

Meeting Summary

Date: Tuesday 23rd November 2021

Time: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Venue:

Virtual Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Members: (state names with initials in brackets)	Role	Job Title	Site
Catriona Hynes (CH)	Chair	Lecturer	Sheffield Hallam University (D)
Katie Thompson (KT)	UK Council Member	UK Council Member	The Great Western Hospital, Swindon
Matthew Anderson (MA)	Advisory	Sonographer	Medway Maritime Hospital
Nicola Davidson (ND)	Advisory	Sonographer	Alexandra Hospital, Redditch
Michelle Davies (MD)	Advisory	Sonographer	Morrison Hospital, Swansea
Ellen Dyer (ED)	Advisory	Sonographer	Rosie Maternity Hospital, Cambridge
Catherine Lee (CL)	Advisory	Sonographer	Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Wonford
Anna Madar (AM)	Advisory	Radiographer	Canterbury University
Melanie McColgan (MC)	Advisory	Lead Sonographer	Altnagelvin Area Hospital
Kim Ngu (KN)	Advisory	Sonographer	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
Ruth Reeve (RR)	Advisory	Sonographer	Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth
Emily Skelton (ES)	Advisory	Research Sonographer	St Thomas's Hospital, London
Joanna Southey (JS)	Advisory	Sonographer	New Cross Hospital
Lorelei Waring (LW1)	Advisory	Lecturer	University of Cumbria (Lancaster Campus)
Lynne Williams (LW)	Advisory	National Ultrasound Lead	InHealth

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Observers:			
Gill Harrison (GH)	Professional Officer	Professional Officer for ultrasound	SCoR
Valerie Asemah (VA)	Minutes		SCoR
Hazel Edwards (HE)	BMUS in place of CK	Professional Officer	BMUS

Apologies:			
Victoria Cooke (VC)	Advisory	Sonographer	Freeman Hospital
Catherine Kirkpatrick (CK)	BMUS Liaison	BMUS Liaison	BMUS
Lynne Williams (LW)	Advisory	National Ultrasound Lead	InHealth

Review of Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions:

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
6.1	Chair Report: CH will make a start on drafting the annual report.	CH		Completed
6.2	Workplan: Following discussion on the workplan GH asked the group to think of any projects they would like to undertake over the next year, to support members and let her know. A tentative list was drawn up.	All		Completed
9.	Webinars for 2021-2022 – GH asked the group for ideas for a webinar, ones they thought would be beneficial for members. Please get back to her within a week.	All		Completed
10.	MUAM – Group to think of activities and articles for the upcoming MUAM week.	All		Completed
12.3	GH to send out an invitation for an interim meeting (Wednesday 6 th October 2021) to commence at 3pm	GH		Completed

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting and went through the housekeeping rules for clarity.
- 1.2 Roundtable introductions were made for the benefit of the new members: Nicola Davidson, Michelle Davies, Catherine Lee, Anna Madar, Melanie McColgan, Kim Ngu, Ruth Reeve and Joanna Southey.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence received from Victoria Cooke, Catherine Kirkpatrick and Lynne Williams.
- 1.3 Prior to the meeting CH asked the group for a list of ‘3 things’ that they were worried or had concerns about. These were then divided into themes. Themes included workload, staff well-being, recruitment, retention and burnout, workforce and the impact of UAG. Workforce development issues included the limited number of trainees, accreditation and regulation. Some of these issues feed into the group workplan. VA to send this paper out with the minutes.

ACTION: VA

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 2.1 GH reminded the UAG that their role is to advise the Society of Radiographers UK Council on ultrasound issues and to make sure that the Professional Officer (GH) is informed of what is going on in practice. The workplan will be based on projects that the group want to work on and take forward and everyone has something to work on. As a relatively small group CH reminded the group that members must make a sustained effort to work together to make improvements to sonographers’ working practices and in turn patient care. HE mentioned the recent BMUS survey and thanked everyone who took the time to take part.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. INFORMATION FOR NOTING

4.1 The items below are just for noting. Papers were sent out prior to the meeting.

- **Consultation** (paper B) is just for information on consultations and response rates from the group and it is important we get sonographers' views.
- **Key member questions/issues** [Paper C] – a document was shared with information about the common issues raised by members in the past 6 months. Key issues included partners not wearing face coverings, videoing sonographers, and fetal sexing queries. The poster that was developed for departments, relating to safety in obstetric ultrasound has been used by a number of departments, and is very popular. Reminder to Datix report any verbal, physical or social media abuse. GH is working with the trade union and industrial relations team to determine the legality of taking photographs/videos of staff.
- **Poster competition** – Out of eight submissions, two winners were chosen and notified, and will be published in Synergy News, hopefully the December issue.
- **HCPC renewal December 2021** – HCPC renewal will take place in December 2021. The SoR advice about sonographers retaining HCPC registration, if they are eligible, has been published on the website. There are limitations to practice without statutory regulation; these include aspects of advanced/consultant practice roles, referral for examinations using ionising radiation, independent prescribing and using patient group directions (PGD). GH asked the group to encourage other sonographer colleagues to re-register.

