

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday 16th June 2022

Time: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Venue: SCoR HQ (and 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
Victoria Cooke (VC)	Advisory	Sonographer	Freeman 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
Melanie McColgan (MC)	Advisory	Lead Sonographer	Altnagelvin Area Hospital
Kim Ngu (KN)	Advisory	Sonographer	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
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	Professional Matters Administrator	SCoR
Hazel Edwards (HE)	BMUS in place of CK	Professional Officer	BMUS

Apologies:			
Donna Holdcroft (DH)	Advisory	Clinical Specialist/Researcher	Canon Medical Research Europe, University of Liverpool
Anna Madar (AM)	Advisory	Radiographer	Canterbury University
Catherine Kirkpatrick (CK)	BMUS Liaison	BMUS Liaison	BMUS
Ruth Reeve (RR)	Advisory	National Sonographer	Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth

Review of Previous Minutes and Outstanding 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		Completed
8.2	Overseas recruitment: HE to share document, showing examples of cross matching qualifications.	HE		Completed
10.	Speak to CASE about the communication of changes to the process and number of people attending virtual events	GH	24.11.2021	Completed
	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	CH		Completed
	UAG members to complete their choice for working groups	All		
11.3	VA to chase group for updated bios and photos	VA		Completed

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to this hybrid meeting.
- 1.2 Roundtable introductions were made for the benefit of the new members.
- 1.3 Apologies for absence received from Donna Holdcroft, Catherine Kirkpatrick, Anna Madar and Ruth Reeve.
- 1.4 To note that Matt Anderson has stood down as a member of UAG. He was thanked for his input and a thank you letter has been sent. As a result, Donna Holdcroft has started her term early, but was unable to attend today's meeting as she is on holiday.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021, were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. INFORMATION FOR NOTING

- 3.1 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 responses 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 working in the UK/registration issues, PII relating to self-employed status, working in private practice, and consultant practice accreditation. There are many issues around the country, managers are under huge pressure to reduce waiting lists and concerns were raised about quality being compromised, staff leaving or taking early retirement. It appears Covid cases are increasing again. NHS tariff is also very low for ultrasound examinations as compared to the rate paid to private sector staff. GH will speak to Dean Rogers (Executive Director of Industrial Strategy & Member Relations) to see if he wants to pick this up. Private companies in some areas are recruiting NHS staff and paying more.
 - GH and HE shared information about external advice that has been provided to radio and TV companies to ensure the appropriate representation of sonographers.

- Ongoing issues around sonographer wellbeing/burnout

ACTION: GH

- There was a discussion around sonographers working for private companies and doing scans in very short appointment slots. If they were to get work related injuries/ disorders (WRMSD) would the Society represent them? GH explained that the Society's indemnity insurance is secondary PII so the sonographer would need to have employer insurance – vicarious liability, so if a legal case came then the employer would cover the sonographer. It is a good practice to check and make sure you have appropriate cover. In relation to health and safety and WRMSDs, risk assessments should be carried out by the employer to make sure the practice was safe, and sonographers would not be put at additional risk.

4. PUBLICATIONS

4.1 There were quite a few publications since our last meeting, and these are listed below:

- [Recording images of sonographers performing NHS obstetric ultrasound examinations: Guidance to support local policy development](#) (March 2022)
- [Return to practice: ultrasound](#) (Feb 2022)
- [Current and future roles of diagnostic radiographers](#) (Dec 2021)
- [SoR and BMUS Guidelines for professional ultrasound practice](#) (Dec 2021)
- [Inclusive pregnancy status guidelines for ionising radiation: Diagnostic and therapeutic exposures](#) (Nov 2021)

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

5.1 [UKHSA \(PHE\) Ultrasound gel](#) – GH informed the group that guidance has been updated and gave an update. A discussion followed.

5.2 NIHR commissioned a research team at Oxford to review the potential for including fetal anomaly assessment in the first trimester scan. There are some areas that are being considered, but the FASP will need to review these to ascertain whether they can be incorporated into the standard. The three anomalies discussed were acrania/exencephaly, exomphalos and omphalocele. Further work will be needed to explore the impact on the appointment times and potential re-scan requirements if not clearly seen at the first scan.

It was noted that Aris has been invited by Trish Chudleigh to speak on this issue at the BMUS Annual Scientific Meeting in December.

- 5.3 DIAG – CH was unable to attend the last DIAG meeting, but she knows that they are a very busy group doing many different things. Recently had their article in Synergy News.
- 5.4 SoR and BMUS guidelines – GH updated. These guidelines underwent a huge rewrite last year and was published in December 2021. UAG members to send any suggestions or updates to GH.

ACTION: UAG

- 5.5 Ockenden report – GH updated. This was an extensive report into maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS trust, written by Donna Ockenden. Following a joint meeting with RCOG, RCM and other stakeholders, a [joint statement](#) was published and SoR produced a [statement](#) in response to the report. An investigation at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust is being led by Donna Ockenden and another investigation is East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust is currently ongoing.

6. ON-GOING WORK

- 6.1 Independent prescribing for radiographers – GH gave an update - the case for independent prescribing for diagnostic radiographers was reviewed by the Commission on Human Medicines at their December meeting. The SoR and RCR submitted information and case studies to support the need for independent prescribing, this included sonography examples. The SoR is still waiting for a response from the Commission for Human Medicines.
- 6.2 Sonography HEE – Task and finish group
- Preceptorship and capability development – this document has been written and almost complete, led by Peter Cantin at BMUS. Waiting for comments from the Imaging Workforce group. Once the document is ready, HE will share with Sam Hare. Group agreed that this is a good document for clinical staff and will be useful in many departments.
- 6.3 CLUSTA (Clinical ultrasound training academies) - Oversight of the clinical ultrasound training academies is to be integrated into the regional imaging academies which are being set up in each region within England. The Health Education and Improvement Wales are looking into the best methods of training sonographers within the country and similar discussions about academies are taking place in Scotland. HEE and Improvement Wales are looking at training of sonographers. No conversation yet with Northern Ireland.

- 6.4 Statutory Registration – This is ongoing and following a discussion. There does not appear to be any appetite for statutory registration of new professional groups. Government is not looking at new professions being registered, although results of on-going consultations have not been published. The SoR will continue to pursue regulation at every opportunity. The SoR will support any education as long as its CASE accredited and that people coming out will be competent to practice and do not put patients at risk. BMUS has put out a statement.

7. WORK-PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT

7.1 Progress updates:

The group went through the workplan updating and reviewing what was completed, and areas still outstanding. The various working groups gave updates.

- a) Sharing CPD information with members regularly e.g., one UAG member per month leads on this on a topic of their choice. **ACTION: All UAG members**

Format to be drafted by end September. **ACTION: GH**

- 6 key points
- Signpost to a longer article or website
- Reflection points / prompts

New members will need to be assigned to the working groups. **ACTION: new members and GH**

- b) Draft intimate examinations document has been circulated to those on the working group and to Stewart at [Lived through this](#) for input. It will then go to the Professional Officers, the Patient Advisory Group, Equalise and UAG for review.
- c) career development opportunities –departments with consultants are seen as progressive and tend to attract staff.
- d) CPD event – UAG want a F2F event. GH informed them that there was a move away from F2F to a greener option. UAG wanted to pursue a F2F or hybrid event (recordings would be available for those in attendance afterwards, but concerns re. viability of hybrid). Will need to put forward a strong case for F2F with justification.

In response to member's queries, we're putting this study day on...

Professional issues ideas include

- legal issues (? Andrew Andrews did a good session somewhere)
- consent
- FGM
- report writing
- audit
- ACP accreditation
- Governance
- Enhanced v advanced practice
- Non-medical prescribing. Work around if non-medical prescribing not approved.
- Job planning
- Critical appraisal (groups after lunch)

ACTION: draft proposal for F2F event in the new year Cat and Donna

Possibility of quarterly journal club on-line.

- e) Bex sent a document for a suggested framework for paediatric sonographers. No further action was reported at this stage.
- f) obstetric career development document: work in progress, particularly considering the Ockenden report.

7.2 #MUAM – input & ideas needed

- UAG member bios individually via social media
- Regular posts on social media - stretches that can be done by sonographers Highlight some of the work that has been done over the year 'you said we did' (link to key themes that members have asked / interested in)

ACTIONS: UAG members provide short bios and share on social media in October for #MUAM (medical ultrasound awareness month) - **ALL**

Suggest stretching exercises that can be shared on social media for #MUAM – **ALL**

Highlight some of the work done in the last year by SoR – **GH and ALL**

7.3 To note that UAG have two pages for Synergy in October. The copy deadline is 12th September completed articles will need to be with GH by the end of August. It was also noted that in the Synergy article we need to show

- who the UAG members are
- what UAG do
- Reports
- Publications
- Consultations

ACTION: Plan spread for 2 pages in Synergy to highlight the work that UAG do on behalf of the SoR. Jo, Ellen, and input from all

ACTION: ALL

BMUS ASM competition:

- EN suggested a competition at the BMUS ASM in December. HE and EN were keen to decide on the best idea for a competition. Jess has agreed to provide a prize for this

ACTION: EN & HE

UAG membership: discussion around having an email signature for UAG to promote #MUAM.

