



Chief Executive Officer
Richard Evans OBE

Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging Advisory Group (NMMAG)

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday 11th November 2021

Time: 11.05am – 15.05pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Members: (state names with initials in brackets)	Role	Job Title	Site
Jo Weekes (JW)	Chair	Consultant Radiographer	New Cross Hospital
Rayjanah Allie (RA)	Vice-Chair	Radiographer	University College Hospital
David Jones (DJ)	Advisory	Principal Radiographer	RCUHB, Wales
Angela Meadows (AM)	Advisory	Radiographer/Unit Manager	Royal Preston Hospital
Jessica Roberts (JR)	Advisory	Radiographer	Royal Stoke Hospital, Staffordshire
Sarah Stace (SS)	Advisory	Superintendent Radiographer	Withybush General Hospital
David Williams (DW)	Advisory	Superintendent Radiographer	Queen Alexandra Hospital
In attendance:			
Sue Johnson (SJ)	Professional Officer		SCoR
Valerie Asemah (VA)	Minutes		SCoR
Lynda Johnson (LJ)	Professional Officer		SCoR
Rachel Harris (RH)	Professional Officer		SCoR

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Observers:			
Nick Gulliver (NG)	BNMS Liaison		BNMS
Frances Hogg (FH)	IPEM Liaison		IPEM
Clare Moody (CM)	ARSAC Liaison		ARSAC

Apologies:

Tristan Barnden (TB)	Advisory	Radiographer	Maidstone Hospital
Sai Han (SH)	Royal College of Physicians – Advisory	Nuclear Medicine Physician	Gartnavel General Hospital
John Thompson (JT)	Advisory	Radiographer	Furness General Hospital
Vas Nevrides (VN)	UK Council	UK Council	Kings College Hospital

1. WELCOME AND INDUCTION

- 1.1 JO warmly welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting and introduced RH (Head of Professional Practice and Education), who attended to give an induction to new advisory group members. Introductions were made.
- 1.1.1 RH thanked everyone for joining this advisory group and gave them an overview of the Society of Radiographers, and outlined how the advisory groups are run and managed. There are 10 advisory groups and about 23 Special Interest Groups. RH identified the differences between an advisory group and a special interest group (SIG). Note that SIGs are self-governing but supported by the Society and Officers attend some of the SIG meetings.
- 1.1.2 RH went on to inform the group that, in total 10 advisory groups sit under the Society and report to Council. An officer is allocated to work with each advisory group with administrative support. There are two official meetings a year – one face to face (with the option of joining online) and one virtual. VA minutes these meetings. The group will work with an officer (Sue, in this case) to set up a workplan for the year. The whole group should participate in the workplan, but it is good to have someone lead on different workpieces. Each member should

volunteer to work on various parts of work so that everyone will be involved in the success of the group. Small working parties are often set up to work on various pieces of work, and these do not need to be minuted.

RH also informed the group that they would often receive consultation documents which are not to be shared outside the group.

1.1.3 Each advisory group has fifteen members who represent the rest of the membership plus a representative from UK Council. RH touched on the various pieces of paperwork – GDPR, representing SCoR and members proforma (these would have been sent out by VA with acceptance letters). RH outlined the role of the Chair and Vice Chair, which is to work to pull the work together and make sure work, is staying on track. In addition, to make sure the meeting runs efficiently. The officer and chair usually work together to submit the work plan. It is expected that the Chair usually submits an annual report around the end of September each year; showing what has been achieved and what is outstanding. Chairs are usually in post for two years. For clarity, RH informed the group that the PO has no financial responsibility, but they can speak with her if further monies are needed for any group work. Really important that the group enjoy working together.

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Tristan Barnden, Sai Han, Clare Moody and Vas Nevrides.

2. REVIEW OF GROUP MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Brief introductions were made for the benefit of new members Jessica Roberts and Darren Walls, along with two members serving another term (DJ and DW).

