



**MINUTES OF THE MAGNETIC RESONANCE ADVISORY GROUP (MRAG) HELD ON
17TH SEPTEMBER 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT: Kirsten Farrell-Savage {KFS}
Lynn Graham {LG}
Baljit Jagpal {BJ}
Jenny Jones {JJ}
Rakesh Puni {RP}
Jacqueline Pursey {JP}
Prasad Vadday {PV}
Darren Walls {DW}
Rachel Watt {RW}

IN ATTENDANCE: Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}
Alex Lipton {AL}

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Jenny Jones chaired the meeting today as this is Lynn Graham's last meeting attendance.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made, for the benefit of new members Jacqueline Pursey, Prasad Vadday and Darren Walls. She also gave background to the group for the benefit of the new members.
- 1.3 LG was thanked for her time on the group and for the hard work she has done. The Chair went on to explain the new working of the group and future meetings start time was discussed. As there is so much to be discussed at the meetings it was agreed that instead of the usual time of 1.00pm it will start at the earlier time of 11.00am. VA will send a message through Synapse to alert the other members of the group who was absent today.

ACTION: VA

- 1.4 Apologies for absence were received from Steve Boynes, Carolyn Costigan, Janine Sparkes and Chris Wright.
- 1.5 AL gave an overview of the MRAG Synapse page advising the members how to use it; what they can use it for and how to navigate around it.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th March 2015, were approved as a true and accurate record. The Chair made a requested that VA issue an 'Action's Log' which is to be sent off before the minutes.

ACTION: VA

3. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

3.1 Presentation: setting up a UK MRI Safety Course (*minute 5.1*)

AL gave feedback to the group on her update with Barbara Nugent. AL thanked her for her presentation at the last MRAG meeting and she has agreed to keep the group updated on her project. AL mentioned that there is an MR safety module on the e-learning for health platform and agreed to investigate its content further. AL to report back in the next meeting.

ACTION: AL

3.2 Courses 2015 (*minute 8.1*)

AL apologised to the group regarding the message given at the last meeting in connection with money in the MRAG budget. The money in the budget is actually for group members to attend meetings on behalf of SCoR when professional officers cannot attend. It is not to attend/support other courses.

3.3 Update on MR Research Project (*minute 13.1*)

AL gave an update on the MR Research Project to say that Frank de Vocht had resubmitted the proposal following feedback from the MRC at its first application and to note that it has been resubmitted this month to the Medical Research Council (MRC).

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

4.1 The Chair outlined the duties of a Chair and Vice Chair for this group. Following discussion it was agreed that VA will send a message through Synapse to ask for volunteers for these two posts, to include those who were not present at the meeting today.

It was agreed that should no volunteers emerge that names would be drawn for these roles – appointment is on a yearly term.

ACTION: VA

5. REVIEW OF ‘SAFETY IN MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING’ – UPDATE AND FURTHER COMMENTS

5.1 AL updated the group on the progress of this document and thanked those members who has already sent in comments but would appreciate any comments from the new members. The draft needs to be ready for end of December 2015. AL also asked for 3 volunteers to work with her on completing this document. DW BJ and RW volunteered and there will be a teleconference in November. Assistance will also be sought from the wider group if necessary. AL will do a Doodle poll of dates, which VA will set up in the first instance.

ACTION: ALL

6. BAMRR REPORT

6.1 JS was unable to attend the meeting but RW updated the group with a brief report.

- Membership is up and continuing to grow
- The BAMRR introductory courses held on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th April 2015 was very successful
- The BAMRR session at UKRC in Liverpool on Tuesday 30th June 2015 was well attended
- The 32nd annual BAMRR conference is being held in London on Saturday 3rd October 2015 and there are still places available. So anyone who is interested can still register.

7. MR SAFETY EXPERT – COMMENTS

7.1 AL updated the group on the progress of this work so far. The MR safety expert role is one that now could also be undertaken by a suitably qualified radiographer. The paper presented to the meeting was around how such a role should be accredited and an initial exploration as to who should accredit.

The working party had agreed upon a portfolio submission as their preferred method of gathering evidence for accreditation. The group had a discussion and AL agreed to feedback the salient discussion points to the working party - For update at the next meeting

ACTION: AL

8. NICE GUIDANCE – Comments from the group

8.1 AL thanked those members who had sent in comments and AL will complete and return to RH by end of business tomorrow. There followed a viewing of the consultants for comments from the rest of the group. Some useful comments were recorded and AL will forward to RH for submission tomorrow.

ACTION: AL

9. THE ROLE OF THE RADIOGRAPHER IN MRI – Draft for group comments

9.1 AL informed the group that this guidance is aimed at employers and the public and group discussion followed. This guidance will be shown to the Patient and Public Liaison Group (PPLG). Final sign off is hoped to be achieved by Thursday 24th September 2015.

Following discussion it was felt that the role of MR within cancer pathways should be highlighted. The group suggested which further clinical applications should be included. AL will work on amending this, and then put on MRAG Synapse for further comments.

ACTION: AL

10. REPORTS FROM BIR MEETINGS – INCLUDING UPDATE ON EUPAD

- 10.1 Nothing to report at present as AL was unable to attend the last meeting, but will be going to the upcoming one next week and will give an update at next meeting.

ACTION: AL

- 10.2 AL gave an update on the EUPAD.

11. MRAG WORK PLAN 2015-2016

- 11.1 AL informed the group that the workplan for 2016 is huge and there is a need to promote the group and its work. Group members were encouraged to put articles, news, and anything of interest forward for consideration into one of our publications. The Group's home page also needs updating urgently and again the group were encouraged to populate.

A discussion took place as to areas for inclusion into the workplan and the following were suggested.

- Guidance on MR scanning within RT units
- Statement regarding PET MR units (similar to the recently published statement on PET CT) joint work with NMAG
- Guidance for veterinary units
- Completion of the safety document
- Contribute to the guidance to assist implementation of the EUPAD

ACTION: ALL

12. ISAS STANDARD REVIEW – Comments from the group

- 12.1 AL gave an update on the ISAS Standard Second Review which is now due for renewal and invited comments from the group. Kathy Slack is overseeing the 2nd review and has posed some questions to which answers are needed from the group. Any and all comments back to AL. The questions and appropriate documentation will be posted on Synapse for the group to review comments by mid November please.

ACTION: ALL

13. JOINT STATEMENT WITH NMAG re PET MR (PET CT statement available)

- 13.1 It was noted that this joint statement is now on the workplan timetable. AL asked for volunteers to work on drafting a statement. DW, KFS and JJ will liaise with the NMAG group.

ACTION: AL DW, KFS & JJ

14. ANNUAL REPORT TO NOTE

- 14.1 The annual report for MRAG was noted.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 15.1 AL updated the group on the work of the Clinical Imaging Board regarding a forthcoming survey of the MR equipment in the NHS and discussion followed. The group was asked to let AL know what questions they would like to see in the MR survey. All comments should be sent back to AL by the end of September 2015. LG will forward a therapy contact to AL.

ACTION: ALL

- 15.2 AL asked the group for their thoughts on hearing aids and safety as she had a question from a member. It appeared that many units are now using some form of compression to alleviate patient discomfort and the group felt that this may be considered for inclusion into the safety document. PV is writing an article for Synergy and will give a statement to AL to be considered for inclusion into the document.

ACTION: PV

- 15.3 To note that the IPEM MR Safety Day is being held in November 2015.

- 15.4 The safety of Gadolinium based contrast agents were discussed following the publication about long term gadolinium accumulation in the brain and AL queried whether any departments had changed their protocol following this publication. It was agreed that AL would upload the article to Synapse for group to have a look at, with the potential for an article into Synergy.

ACTION: ALL

- 15.5 PROMIS trial – AL reported that Prostate Cancer UK had been in contact with SCoR regarding the rollout of a trial using MRI instead of TRUS in determining patients suitable for biopsy- they are seeking views on the impact of rolling out this trial nationally. General discussions took place around current MR Imaging of the prostate.

AL will post details on synapse for the group to further comment on.

ACTION: AL

16. DATES OF 2016 MEETINGS

- 16.1 The dates of meetings for 2016 were agreed as:

- Wednesday 13th April 2016
- Wednesday 23rd November 2016

The meetings will commence at the earlier time of 11.00am.