ACTION: GH to ask Jess

8. UPDATES FROM UAG MEMBERS ON PROFESSIONAL AREAS

- O&G – There is no further update.
- Gen medical, including abdominal, MSK, superficial structures & interventional – There is no further update.
- Vascular – VH informed the group that the vascular pathway is changing but is unclear if this is Trust or national level.
- Education – Lorelei indicated that there is nothing new with education, but Salford has set up a placement hub with Cumbria. The Sheffield BSc apprentice programme is waiting to be approved by CASE for a March 2023 start. The regional ICS have an academy is due to start next year in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- Research – ES informed the group that the RepAll Women Study is in the final stages and looking for people to join an online event. Anyone who is

interested in joining should get in touch with her – Emily.skelton@kcl.ac.uk she will share the web address. To note that a sonographer from Brighton is looking to set up a working group about supervision/support the emotional well-being of sonographers and volunteers from this group are needed, so again, anyone who is interested should let ES know.

ACTION: ALL

HE reported that BMUS has the opportunity to get involved with NHSE and others in the early diagnosis of liver cancer and she is working with them to advise on how sonographers do liver surveillance for HCC and whether there is any way to standardise surveillance scans.

CH, ES and Jackie Matthews are all promoting research at UKIO.

f) Management and/or leadership – nothing to report.

g) Professional issues – Birthrights charity would like someone from this group to join them on a clinical advisory group. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with GH.

ACTION: GH & ALL

h) Other – Lynne thanked the group and told them that she will be doing governance work but not necessarily ultrasound and will be calling on group members to be part of her trial.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 UAG members leaving (Vicky Cooke, Lorelei Waring and Lynne Williams), who have come to the end of their tenure were thanked for their contribution and on-going support of the group, by the Chair and the group.

9.2 As Matt Anderson left UAG prior to his tenure ending, Ellen Dyer was successfully appointed for another tenure to ensure consistency of obstetric input to the UAG. Matt Anderson was formally thanked for this contribution.

9.3 VA to invite the three new members to join Synapse.

ACTION: VA

9.4 HE informed the group that she is working with the RCR on a PoCUS governance document. This has been ratified by the BMUS committee. The focus is to give guidance to anyone who is not under the radiology umbrella. Document aimed at physios, obstetric registrars etc, and will be published in the next couple of months.

10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

10.1 Dates of future meetings confirmed as:

- Tuesday 22nd November 2022 (virtual)
- Thursday 15th June 2023 (in person with option to join virtually)

Meeting Actions Log - New Actions

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
3.	GH to speak with Dean Rogers (Executive Director of industrial Strategy & Member Relations) re. NHS tariff for ultrasound examinations v rate paid to private sector staff.	GH	1.8.22	
5.4	Please review relevant sections of the SoR and BMUS guidelines and let GH know if there are any updates or amendments needed	ALL	1.10.22	
7.	All members of the group take turns each month to produce a short CPD piece for the website, social media and Synergy. The group agreed with this idea.	Working group lead and All		
7d	draft proposal for F2F event in the new year	CL & DH		
7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UAG members provide short bios and share on social media in October for #MUAM (medical ultrasound awareness month) 	All		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest stretching exercises that can be shared on social media for #MUAM Highlight some of the work done in the last year by SoR 	All GH and All		
7.3	Plan spread for 2 pages in Synergy to highlight the work that UAG do on behalf of the SoR.	Jo, Ellen and input from all		
	Plan the competition for the stand at the BMUS ASM in December.	EN & HE		
	Investigate UAG #MUAM email signature			
8 (e)	If you are interested in participating in the study to look at research priorities for obstetric imaging, you can complete the survey for the Rep all women study https://express.adobe.com/page/kgcp6oK89wyr0/	All		
	Let ES know if you are interested in being considered for a working group around supervision/support the emotional well-being of sonographers	All		
8 (g)	Please let GH know if you want to see the role descriptor for the position of sonographer on the clinical advisory group for Birthrights	All	30.6.2022	
	Invite new members to Synapse	VA	1.7.2022	

Date of Next Meeting:

- Tuesday 22nd November 2022 (virtual)

Future meetings:

- Thursday 15th June 2023 (in person with option to join virtually)

Conferences & Events Dates for the diary:

Expert witness study day: 20 October 2022 (on-line) - need to apply to join the [expert witness list](#)

BMUS ASM: 6 – 8 December 2022