



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2010, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207  
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

**PRESENT:**

- Julie Burnage {JB}
- Jean Carter {JC}
- Liz Chapman {LC}
- Trish Chudleigh {TC}
- Regina Fernando {RF}
- Vivien Gibbs {VG}
- Gerry Johnson {GJ}
- Rosemary Kelso {RK}
- Pauline Kilbourn {PK}
- Rita Phillips {RP}
- Wendy Williams {WW}
- Lisa Wright {LW}

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Nigel Thomson {NT}
- Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}

Iain Dunbar of Medaphor gave a presentation of a computerised ultrasound simulator (TV Scans) to the group. A discussion followed. Anyone who was interested in having a demonstration in their Trust or workplace was encouraged to contact Iain directly.

Group Discussion – Practitioner Level – NT will work with the group on this issue by e-mail.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 NT chaired the meeting as the SCoR Council member (Margot McBride) who has taken over responsibility for this group was unable to attend. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.2 NI informed the group that Gill Dolbear is now chair of the Allied Health Professions Federation and can, unfortunately, no longer dedicate time to the group, although she will be in contact by e-mail on relevant issues until her time with the group ends.
- 1.3 Apologies for absence were received from Anne-Marie Dixon, Margot McBride, Crispian Oates and Audrey Paterson.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 2.1 With the amendment of one typographical error the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010, were approved as a true and accurate record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING & ACTION POINTS NOT OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA**

#### **3.1 Planning the 2011 Study Day (minute 4.1)**

The group discussed the next study day which will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in Leeds on ‘Minimally Invasive and Interventional Ultrasound Techniques’. All topics will be presented by Sonographers. Thanks are due to Anne-Marie Dixon for arranging much of the programme.

It was noted that the group would like to have two study days per year – one in spring and one in autumn. VG will investigate having a MSK study day in November 2011 and liaise with NT. Bristol was suggested as a possible venue but this still needs to be confirmed.

Suggested topics for the study day so far were:

- MSK
- Independent Practice

***ACTION: VG***

### **4. ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA) SCREENING**

4.1 CO was unable to attend but NT updated the group on the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening programme. This is progressing well and is being rolled out within England. Salford University has been awarded the national training contract for the ‘screeners’. The measurement of inner to inner wall has been finalised. Scotland is working up their proposals although a year behind. WW informed the group that not much is happening in Cardiff at present and it is proving difficult to find out what is happening throughout Wales. No information so far from Northern Ireland.

PK gave a brief update informing the group how AAA screening is being rolled out in the North East. It was noted that an article on AAA screening was published in “Ultrasound” in November 2010.

### **5. RCOG TRAINING**

5.1 NT informed the group that there was a critical letter from a sonographer and a reply from RCOG in the November edition of ‘Ultrasound’. The group had some concerns around this training scheme and following discussion NT ask the group to e-mail him any comments, suggestions, barriers to implementation, good practice, etc. It was noted that the SCoR has been invited to a meeting by the RCOG in January 2011 to discuss progress and NT will be attending.

***ACTION: GROUP***

### **6. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) UPDATE**

6.1 NT updated the group with regards to the requirements for CQC registration. The CQC is a statutory body with whom healthcare providers have to register but not their employees. It was noted that the interim registration fee is £950.00 but a fees consultation is on-going at present to which the SCoR will be responding. The closing date is 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

There was some concern around baby scanning studios being set up in the UK and falling outside the scope of the CQC registration requirements. The SCoR has recently been informed that they will have to register. Following discussion it was suggested that an article could be published in Synergy to raise awareness of CQC registration and that if members have any concerns about a particular provider that they can report this to the CQC themselves.

Registration with the CQC continues to be a frustrating process for many.

**ACTION:** NT

## **7. FASP CRL/NT MEASUREMENTS**

- 7.1 TC updated the group informing them that a statement has just been issued by FASP relating to the CRL measurement range that is valid for the combined test (45-84mm). TC agreed to write a statement explaining which measurements are best to use for dating purposes at the upper end of this range and will e-mail to NT and the group for comment.

**ACTION:** TC

## **8. AGENDA FOR CHANGE**

- 8.1 LW requested the views of the group on the implementation of the new Agenda for Change (AFC) weekly hours (37 from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010) and a discussion followed. The group agreed that it was up to individual managers to make sure that AFC is implemented appropriately. Continuous Professional Development time although not mandatory could be part of any solution.