5. PUBLICATIONS

5.1 There quite a few publications since our last meeting and are listed below:

- [Clinical Academic Radiographer: guidance for the support of new and established roles.](#)
- [Artificial intelligence: Guidance for clinical imaging and therapeutic radiography workforce professionals](#)
- [NHS Obstetric Ultrasound Examinations: Guidance on Sale of Images, Fetal Sexing, Commercial Considerations and Requests to Record.](#)
- [SCoR helps consumer guide Which? to bust the myths around obstetrics scans](#)
- **#MUAM 2021**
 - [Sonographers and patients co-produce obstetric scan 'etiquette' statement](#)

- [A week in the life of a PhD GI sonographer](#)
- [Time to celebrate the work of sonographers - and design a poster!](#)
- [Study to investigate all women's experiences of pregnancy scanning](#)
- [Ellen Dyer: My Research #MUAM2021](#)

6. SoR REPRESENTATION ON WORKING GROUPS & REPORT BACK TO UAG

- 6.1 NHS Supply Chain, Transducer Decontamination: MA informed the group that he had a meeting the NHS Supply Chain in May. MA highlighted concerns around the use of Tristel wipes and fumes. The concerns were acknowledged.

A group discussion followed on the best way to use tristel wipes and all concerns should be taken to your health and safety representative.

- 6.2 [UKHSA \(PHE\) Ultrasound gel](#) – The UKHSA document is now published and an associated patient safety alert was released the following day.
- 6.3 Screening Committees – There is nothing to update since the last meeting.
- 6.4 DIAG – CH informed the group that she had not attended the recent meeting but in previous meetings, they were having had discussions similar to the ones in this group.
- 6.5 EW informed the group of the 'iFind Group', which is an AI tool to assist with fetal screening, and gave a brief overview. Link to the article is here: <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pd.6059>

7. KEY ISSUES

- 7.1 The key issues identified were wellbeing; burnout, workforce development and registration (see 1.3).

8. ONGOING WORK

- 8.1 Independent prescribing for radiographers – GH gave an update on the ongoing collaboration with the SoR and RCR for a change in legislation for diagnostic radiographers. KT said that the outlook this time looks more positive and the radiologist are supportive.
- 8.2 Sonographer regulation: The SoR sent a [letter](#) –to Sajid Javid asking him to consider sonographer regulation. Co-signatories included 3 Royal colleges (RCR, RCOG and the RCM), BMUS, CASE, the CoR Patient Advisory Group and others. GH mentioned the [Clinical Harm Review report](#) on a company called ‘Best Care’ in the South East. Following discussion about overseas recruitment, HE will share a document with the group showing examples of how we can cross match qualifications. SoR has a document also has information: [Ultrasound Training, Employment, Registration and Professional Indemnity Insurance](#).

ACTION: HE

- 8.3 Health Education England (HEE) sonographer task and finish group was discussed. A working group was set up a while ago looking at developing a sonography career framework, increasing clinical placement capacity and regulation. Another task and finish group has been set up consisting of organisations including SoR, BMUS, SVT, BSE.
- 8.4 As part of the task & finish group work the HEE microsite is being reviewed. Any suggestions for changes to the [HEE microsite](#)? Deadline for responses is before the next meeting, which is on January 2021, so, if anyone can feedback any ideas to improve the microsite to either GH or HE by the end of the year, it would be great.
- 8.5 Career framework **[paper D]** – GH updated the group on the [career framework](#) around how sonographers can progress in their career. Current work includes writing the preceptorship and capability development framework, reviewing where the funding for Clinical Ultrasound Training Academies (CLUSTAs) has been spent and working with HEE to ensure that outcomes/impact can be reviewed e.g., how many additional clinical placements have been secured with the funding and the impact on number of sonographers exiting courses.
- 8.6 SoR and BMUS guidelines – A rewrite was started in January and is still ongoing with a massive effort from UAG members & BMUS Professional Standards Group. The document will be published in December. BMUS ASM starts on Monday and they would like to promote the document. GH thanked CK and HE for their support and patience.

- 8.8 AXREM – purchasing used equipment – GH informed the group that AXREM had invited her to join a group on purchasing used equipment. The guidance will be for the procurement department when it is published.
- 8.9 Maternity Transformation Programme (MTP) work stream – GH updated the group on the maternity transformation programme. Concern has been flagged about obstetric issues, lack of career progression in obstetrics, low morale, lack of team working and a breakdown in communication and professionalism in some units. A working group has been set up and it is hoped that a vision document can be developed. A lot of work is work going on behind the scenes to start moving things forward. ES will be working with GH on this. Patient stakeholder group is also involved. So far, only two meetings have been held.

9. WORKPLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT

- 9.1 Chair's report for ratification: the Chair's report (paper E) was presented and approved.
- 9.2 Work plan (paper F): Following discussion it was agreed that the Chair would circulate the workplan to the group, to assign working groups.

10. UPDATES FROM UAG MEMBERS ON PROFESSIONAL AREAS

10.1 Updates received from the following:

- a) Obstetrics & Gynaecology – There was a group discussion around AHP sonographers being overlooked and not being considered as part of the obstetrics team / included within communication, compared with midwife sonographers.
- b) General Medical, including abdominal, MSK, superficial structure & interventional – To note that [LW's book](#) is now published.
- c) Vascular – The vascular representative was not available to give an update today.
- d) Education – Imaging Academies – radiology and radiographer training are being set up. Some have already appointed a lead radiologists and lead sonographer. The CLUSTAs should link into this.
CASE is currently streamlining the processes, to get more consistency of documentation from all education providers; as it is an onerous process to

apply for accreditation of an existing programme and feedback takes quite a long time. Following a discussion GH agreed to speak to CASE about the communication of changes to the process and number of people attending virtual events (as part of training for accrediting teams this has increased due to the access to virtual events).

ACTION: GH

e) Research –ES has written a paper on burnout and GH is a co-author (submitted for publication Dec 21). Organisational change is needed. The next focus will be on bringing in the patient views. To note that CH and MD are continuing with their PhD; CL has completed her MSc; ES is writing her research PhD paper, and AM is yet to publish her MSc paper.

f) Management and/or leadership - There was a query as to whether people should be encouraged to publish their work to highlight their achievements GH will discuss with CASE accredited programme directors.

ACTION: GH

Following discussion RR agreed to speak to the Imaging and Therapy Practice Editorial Board.

ACTION: RR

g) Professional issues – Discussed accreditation of ACP and consultant practitioners. Questions were raised about support for applying for CoR accreditation. ND informed the group that accreditation via CPD Now is currently halted and the career framework document is almost ready for publication.

h) Other - MA queried whether a trust could make you have Covid vaccinations against your will, and JL indicated that he should contact his local representative for clarity, but the Society does not support mandatory vaccinations. [SoR website](#) has information.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 General Medical Ultrasound SIG – GH informed the group that a member had contacted her about the setting up of a special interest group.

11.2 To note that the workplan need to be completed by the end of December. CH agreed to upload a Google doc so that everyone can make amendments etc.

ACTION: CH

11.3 VA to chase group for updated bios and photos.

ACTION: VA

11.4 Vice Chair – Expressions of interest received from Catherine Lee.

12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12.1 Dates of future meetings confirmed as:

- Thursday 16th June 2022 (in person)
- Tuesday 22nd November 2022 (virtual)

Meeting Actions Log - New Actions

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
1.3.	VA to get list of '3' things paper from CH and upload to synapse.	VA		
8.2	Overseas recruitment: HE to share document showing examples of cross matching qualifications.	HE		
10.	Speak to CASE about the communication of changes to the process and number of people attending virtual events	GH	24.11.2021	
	RR agreed to speak to the Imaging and Therapy Practice Editorial Board about advice for publication.	RR		
11.2	Workplan needs to be completed by December.CH to upload a Google doc UAG members to complete their choice for working groups	CH All		
11.3	VA to chase group for updated bios and photos	VA		

Date of Next Meeting:

- Thursday 16th June 2022 (in person)
Val will send details of Trainline booking.
Please notify Val of any dietary requirements

Future meetings:

- Tuesday 22nd November 2022 (virtual)

Conferences & Events Dates for the diary: