

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday 8th December 2020

Time: 1.00pm – 3.30pm

Venue:

Virtual meeting via GoTo

In Attendance:

Members: (state names with initials in brackets)	Role	Job Title	Site
Catriona Hynes (CH)	Chair	Lecturer	Sheffield Hallam University (D)
Matthew Anderson (MA)	Advisory	Sonographer	Medway Maritime Hospital
Victoria Cooke (VC)	Advisory	Sonographer	Freeman Hospital
Ellen Dyer (ED)	Advisory	Sonographer	Rosie Maternity Hospital
Karen Hammett (KH)	Advisory	Clinical Ultrasound Manager	Barnet Hospital
Sandra Morrissey (SM)	Advisory	Sonographer	Pinderfields Hospital
Helen Ong (HO)	Advisory	Fetal Anomaly Scanning Lead	The Ulster Hospital
Emily Skelton (ES)	Advisory	Research Sonographer	St Thomas' Hospital, London
Morag Stout (MS)	Advisory	Consultant Radiographer	QE University Hospital, Glasgow
Lorelei Waring (LW1)	Advisory	Lecturer	University of Cumbria (Lancaster Campus)
Lynne Williams (LW)	Advisory	National Ultrasound Lead	InHealth

Quartz House, 207 Providence Square, Mill Street, London SE1 2EW

T: 0207 740 7200 E: info@sor.org W: www.sor.org

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Observers:			
Gill Harrison (GH)	Professional Officer		Society & College of Radiographers
Valerie Asemah (VA)	Minutes		Society & College of Radiographers
Catherine Kirkpatrick (CK)	BMUS Liaison		BMUS

Apologies:

Lorraine Walsh (LW)	Advisory	Sonographer	Good Hope Hospital
Sue Webb (SW)	UK Council	UK Council	Broomfield Hospital

Review of Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions:

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
10.	Guidance for imaging transgender patients: CH queried if SCoR had any guidance on imaging transgender patients. It was recommended that CH contact the society regional officer Peter Higgs who works with the Equalise group and may be able to assist.	CH		Completed
11.	Using experience of past UAG members: Following a discussion around past UAG members experience it was suggested that a 'UAG Alumni Group' is something that could be set up to facilitate this. GH and NT will speak with Jason Custance (IT Manager) to find out if this is something that can be done and discuss further within the UAG. GH spoke with Charlotte Beardmore and it was agreed that this system is difficult, so will have to call on ex-UAG members if relevant issues arise on an ad-hoc basis.	NT?GH		Completed
16.1	Any other Business: The idea of a joint study day for next year with BMUS was mentioned. NT and CK to discuss further.	NT/CK		Completed

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting and went through a few tips on this different way of working along with a few protocols to enable it to be a successful meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Lorraine Walsh and Sue Webb.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th JUNE 2020

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2020, were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- GH informed the group that Dr Judith Johnson's webinar has been uploaded to the website which had quite a lot of hits. Following a short discussion on how this webinar can be promoted GH advised the group to share on their social media platforms. GH will share the link with the group and ask our new publishers to disseminate again.
- To note that HO's talk is in the final stages of editing and should be available soon on the website – GH will also chase.

ACTION: GH

3.1 Outstanding Actions:

11.4 Following the discussion at the last meeting ES had agreed to share information on partners in obstetrics scanning and how this causes distractions to the sonographer. ES informed the group that she no longer works clinically and couldn't recall which paper she had agreed to share with the group. She has a paper on 'babies in lockdown' which she will share with the group today. She will try to see if she comes across anything that she can share. Item closed.

4. GENERAL UPDATES

4.1. HEE work streams update:

Sonographer Implementation group (SIG): To note that work is ongoing on the draft preceptorship and capability document which BMUS got the contract for and is led by Peter Cantin. It is hoped that a draft will be ready for consultation in March/April 2021. Once ready this will be a document that would have been co-authored by all the stakeholders and can help transition from BSc right through to postgraduate level plus consultant level practice.

Sonographer training group (STG): Chair by GH. Funding for CLUSTAs (Clinical ultrasound training academies) has been spent. Various approaches are being developed including HEI clinical centres, academies within Trusts, more integration with radiology / radiographer academies. Additional funds were made available recently to assist with employing practice educators into posts. A lot of people in London and other regions are getting together to try and increase the capacity for clinical training.

Changes to Integrated Imaging Workforce Working Group (IIWWG): IIWWG has been disbanded and a new group set up which is called the Imaging Workforce Group. This is being chaired by Suzanne Rastrick and Sam O'Hare. One representative per organisation (Charlotte Beardmore for SCoR) – feeds into Imaging Networks at a regional level. Objectives are to:

- Increase recruitment
- Support existing staff to work at the top of their licence
- Develop community diagnostic hubs

Diagnostic and therapeutic radiographer apprenticeships have had an increase in their tariff and it is hoped that ultrasound apprenticeships will get the same.

4.2. BMUS 3rd trimester ultrasound working group: Hoping to complete the BMUS 3rd trimester ultrasound examination guidance early in the New Year. ES and GH are both on the group. A live presentation to increase awareness of the document to take place later tonight as part of BMUS re-imagined. GH and CK will be presenting. Discussion on the length of time a growth scan should take.

4.3. GIRFT Radiology

GH gave an updated and informed the group that the document has been published. The topics below are discussed in the document.

- Over half of patients referred for MRI or ultrasound wait more than 14 days for the test to take place

- Workforce shortages
- Need to develop Covid free sites (hot/cold sites)
- Increased person-centred care, including imaging at a time/place to suit & ideally at one visit
- Improve referral pathways – use of clinical decision making tools e.g. iRefer
- Radiology Events And Learning Meetings (REALMs)
- Rapid diagnostic centres

4.4. GIRFT obstetrics and gynaecological initial draft stage

4.5. [BBC news report](#) on private baby scan clinics has helped highlight the lack of statutory regulation

4.6. Richard's report [Diagnostics: Recovery and renewal](#) published in November 2020.

Some of the key highlights include:

- Similar issues to the GIRFT Radiology document are covered in this report
- Workforce discussed, including the need for an additional 4,000 radiographers
- Separate acute and elective diagnostics & recommends the introduction of community diagnostic hubs. For those with suspected cancer should also incorporate the rapid diagnostic centre model
- Increase equipment capacity and replace outdated equipment
- improve IT connectivity
- Imaging networks to increase efficiency of patient pathways, workforce & facilities
- Changes to commissioning
- Alongside expansion, other initiatives are also urgently needed, including: recognition of sonographers as a regulated profession

5. **Consultations or involvement in evidence/reports:** (for information only)

- Optimising the contribution of the Allied Health Professions support workforce (closed 6.11.2020)
- NHSE&I guidance on partners returning to ultrasound v.1.0 (Sept2020)
- Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy - The Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Regulation of Professions HCPC standards of Proficiency for radiographers (closed November 2020)
- CQC [Choosing a baby scanning service](#) (November 2020)

6. Documents published since the last meeting

6.1 Publications in the document library since the last meeting:

- Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice (Dec 2020)
- SCoR and BMUS position statement- [The use of portable ultrasound equipment for at home pregnancy scanning](#) (August 2020)
- BMJ letter to the editor bmj.m1321.full – [The rise of the souvenir scanners](#) (July 2020)
- NHSE&I [Framework for the reintroduction of visitors throughout maternity services](#) v1.0
- Updated Covid-19 FAQs on the SCoR and BMUS website

7. Register of Clinical Technologists (RCT) transfer

- GH gave an update on the transfer proposal and informed the group that following a UK Council decision the PVRS will close at midnight on 28th February 2021. It was also noted that the PVRS will transfer to the RCT on 1st March 2021. [FAQs have been published](#), including closing dates for different applicants.
- There is a call for volunteers to review PVRS applications from non-CASE accredited awards (interim) and going forward to review equivalence portfolio submissions for those applying to the RCT register. Nigel Thomson (professional officer) asked if anyone from this group was willing to volunteer. ED, LW, KH, ES and CH all indicated that they would be happy to assist.

8. Areas for discussion

- 8.1 #MUAM Feedback: There was a discussion around what went well and what could be improved. It was felt that although there was a lot less this year, it was of good quality and very varied. GH thanked everyone for their contribution.
- 8.2 SCoR and BMUS ‘Guideline for Professional Ultrasound Practice’ major update 2021: GH informed the group that the new version of the guidelines was launched today. CK and GH will be working closely to improve the document and they would like feedback from this group and also BMUS. All comments should be back to GH by mid-January 2021.

ACTION: All

8.3 Members have asked for advice about visors / goggles and if there is any advice on the best type for those who do not wear glasses: Tops tips for visors could be an article for the SoR website. Some sonographers only wear visors for high flow oxygen patients and positive Covid patients.

ACTION: All

8.4 NHSEI guidance on support person attending obstetric scans was discussed. As of last week there was a government directive that a support person will be allowed into scan rooms. Currently rewriting guidance and now on version 11. Suzanne Rastrick is now involved, asking departments if they need support to implement this. How can we help members with this and give them the support needed. Still pushing for this to be a local decision, based on local risk assessments. Support should be available from IPC and H&S teams to mitigate risks to sonographers, patients and other service users.

8.5 Poster possibility: Patient to Staff Verbal Abuse: Following a discussion related to a recent incident it was suggested that the group design a poster. Although many hospitals across the country has posters displayed throughout the department, it was agreed that they are very 'wordy' and it would be good to have a poster specific to ultrasound. GH had already mentioned this idea to CB and she was happy for the group to discuss this today. The group felt that the poster idea was a good way to education patients as some of them fail to understand that sonographers are only caring for them, and deserve respect too. Scenarios to show inappropriate behaviour. Small working group will be needed.

ACTION: KH to put a small working group together

9. Workplan

9.1 The workplan for 2021 was discussed. Sonographer registration – at present SCoR are having conversations with other stakeholders, trying to work at strategic level and continue to lobby for regulation of sonographers. Will come back to group with suggestions.

9.2 Public poster engagement: It was suggested that we have a competition as part of #MUAM for the design of a poster about the role of sonographers for ultrasound departments. GH would wish for PAG to be involved with this, possibly judging.

ACTION: GH liaise with Jess

9.3 Promoting UAG to wider SoR groups – GH informed the group that in the first instance they could write a bio which could be added to the UAG part of the website.

9.4 Disseminate work of UAG where in the public domain - ED will take a lead on this.

ACTION: ED

9.5 MA shared a webinar around twins with the group.

10. DIAG – any updates

10.1 No update available as CH was unable to attend the last meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 UAG Tenure: GH reminded the group that 6 members are due to leave the group next year (June 2021) and they would have the opportunity to re-apply for a second term and if they so wish then please let GH know. An advert will be going out in the April and May issue of Synergy News, Toptalk and also on the Website to secure new members. GH also asked the group if anyone is interested in taking on the role of Chair and Vice Chair and if so to please let her know.

ACTION: GROUP

11.2 NICE Quality Standard Consultation: GH asked for volunteers from within the group to review the NICE quality standards on thrombolytic disease. GH apologised for the very short turnaround with this. VH and MS volunteered to review.

ACTION: GH, VH & MS

11.3 Patient Advisory Group (PAG): GH informed the group that she will be attending the January 2021 PAG meeting and said she would be speaking about Covid and the pressure on sonographers especially around partners being allowed in the scan room, the staffing crisis, lack of recognition, the definition of sonographer and how pressured you all are. GH asked the group if they had any specific issues they wanted her to take to the PAG discussion.

11.4 CH mentioned that she had come across 2 resources around wearing PPE and breaking bad news whilst wearing PPE. She will share links with the group.

ACTION: CH

11.5 The group has been concerned with the wellbeing of others and CH wanted to ensure that the group members themselves were looking after their own wellbeing.

11.6 MA queried the campaign to increase NHS salaries. GH informed him that the Trade Union and Industrial Relations Director (Dean Rogers) is very supportive of this.

11.7 MA queried whether the SoR would be supportive of members who refuse to take the Covid vaccine. GH informed him that she has not heard anything but she will contact the TUIR department to get an update.

ACTION GH

12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Tuesday 22nd June 2021
- Tuesday 23rd November 2021

Meeting Actions Log

Outstanding Actions

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
7.	MUAM – along with the ideas already listed above group to send any others to GH or CH.	CH		Completed
8.1.1.	Spotlight on radiography – short 1 to 2 minute video submission, GH will check progress with Knowledge Manager Eugene Statnikov on progress	GH		Completed
9.1	Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) accreditation (formerly ISAS) – group informed that the QSI is seeking to recruit more accreditors from the ultrasound community and if anyone is interested or have colleagues that are, they should have a look at the UKAS website here UKAS website	Group		Completed
9.2	Expert Witness – GH informed the group that an introduction day with Bond Solon legal training specialist is being planned for 23 rd September and if anyone is interest they should let her know. There is a webpage for expert witnesses	Group		Completed
11.1	It was agreed that the Diagnostic Imaging Advisory Group (DIAG) would be a standing agenda item.	VA		Completed
11.3	Discuss webinar ideas with Rachel Harris	GH		Completed
11.4	Discussion around allowing partners into the scanning room whilst patient is being scanned, could distract the sonographer from concentrating. ES will share information she has on this issue.	ES		Completed
11.5	GH to draft an annual report and work plan and upload to synapse for group to view/comment on.	GH/Group		Completed

New Actions

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
3.	Matters Arising: Promote Dr Judith Johnson’s webinar - Check the status of Helen Ong’s webinar	GH	January 2021	
8.2	Inform GH if there is any feedback on the SCoR and BMUS ‘Guideline for Professional Ultrasound Practice’ for the major update 2021	ALL	End January 2021	
8.3	If members have advice about visors / goggles - best type for those who do & do not wear glasses, please let GH know.	ALL	January 2021	

8.5	Poster: Patient to Staff Verbal Abuse. KH to get a small working group together	KH	April 2021	
9.2	Public poster engagement competition as part of #MUAM to design a poster about the role of sonographers for ultrasound departments.	GH liaison with Jess	May 2021	
9.4	Workplan: - Disseminating the work of the UAG	ED		
11.1	Any Other Business: Check for adverts for new UAG members in March, April. Re-apply if want to be considered for another term.	Group		
11.2	NICE Standard: Review the NICE Standard on thrombolytic disease.	VH, MS, GH	16.12.2020	
11.4	Share links with the group on two resources she has come across in regard to wearing PPE and breaking bad news whilst wearing PPE.	CH		
11.7	Check the SoR stance for members who may refuse to take the Covid vaccine.	GH		

Date of Next Meeting:

- Tuesday 22nd June 2021

Future meetings:

- Tuesday 23rd November 2021
- Thursday 16th June 2022 (HQ)

Conferences & Events Dates for the diary: