

RADIOGRAPHIC INFORMATICS ADVISORY GROUP (RIAG)



Meeting Summary

Date: Tuesday 4th October 2022

Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Members: (state names with initials in brackets)	Role	Job Title	Site
Alexander Peck (A2)	Co-Chair	Radiographer	Peripatetic
Douglas Aitken (DA)	Co-Chair	Project Manager	Victoria Royal Infirmary
Tom Welton (TW)	UK Council	UK Council	Royal Preston Hospital
Robin Breslin (RB)	Advisory	Implementation Leader	Trumonix Ltd
Julie Moss (JM)	Advisory	PACS Manager	Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Anant Patel (A1)	Advisory	Radiographer	University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire NHST
Louise Robinson (LR)	Advisory	PACS Manager	Northern Health & Social Care Trust, Antrim
Naomi Shiner (NS)	Advisory	Lecturer	University of Derby
Wendy Town (WT)	Advisory	Darent Valley Hospital	Radiographer
In attendance:			
Tracy O'Regan (TOR)	Professional Officer	Professional Officer Clinical Imaging & Research	The Society & College of Radiographers
Valerie Asemah (VA)	Minutes	Professional Matters Administrator	The Society & College of Radiographers
Observers:			

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Apologies:

Malcolm McNinch (MMN)	Advisory	Risk & Governance Lead	InHealth Ltd (North West)
Barry O'Hara	Advisory	Radiographer	Belfast City Hospital
Michael Piper (MP)	Advisory	PACS Manager	HCA Healthcare
Michael Tatlow (MT)	Advisory	PACS/RIS Manager	Maidstone Hospital
Sophie Willis (SW)	Advisory	Senior Quality Lead, East of England	Health Education England

Review of Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions:

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
5.	Review of workplan and update for 2021-2022: Following a discussion of the status of the webpage, it was agreed that TOR would speak with Blu Evans (Digital Communications) to ask for assistance with updating the webpage.	TOR		Email request sent to Blu
5.1.2	VA was tasked with chasing members to make sure that their bios and photos on the website are up to date	VA		Ongoing
5.1.3	The article highlighting this group is scheduled for the June issue of Synergy News. A doodle poll will be sent out to discuss the content at a virtual meeting.	All		Completed
5.1.4	A2 will summarise lessons learned from series of synergy news articles and members queries. TOR will use the information to share the group achievements in a short roundup paragraph, TOR will share with A2 before forwarding onto DPP for Council report.	TOR		Completed
5.1.5	The depletion of the pool of PACS managers were discussed. It was agreed that TOR would have a look for documents round the role of the radiographer and DA would assist.	TOR & DA		Ongoing
6.1	Lessons Learned & Topics of interest from 'Year of Informatics' Articles (to feed to UK Council): A2 updated the group on questioned asked and responded. It would be useful to put everything into a summary for UK Council (see also point 5.1.4). Following on from that summary, potential development of webinars was discussed.	A2 & TOR		Ongoing
7.	2022 Group Article Slot – Key dates & topic planning: Group was reminded that their slot for an article (to	All		Completed

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	highlight the work of the group and the members) to appear in Synergy News was June and the finished article must be submitted no later than 10 th May.			
7.1.1.	MC queried whether it would be worthwhile in having a section in Synergy News for FAQs. TOR will investigate.	TOR		Synergy online submission form available to officers to submit news articles.
8.2	RCR, BIR, BCS & IET Subcommittee/SIG feedback: MC retiring and suggested someone from this group will need to take over her place on the RCR group, which meets 4 times a year for 2 hours on a Friday afternoon. A2 indicated that he would take this on. MC will put him in touch with the RCR group secretary Emma Begum.	MC		Completed
9	Group make-up: Prospective new members for consideration: VA to get in touch with interested members who are interested in applying to supply them with the necessary information.	VA		Completed
9.1.1.	DA agreed to get in touch with his colleague Laura Patterson (Chair of Scottish PACs Managers Forum) in Glasgow to try and get more members to apply for places onto the group. BO will try to get someone from Northern Ireland.	DA & BO		Ongoing
16.	Any Other Business: Following MC's announcement that she is retiring it was agreed that VA would draft a thank you letter in the first instance.	VA		Completed

1. WELCOME FROM CHAIR

1.1 A2 warmly welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

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2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence received from Malcolm McNinch, Barry O'Hara, Michael Piper, Michael Tatlow, and Sophie Willis.

3. INTRODUCTIONS AND ONBOARDING OF NEW MEMBERS (WELCOME!)

3.1 A2 warmly welcomed new members, Robin Breslin, Louise Robinson, Naomi Shiner, and Wendy Town.

3.2 TOR thanked the new members for joining this advisory group and gave them an overview to the Society of Radiographers and outlined how the advisory groups are run and managed. There are 10 advisory groups and approximately 23 Special Interest Groups (SIG). She also stated the differences between an advisory group and a SIG. To note that that SIGs are self-governing and supported by the Society; Officers may attend some of the SIG meetings but there is no administrative support.

3.3 TOR went on to inform the group that the 10 advisory groups sit under the Society and report to Council. An officer is allocated to work with each advisory group along with an admin. 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 (Tracy O'Regan in this case) to set up the groups workplan for the year. The whole group should participate in the workplan, but it is good to have someone leading on different pieces of work. Each member should volunteer to work on various pieces of work so that everyone will be involved in the work 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.

3.4 TOR also informed the group that consultations will occasionally be sent on to them which may be in confidence, not to be shared outside the group unless indicated that it is okay to do so.

3.5 Each advisory group has fifteen members who represent the rest of the membership plus a representative from UK Council. TOR touched on the various pieces of paperwork – UK-GDPR, representing SCoR, and members proforma (these would have been sent out by VA with acceptance letters). TOR outlined the role of the Chair and Vice Chair, which is to direct and to pull the work together and make sure the work plan is staying on track. In addition, to make sure that meetings run efficiently. The officer and chair usually work together to submit the work plan to the executive director for profession and education. 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. The Chair also produces an annual report each year.

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3.6 TOR also informed the group that it is important that they try and attend the meetings, but SCoR is conscious of their varied workloads. One meeting will be completely virtual and one will be in person with the option to join virtually. Anyone who cannot attend should let VA know so it can be minuted. Apart from the two meetings a year there will be small working parties/subgroups. Chairs are not budget holders; this is under Rachel Harris and Charlotte Beardmore remit, so speak to the Chair or officer (TOR) in the first instance.

3.7 To note, it is really important that the group enjoy working together and everyone on the group have an equal voice.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 29th March 2022, were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

5.1 There were no matters arising.

6. REVIEW OF GROUP WORKPLAN AND UPDATE FOR 2022

There are two streams of work. Group's success and work still to be done.

6.1 TOR shared the workplan so that the group could view the updated areas. The group then went through the workplan and highlighted the areas that was still outstanding, and TOR agreed to update for the coming year and upload to synapse for comment. TOR also agreed to post links to information about the other advisory groups and SIGs on synapse. It was agreed that some items on the workplan will take over a year to complete so TOR suggested making the workplan into a two-year plan and this was agreed.

ACTION: TOR



6.1.1 The group discussed the depletion of the pool of active PACS managers in the UK and noted a considerable number were retiring and/or moving to other non-Radiology roles at the same time and not being able to be replaced (due to a lack of trainees). There was some concern around this.

7. QUERIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

7.1 A2 updated the group on queries received from members. One of the most common questions was around 'faulty' date / time stamps in images, particularly from ultrasound machines causing issues with new AI algorithms. It was agreed that A2 and LR would prepare an article from RIAG to say this issue is of huge concern and needs to be addressed due to the rapid rise in AI usage / trials. In the first instance A2 and LR will prepare draft points for expansion and upload to synapse for the group to comment on. NS queried if this could be an audit for some of her masters' students, as it would make an extremely good student project. This was also agreed. TOR further suggested that a statement could be included in the workplan. NS agreed to liaise with A2 for surveys, papers etc. for support for her students.

ACTION: A2, LR & NS

7.2 The second most popular question that appeared was around anxiety among members with respect for standards on the testing of integration of AI into the workflows. Some Trusts are getting money to integrate AI into patient workflows. RB gave an explanation. There should be a co-ordinated effort by NHSE. To note that there are two helpful standards on AI. How can we take this forward, can we do anything? RB suggested getting in touch with Dominic Cushing and invite him to one of these meetings - ask him what direction NHSE is going in and what can we, as a group, do to help these members. TOR mentioned Multi-Agency Advisory Service Beta Testing, which is then hopefully going live in November, to which the group was invited to take part (mentioned on synapse discussion board previously). Next steps on this are to invite Dominic to our March meeting. It was agreed that RB would invite Dominic.

ACTION: RB

7.3 The third and final major question for discussion was around the Education and Training pipeline. Job vacancies are at all-time highs at present in the field especially for PACS Project managers and experienced PACS managers. PACS managers are in short supply because they are being called to other -ologies now moving on their own Digitisation journeys. Some posts are still being advertised as band 5 or 6. There was a discussion around what can we do. Radiographers need to be educated on the role. In the West of Scotland there is a scheme for students to shadow a PACS manager for a day to increase awareness. A2 discussed the annual national PACS managers' survey. One item of note is that every trust has a budget of £3000 for training courses for every allied health professional over a three-year period.

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The issue appears that Trusts won't allow staff to have the time off during the week to do their training, resulting in courses only being viable on the weekends for busy departments.

8. 2023 GROUP ARTICLE SLOT – KEY DATES & TOPIC PLANNING

- 8.1 TOR informed the group that their 2023 slot will most likely be the June issue (last article was June 2022) and suggested that the topic could perhaps be focused on the pipeline / any workplan outcomes. The group can also submit further articles during the year – there is an online form for officers to do that, space permitting in synergy news.

9. RCR, BIR, BCS, IET & OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE/SIG DISCUSSION POINTS & FEEDBACK

9.1 Updates from A2.

- **RCR**
A2 reported that he attended a meeting last week, it was a big session on remote home working. Other topics being prioritised include updating the code of data retention practice.
- **BIR**
A2 informed the group that the BIR meeting is tomorrow and that he along with TOR and Christina Malamateniou will be attending. The agenda is very AI focused.



- **BCS**

A2 reported that the BCS is looking at the effects of AI on humans, related to adaptation with increasing use of AI. Will health career professional lives be changed? Will jobs be endangered? Are there things they will not be required to do? Are there skills in our profession which we don't need to teach anymore? Some very interesting discussions.

- **IET**

A2 informed the group that IET is looking at artificial intelligence in workflow smoothing and assistance around 24 hours working, availability of home workers. To note that they actually fund projects. They are commissioning a study to see whether this is something that will be happening.

10. GROUP MAKE-UP: REVIEW OF CONTACTS & PROSPECTS FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1 A2 queried the lack of 4 country membership on the group and asked for ideas on acquiring such, and following a discussion, TOR will contact the officers for Wales for advice. Also, to note that Nicky Harvey couldn't join the group this year due to time reasons but will re-apply next year and would be welcomed by the group if accepted by the College of Radiographers.

ACTION: TOR

11. NATIONAL RADIOGRAPHERS INFORMATICS TRAINING SESSIONS UPDATE

11.1 A2 updated. There is still tremendous interest in these (and to date 1000 have been trained this year alone (over 5000 total since the courses began), with around 2000 still on the waiting list) – the rest of the 2022 sessions are fully booked. The next sessions for 2023 are being planned, A2 asked the group to let him know of anyone who is interested in assisting with these sessions.

12. NHS DIGITAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

12.1 This was covered in the RCR update, nothing new to report.

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13. REVIEW OF THE INFORMATICS LEGACY / LESSONS ARISING FROM THE RUTHERFORD

13.1 This will be discussed at the March meeting due to MP not being present.

14. REFERENCE BOOK PROGRESSION & AREAS NEEDING ATTENTION

14.1 A2 informed the group that there were no major changes, apart from attending two meetings with publishers. He asked if any new members would like to assist. There are around 30 contributors but there are still some areas which need authors which were discussed and remain on Synapse. So, if anyone is interested, please let him know.

ACTION: ALL

15. REGIONAL VIEWS & AREAS OF FOCUS

15.1 JM gave an update to the group. To note that NIPACS Plus is going live next year, and this is a national relaunch of the lab systems which are all interdependent with each other. A large EPR programme - the encompass programme. DA gave an update and reported that Scotland is just towards the end of their software refresh

15.2 RB made mention of the national risk project.

15.3 In terms of England, A2 reported that regional procurement and renewals (some delayed by COVID) are progressing and a wider risk assessment is underway. Nationally a lot of contracts are coming up for renewal, so lots of PACS project managers will be needed which are just not available at present.

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16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 TOR informed the group that the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Group (AIAG) are looking to provide webinars and the HCPC have added a section about AI and deep learning this to their profession specific standards for radiographers. There will be a series of four or five webinars and Christina Malamateniou will be seeking contacts. There is currently a wider network on synapse for trainee consultants and consultants (in addition to the CRAG synapse). TOR wondered if the same could be done for AI/Informatics network. TOR will explore and keep the group updated.

ACTION: TOR

16.2 VA to chase those members who has not yet sent in their bios/photos.

ACTION: VA

16.3 A2 is keen to organise for Group photo to be taken at next meeting. ToR will email Jessica Reid, SoR communications manager.

ACTION: TOR

16.4 RB AI integration newly formed group and any member of the NHS is eligible for free membership. Anyone who is interested should let RB know. He will also feedback on the meeting to this group.

16.5 To note that this is VA's last meeting, as she will be retiring in the New Year. Good luck wishes were offered.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday 28th March 2023 (SCoR HQ in London) – please plan travel / book leave early to attend for the HQ meeting (as the up-to-date group photo will be taken on that day)
- Thursday 19th October 2023 (online)

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Meeting Actions Log

New Actions

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
6.	Review of Group Workplan and Update for 2022: Following a discussion on the workplan TOR agreed to post links of the other advisory groups and SIGS on synapse for the members to access. She will also update the workplan and upload to synapse for comment.	TOR & All		
7.1	Queries received from Members: Following an update on a query around time / date QA and the impact on AI algorithms it was agreed that that A2 along with LR would prepare a draft and upload to synapse for comment. NS suggested that this would be an extremely good student project and A2 will liaise with NS.	LR, A2 & NS		
7.2	The second question was around anxiety within the ranks for standards on testing of integration of Artificial Intelligence into the workflow and following discussion it was agreed that RB will get in touch with Dominic Cushing and invite to the next RIAG meeting to speak on this issue.	RB		
10.1	Group make-up: review of contacts & prospects for consideration: A2 queried the lack of 4 country members and requested ideas on acquiring such. ToR will try to source Welsh members via SoR officers for Wales.	TOR		
16.1	Any Other Business: VA to members whose bios are still outstanding.	VA		
16.2	Group photo to be taken at March 2023 meeting.	TOR & A2		
16.3	TOR informed the group that the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Group (AIAG) are looking to provide webinars to support radiographers to meet new HCPC standards (September 2023). Christina Malamateniou will be seeking contacts. TOR will keep the group updated on progress with AI/Informatics network for members.	TOR		
16.4	Reference Book Programme & Areas needing attention: A2 requested volunteers to assist with outstanding areas of the book.	All		