## **9. UPDATING 1995 SCoR SALE OF IMAGES/DETERMINATION OF FETAL SEX ADVICE**

- 9.1 NT presented a document which updates previous guidance from the Society and College of Radiographers and asked the group to read and send any comments to him by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010, as the old and now withdrawn 1995 guidance needs updating. It was noted that a hospital in the South West had proposed to charge for fetal sexing. There is concern also that optional 3d/4d extensions (for a fee) may be proposed before too long. Both the SCoR and FASP have concerns over possible creeping commercialisation of the obstetric screening scans.

**ACTION:** NT & GROUP

## **10. RECENT CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 NT will re-circulate the newborn screening policy for neonatal hips following discussion on this during the meeting. The SCoR formally responded to this consultation. Other recent consultations have included AAA Screening Standards (Scotland), fetal anomaly scan proposals (Scotland) and the FASP consultation on best practice. There have also been various NICE consultations that have been forwarded to the group where it was thought they may be relevant to ultrasound practice.

**ACTION:** NT

## **11. CHOOSE AND BOOK**

- 11.1 NT updated the group on 'Choose and Book' stating that if you work independently and have the necessary IT systems in place you can be shown as a provider on 'Choose and Book'. JB commented that the IT requirements are demanding and expensive. It can be difficult in reality for a small provider to participate. This agenda item followed communications from 'Connecting for Health' via Rachel Harris.

## **12. UMBILICAL ARTERY DOPPLER/LIQUOR VOLUME (NICE HYPERTENSION) PROJECT**

- 12.1 At the last meeting JC, TC and RF had shown interest and it was agreed that NT and AMP would discuss this outside the meeting. It has not yet been possible to progress it further. Following discussion it was agreed that JC, TC and RF will work up a short 'scoping' paper which can be discussed with AMP with a view to possible funding/external support. NT will e-mail copies of previous e-mails and links separately to JC, TC and RF.

*ACTION: JC, TC & RF*

## **13. OUTSOURCING SERVICES**

- 13.1 The group discussed the outsourcing of services. It was noted that the first trimester screening ultrasound examinations in one hospital in the Eastern Region has been outsourced to the Fetal Medicine Foundation. The sonographers in the department concerned were very disappointed with this development and had contacted NT

## **14. WORK RELATED MUSCULO-SKELETAL DISORDERS-MONITORING GROUP**

- 14.1 NT queried whether anyone on the group would like to become part of an informal mentoring group along with him and Lyn Wigley (SCoR Health and Safety Policy Advisor) on best practice for sonographers. Following discussion VG, PK and JB volunteered. NT will advise further when it has been decided how best to proceed. To note that this follows on from an e-mail from Lyn Wigley to NT.

*ACTION: NT*

## **15. UAG SUCCESSION**

- 15.1 Following discussion, NT gratefully acknowledged the contribution of several members of the group whose presence today is their last attendance; namely Lisa Wright, Pauline Kilbourn, Rita Phillips, Rosemary Kelso and Regina Fernando.

Service with UAG ends 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

- Rosemary Kelso
- Rita Phillips
- Pauline Kilbourn
- Lisa Wright
- Regina Fernando

Service with UAG ends 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

- Anne-Marie Dixon
- Gill Dolbear

15.2 NT explained that the group was an advisory one and not a policy making one. It is required to have a very broad base of membership reflecting all aspects of sonography and recognise the four country structure of the UK. We are particularly looking to bring a musculoskeletal specialist and an echocardiographer on to the group. Members of the group were asked to let NT know of anyone they think may be interested in serving and who has the necessary experience.

15.3 Members were once again thanked by NT for all their hard work whilst on the group.

## **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

16.1 RK informed the group that the first Northern Ireland obstetric ultrasound study day will be held on Saturday.

16.2 RF queried the accuracy of an in Synergy News (September 2010) relating to the date the CPSM changed its stance on radiographer reporting. NT agreed to make enquiries through SCoR.

***ACTION: NT***

16.3 PK informed the group that the Health Care Sciences will soon be regulated by the Health Professions Council (HPC). There was a general discussion about possible problems associated with double registration. RK agreed to email specific information relating to her Trust to NT who will discuss with AMP.

***ACTION: RK & NT***

16.4 WW queried the status of the application for sonographer registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC). NT advised that there was no further change; it was still with the Department of Health.

***ACTION: NT & AMP***

## **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17.1 The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011, to be held the Society of Chiropodist and Podiatrist (will forward map and details nearer the time), commencing at 1.00pm (with a sandwich lunch at 12.30pm). This is due to pressure on accommodation at SCoR.