherapy (low dose rate) and a decline in head and neck brachytherapy. Also we have seen a decreasing availability of new low dose rate remote afterloading systems and sources and LDR iridium wire leading to greater use of high dose rate brachytherapy systems. In many UK centres this has led to an increase in therapy radiographer involvement in brachytherapy service provision.

In each radiotherapy centre there are usually very few brachytherapy radiographers and their roles can vary widely between centres. This can leave brachytherapy radiographers feeling quite isolated in their specialised roles. This forum aims to allow radiographers to provide support and share clinical expertise and experience to benefit both service provision and role development.

The Brachytherapy Radiographers Forum aims include:

* To support and contribute to the development of best practice in brachytherapy.
* To lead improvement and development of the highest standards in brachytherapy services, through sharing of clinical expertise and experience and continuing education.

**Forthcoming meetings:**

Wednesday 19th June 2013, SCoR headquarters, London

Time and venue to be confirmed nearer to the event.

**Contacts:**

Co-Chair: Pauline Humphrey

Email: [Pauline.humphrey@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:Pauline.humphrey@uhbristol.nhs.uk)

Co-Chair: Glenda Logsdail

Email: [Glenda.Logsdail@ngh.nhs.uk](mailto:Glenda.Logsdail@ngh.nhs.uk)

**Constitution of the Brachytherapy Radiographers Forum**

1. **Introduction**
   1. The Brachytherapy Radiographers Forum is intended to facilitate the professional development of those healthcare professionals who are involved, or wish to be involved in provision of brachytherapy services.
   2. The group provides a means for such healthcare professionals to meet and exchange ideas and information.
   3. At a meeting in July 2007 it was agreed to arrange meetings of a special interest group on a regular basis. Those present agreed that such a group would enable to provision of advice and support to those radiographers already working in brachytherapy or those interested in becoming involved in brachytherapy. At a meeting in June 1010 it was agreed to formalise the group with a constitution and terms of reference.
2. **Aims and Objectives**
   1. To support and contribute to the development of standards of best practice for those involved in providing brachytherapy services. To be reviewed annually.
   2. To act as a source of expert knowledge for members of The Society of radiographers and for all members of the multi-disciplinary team.
   3. To develop advisory information to be supplied in the form of publications and study days/seminars to other members of the profession.
   4. To seek private sponsorship for the provision of study days/seminars.
   5. To lead and drive the development and improvement of highest standards in brachytherapy.
3. **Terms of Reference**

**Meetings**

3.11 Meetings are open to those currently providing brachytherapy services and those planning to become involved in brachytherapy.

3.1.2 Those defined by 3.11 above, attending any meeting of the group represent the working membership at that meeting.

3.1.3 Education providers and representatives of brachytherapy manufacturer may be invited to attend meetings.

3.1.4 The forum will meet at least once per year. Date for next meeting to be arranged at the end of each meeting.

3.13 Small working parties may be constituted as necessary for dedicated projects.

**3.2 Membership**

3.2.1 Membership will be open to all radiotherapy radiographers actively involved in or wishing to be involved in delivery of brachytherapy services.

3.2.2 An officer representing the Society and College of Radiographers shall be available by prior arrangement to give advice and attend meetings as necessary.

3.2.3 The criteria for membership of the group will be reviewed annually.

3.2.4 Membership of the Brachytherapy radiographers Forum will be free.

3.2.5 The group will be self-funding. Individual members will be expected to cover their own expenses and to contribute as appropriate to group projects.

3.2.6 The special interest group, in recognition of the importance of close collaboration, will keep the Council of the Society of Radiographers and the Board of Trustees of the College of Radiographers informed of their activities.

3.2.7 The forum will keep notes of meetings and produce an annual report and annual work plan for the benefit of members of the forum.