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (AGREEMENT & ACCURACY)

Outstanding Actions:

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
5.2.2	Workplan 2021-2022: SJ will set up a folder on synapse and allocate work and names as agreed.	SJ		

5.4	UK Nuclear Reactor Campaign: Richard Evans attend meeting recently; SJ awaiting update and will upload to synapse as soon as it is available.	SJ		
5.4	EFRS Observer: JOW sits on this board so will liaise on getting an observer to sit on NMMAG.	JOW		
5.6	Website Photo Update: Group reminded to send bios and photos to VA for upload to webpage.	All		
6.	Guest Speaker: Lynda Johnson HSE/Classified workers NM update: LJ gave a presentation on radiation protection and will send presentation slides to be uploaded to synapse.	LJ		
7.2.	General Workforce update: Following a discussion on acquiring nuclear medicine radiographers FH agreed to speak to her students in a bid to find out why they decided to go for nuclear medicine as her trust has just filled band 6 nuclear posts.	FH		
7.3	Website Update: SJ with work with VA and Corinne Thomas on uploading material to the NMMAG webpage.	SJ		
8.	Observer Updates: VA will upload all observer reports to synapse.	VA		
9.	Discussion: IPEM Diploma in Clinical Technology – updated curriculum 202 1and development of radiographers into nuclear medicine roles: SJ will be working with IPEM on an update of this document. AM indicated that she would be interested on working on this.	SJ		
9.3	Blood bottle shortage and impact on Nuclear Medicine (GFR): Following a query on the shortage of blood bottles it was suggested that a SIG be set up or a subgroup on synapse. JOW is due to have a meeting with BNMS tomorrow and will discuss this further.	JOW		
10.1	AOB: JOW agreed to update the group on the joint work presentation with BNMS via synapse	JOW		
11.2	Following a query as to whether NMMAG will be attending the BNMS spring meeting; SJ will investigate and feedback to the group via synapse.	SJ		
Item No	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
3.1	Support Workforce Update: SoR incredibly busy with workforce issues and working with HEE around the support workforce with a very tight timescale. Job description needs to be developed.			Completed
	SJ leads an expert group, for support worker which is made up of a range of people from across the service, and she wanted to know if anyone from this group would like to join. If so they should contact her after the meeting. AM indicated that she would be happy to be involved.	All		
4.1	Chair Update: The Chair informed the group that she will draft the annual report and Chairs report and bring to the next meeting.	AM		Completed
4.2	Chair will upload info of new events onto synapse.	AM		Completed

4.3	The Chair remind those members whose tenures will be up this year. In the event that the advert seeking new members is not successful SJ will liaise with Charlotte Beardmore to find out if those members can be asked to stay on for a further term.	SJ		Completed
4.4	The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair.	All		Completed
5.6	JO informed the group o the European Federation webinar nuclear medicine series, which is starting next month. She will upload flyers to synapse.	JO		Completed

4. REVIEW OF ACTIONS LOG (PREVIOUS MEETING)

4.1 The April meeting minutes were reviewed.

- AM is happy to support the nuclear medicine expert group
- support workforce work is ongoing

4.2 Matters Arising – there were none.

5. CHAIR UPDATE

5.1 Chairs Report: AM will forward her report from last year. JO will work on her update.

5.2 **Workplan 2021-2022:** There was a group discussion on the workplan around the topics/pieces of work the group wanted to be done this year. Suggested ideas so far were international recruitment with reciprocity of qualifications; reporting in nuclear medicine; support workforce, and the AP workforce. The specialisms within the group need to be used.

5.2.1 There was also a discussion on having an NMMAG workshop cancelled last time. A study day was planned but was subsequently withdrawn. We were now looking at whether we want to provide a workshop and, if so, who is the target audience. The idea of a webinar series was suggested as an excellent first way of moving forward. SJ will have to apply for this to be included in the SoR workplan. Webinars are accessible to members at present.

5.2.2 JW agreed to update the workplan by allocating names and agreed dates for completion alongside the various pieces of work. SJ will set up a folder on Synapse.

ACTION: JW/SJ

5.3 Year ahead - Advisory group's promotional model. Synergy News. Creation of SIG. Roles/cases study promotional documents Suggestions".

5.4 UK Nuclear Reactor Campaign: SJ informed the group that Richard Evans attended a meeting recently, and she is awaiting an update, which she will upload to synapse as soon as it is received.

ACTION: SJ

5.5 EFRS Observer: JOW has a seat on this group, so will work on getting an observer to sit on NMMAG.

ACTION: JOW

5.6 Website Photo Update: JOW reminded the group to send their photos and bios to VA for the webpage.

ACTION: ALL

6. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Lynda Johnson HSE/Classified workers NM Update

6.1 LJ, the Professional Officer for Clinical Imaging – diagnostic radiographer by background and specialises in CT, was invited to attend today's meeting to update radiation protection. The UK government invited the IAEA to give a report. When the report was issued, it showed areas for improvement, and the SoR agreed. The recommendation for the HSE was that they needed to set out long term inspections. Following discussion, LJ agreed to send the presentation slides to VA to upload to the NMMAG synapse group page for all to view.

ACTION: LJ

6.1.1 LJ will speak to HSE and, together with SJ, work on an article for Synergy News.

ACTION: LJ & SJ

7. SCoR OFFICERS REPORT

7.1 Support Workforce Update:

The SCoR is still incredibly busy with the professional and education team.

With an expert group, the support workforce work has started with HEE across diagnostic imaging. To note that there are differences between levels 2, 3 and 5. It is hoped that this document will be published by the end of the year. SCoR is one of the stakeholders. Apprenticeships in England are more flexible, but still, need to provide the academic credentials to access the next level of education. You need to have the proper qualification to apply for the diagnostic programmes.

We have not got very far if we want to get people onto higher education. This is an ongoing situation.

7.1.1 RA volunteered to draft a newsletter to highlight ongoing work around the support workforce. SH is happy to assist with interpretation and reporting. The group agreed that there is no actual programme set up for nuclear medicine courses and universities need to accept nuclear medicine technologists. DJ and DW will set up a subgroup to work on this issue.

7.2 **General Workforce Update:** SCoR is still working closely with the NHSE and HEE, and SJ has no direct access to data, but she is trying to get more information. Work is done with an expert group, as SCoR is a stakeholder. The workforce is getting worse, and SCoR has just put out a statement to say 'it's okay to say No' and will support managers and staff alike. If something is unsafe, it is best not to do it. Although there is lots of work going on, it was agreed that some radiographers are suffering from 'burnout'.

Apprenticeships are starting to roll out. There is a lot of support for enhanced and advanced practice, but it seems as though nurses do not understand radiography needs. There is money to train reporting radiographers, but no one knows how to use this. Furthermore, reporting skills need to be embedded from the outset, not a few months down the line whilst training.

DW asked for helpful ideas on getting newly qualified diagnostic students into nuclear medicine and wondered if linking some band 5 training to a PgD could be the way forward. There was a discussion around acquiring a nuclear medicine radiographer, and FH stated that her trust has recently filled band 6 posts; she will speak with her students to find out why they took on this role and give feedback to the group. No clinical imaging or nuclear specific role for nuclear medicine radiographers.

ACTION: FH

AM suggested raising the profile in the universities as soon as the students start their training, something her trust is currently doing with the University of Salford. SJ informed the group that the new Education and Career Framework would be available in early spring. When this comes out, it would be the ideal opportunity to show how nuclear medicine links in. DJ mentioned using the American system for training nuclear medicine technologists and spoke on the workforce model for PET CT.

7.3 Website Update:

7.3.1 SJ will speak with VA and Corinne Thomas around uploading material to the website.

ACTION: SJ

8. OBSERVER UPDATES

8.1 All observer reports (ARSAC, BMNS, IPEM & Medical Rep) will be uploaded to the NMMAG synapse page.

ACTION: VA

9. DISCUSSION

- 9.1 IPEM Diploma in Clinical Technology Updated Curriculum 2021 and Development of radiographers into Nuclear Medicine Roles – SJ informed the group that she has had contact from IPEM asking if we wanted to contribute to a document and the consensus was yes. She will get back to them to say that SCoR is interested. AM indicated that she would be interested with working on this.

ACTION: SJ

- 9.2 Competency framework for Prescribers – What does it mean for us? – RA updated the group on the competency framework for prescribers. There will be a meeting on 7th December to plead the case again with the Council for Human Medicine (CHM), and although it feels much more positive this time, there is still a long way to go. It was noted that the RCR is now giving support for diagnostic radiographer independent prescribers.

- 9.3 Blood bottle shortage and impact on Nuclear Medicine (GFR) – RA queried if other members were experiencing a shortage of blood bottles and following a discussion it was suggested that one way for people to engage would be to set up a SIG or even use the synapse platform. In conclusion, JOW is due to have a meeting with the BNMS tomorrow and she will find out if there is any collaboration.

ACTION: JOW

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 JOW agreed to update the group on the joint work presentation with BNMS via synapse.

ACTION: JOW

- 11.2 There was a query as to whether we will be attending the BNMS spring meeting. SJ agreed to investigate and feedback.

ACTION: SJ

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday 15th March 2022 (online)

Meeting Actions Log

Actions

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Conferences & Events Dates for the diary: