

## Meeting Summary

**Date:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 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
Lorraine Walsh (LW)	Advisory	Sonographer	Good Hope Hospital
Lorelei Waring (LW1)	Advisory	Lecturer	University of Cumbria (Lancaster Campus)
Sue Webb (SW)	UK Council	UK Council	Broomfield Hospital
Lynne Williams (LW)	Advisory	National Ultrasound Lead	InHealth

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<b>Observers:</b>			
Gill Harrison (GH)	Professional Officer		Society & College of Radiographers
Valerie Asemah (VA)	Minutes		Society & College of Radiographers

**Apologies:**

Catherine Kirkpatrick (CK)	BMUS Liaison		BMUS

**Review of Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions:**

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
5.1	UAG Annual Report and Work plan – The Chair presented the annual report and work plan and asked the group to send feedback to her by the end of December 2019.	Group	31/12/2019	Completed
9.1	Recent Legal Case (FASP Screening) Mordel vs Berkshire NHS Trust – Group was updated by NT on this case, which met with a lot of enquiries following the result. ED will discuss with NT/GH a possible article for Synergy News reviewing the consent/patient informed decisions for the FASP scans. NT asked group to email him with any issues they would like him to take to a meeting he is having with FASP. At today’s meeting it was noted that further member’s queries had been raised when GH started the role at SCoR, so an article was published in May Synergy News.	NT/GH/ED and group		Completed
12.1	SCoR BMUS Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice – The Chair updated the group on the status of these updated guidelines and asked them to send her any comments by the new year. To note that no comments were received. The guidelines will undergo a general update this year, the big review that was planned is on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.	Group		Completed

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

- 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.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Catherine Kirkpatrick.

## **3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019, were approved as a true and accurate record.
- 3.2 There were no matters arising.

## **4. FOR NOTING**

### **4.1 Consultations or involvement in evidence/reports:**

The following consultations were noted.

- Healthcare safety investigation branch (HSIB) report on ectopic pregnancies, published March 2020.
- Health Building Facilities for diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology (closed 14.4.2020)
- The UK NSC recommendation on Bladder Cancer screening in adults (closed 6.4.2020)

In addition to a range of queries, including:

Capacity reduction in departments due to Covid-19 pandemic (PPE, cleaning etc.), Covid-19 FAQs, return to work if shielding, private clinics during lock-down.

## 5. DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

### 5.1 Publications in the document library since the last meeting:

- [Caring for people with dementia: a clinical practice guideline for the radiography workforce](#) (May 2020)
- [Obstetric ultrasound examinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Joint statement on recording of NHS examinations and the use of private ultrasound clinics.](#) (April 2020)
- [Covid-19: sonographers FAQs](#) (March 2020 – on-going updates)
- [Screening restart: Guidance for safe service provision during Covid-19 pandemic and post pandemic phase](#) (May 2020)
- [Ultrasound Transducer Decontamination – Best Practice Summary](#) (March 2020)
- [Transducer Decontamination - Best Practice Summary Poster](#) (March 2020)
- [Ultrasound examination times and appointments](#) (Feb 2020)
- [Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice](#) (Dec 2019)

## 6. GENERAL UPDATES

6.1 SBLCBv1 Evaluation: Saving babies lives care bundle version 1 training for the 200 healthcare professionals is being evaluated by an external company in association with Health Education England. GH updated the group on this evaluation reminding the group that she and Nigel Thomson (NT) had been working with them to refine the survey. The survey is now at the point of being ready to be sent out but due to Covid – 19 may not be ready until later in the year.

### 6.2 HEE Updates:

HEE work streams update:

- Sonographer Implementation group (SIG) – work started on the draft preceptorship and capability development document, but the pandemic has delayed this. Work in progress, especially around sonographers moving from band 5 through 6 and onto 7.
- Sonographer training group (STG). Funding for CLUSTAs (Clinical ultrasound training academies) has been devolved to regions and a number of centres have been given funding for equipment (machines and/or simulators) to increase the clinical training capacity for

sonographers. Again much of the work has stalled due to the pandemic. GH is working with HEE to determine where the CLUSTAs are to be located.

- SCoR, BMUS and the RCR are still lobbying the government for sonographer registration.

### 6.3 **PVRS**

GH informed the group that following a UK Council decision the PVRS will close at the end of February 2020. The SCoR is hopeful that a transfer to the Professional Standards Authority accredited (voluntary) Register of Clinical Technologists (run by IPEM) will be able to be arranged but unable yet to confirm. All members and voluntary registrants will be kept informed of developments. There have been announcements in Synergy News and on the website. If the transfer does go ahead we will be seeking volunteer assessors to work with the RCT in reviewing non-standard applicants via the RCT's equivalence pathway. Anyone who is keen to volunteer for this please wait for any messages from GH or NT.

### 6.4 **BMUS Working Group 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester**

It was noted that a BMUS working group are looking at 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester ultrasound examinations to create a guidance document. Trish Chudleigh from Addenbrookes is leading on this. ES and GH are both on the group representing SCoR.

## 7. **MEDICAL ULTRASOUND AWARENESS MONTH (MUAM)**

7.1 The Chair recapped on last year's MUAM and asked for suggestions for this year. Suggestions included having a few articles about sonographers during the covid-19 pandemic for example; manager, sonographer student, academic to identify what changed, what was learnt, challenges and how these were overcome, success stories and what can be taken forward into practice.

7.1.1 Following a discussion the topics below were suggested:

- Publish one article a week (instead of one a day)
- An article in Synergy News to show the journey of 3 different people starting out in ultrasound e.g. a health care assistant, a BSc student and a Pg student.
- An article on ultrasound in the armed forces
- Live chat webinar with members of UAG

- A bake-off/virtual cake club
- Light-hearted material and allowing for diversity in preference e.g. not all written text
- Image related pieces of work or talking heads– ask sonographers to submit a photo/video of themselves along with a short bio. Include:
  - Find a way to show more diversity to the profession
  - What you love about your job

UAG members can suggest a list of possible questions for individuals

SW informed the group that Council would like to encourage people from ethnic minorities to join us and promote the profession. Any other ideas should be sent to CH or GH.

***ACTION:      GROUP***

## **8. AREAS FOR DISCUSSION – COVID-19**

### 8.1 Impact on departments

- Sonographer workload - are people getting additional time for examinations because of need for PPE changing & decontaminating the room / waiting area etc.?
- PPE access and support
- Issues, challenges, successes
- Support needed from SCoR
- Psychological support - <https://www.supporttheworkers.org/> is available for health care staff
- Restart programme / workload / impact

#### Ultrasound education

- Impact on current students / progression
- Impact on recruitment of new intake(s)
- Challenges, concerns, successes

8.1.1 GH wanted to find out from the group if there is anything in terms of support they needed from the Society and asked for their experience during

this pandemic and the above topics were discussed. Issues were also raised about consistency of machine cleaning, limited numbers of sonographers within obstetrics and the lack of popularity with obstetrics, because of the challenges faced within departments. Infection control teams need to be involved in developing local protocols in association with risk assessments.

- 8.1.1 **“Spotlight on Radiography”** a short 1-2 minute video by UAG members were requested on Synapse. If any of our advisory board members might be interested in sending in a short 1-2minute video this would be welcome. Examples of things that could be included are (non-covid-19 specific)
- How was your day at work today?
  - How are your team at work doing?
  - What you are learning new at work?
  - How are you and your family feeling?

GH will double check with Eugene Statnikov on the progress of this video submission.

**Post meeting note: This has stalled, but short videos are still needed if anyone is interested.**

***ACTION: GH &UAG***

## **9. CALL FOR INVOLVEMENT**

- 9.1 Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) Accreditation (formerly ISAS) GH informed the group that the QSI want to recruit more accreditors from the ultrasound community, as there are very few with ultrasound experience. So if anyone is interested or know of colleagues who are, they should please share the link to the [UKAS website](#).

***ACTION: GROUP***

- 9.2 Expert Witness – GH informed the group that SCoR are often approached by solicitors looking for sonographers/radiographers to undertake expert witness cases. There is a [webpage for expert witnesses](#) an introduction day with Bond Solon legal training specialist is being planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> September and if anyone is interested they should let her know.

***ACTION:GROUP***

9.2.1 Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE): GH informed the group that CASE is losing a lot of lead accreditors, due to retirement and changes in role, so we are seeking new accreditors. You self-nominate via the [CASE website](#).

**10. WORKPLAN**

10.1 GH updated the group on the 2019-2020 work plan and progress was reviewed.

- Twitter journal club was discussed, but felt this was not the best platform.

10.2 Consider 2020/2021 Work plan: Group discussed ideas.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 GH informed the group that she attended the last Diagnostic Imaging Advisory Group (DIAG) meeting and the chair is the UAG member of DIAG. Following discussion it was agreed that this would be a standing agenda item to share any relevant issues.

***ACTION : VA***

11.2 Sir Mike Richard's review is due for publication at some point. It is hoped that diagnostic capacity/need/staffing will be within this, but there is no firm date as to when this will happen.

11.3 To note that online webinars and study days are being planned. Helen has agreed to talk on this one. Any other suggestions for later in the year or early next year are welcomed. MA suggested a webinar.

***ACTION: GH to discuss with Rachel Harris***

11.4 There was a discussion around partners being allowed in the scanning room. ES will share a paper she has with the group.

***ACTION: ES***

11.5 GH agreed to draft an annual report and work plan and upload to synapse for the group to add their comments to. Post meeting note: these are now on Synapse

***ACTION: GH***

11.6 Discussed how to promote the role of sonographer more widely. MA has done some work on the BBC website. Suggestions included attending school career events or engaging with [I'm a Scientist](#).

## **12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Meeting Actions Log

### 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 have with 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

### New 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.	Group		
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		
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 <a href="#">UKAS website</a>	Group		

9.2	Expert Witness – GH informed the group that an introduction day with Bond Solon legal training specialist is being planned for 23 <sup>rd</sup> September and if anyone is interest they should let her know. There is a <a href="#">webpage for expert witnesses</a>	Group		
11.1	It was agreed that the Diagnostic Imaging Advisory Group (DIAG) would be a standing agenda item.	VA		
11.3	Discuss webinar ideas with Rachel Harris.	GH		
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		
11.5	GH to draft an annual report and work plan and upload to synapse for group to view/comment on.	GH/Group		

**Date of Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (online)

**Future meetings:**

- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 (HQ)

Conferences & Events Dates for the diary:

- Bond Solon legal training introduction - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020