



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH
JUNE 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT:

- Liz Chapman {LC} {Chair}
- Richard Evans {RE}
- Elaine Gardiner {EG}
- Gill Harrison {GH}
- Gerry Johnson {GJ}
- Crispian Oates {CO}
- Suzanne Poulton {SP}
- Michael Purdon {MP}
- Steve Savage {SS}
- Margaret Taylor {MT}
- Jacque Torrington {JT}
- Sue Webb {SW}
- Wendy Williams {WW}

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made, especially for the benefit of new Council Member, Sue Webb. Richard Evans also attended for agenda item 5.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from David Cole and Sally Hill.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2014

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th November 2015 were approved as a true and accurate copy. They will be available to all members at <https://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/ultrasound-advisory-group>

4. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

4.1 7.1 MT updated the group on work in Scotland on transducer decontamination.

5. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/SONOGRAPHER SHORTAGE

(i) Health Education England

Richard Evans discussed the measures being taken by Health Education England centrally to help resolve the sonographer shortage. A series of meetings are underway with a wide range of stakeholders including the Local Education and Training Boards of which Health Education West Midlands is one.

ii) Health Education West Midlands (HEWM)

There were wide ranging discussions relating to the proposed career structure that has been drafted by HEWM. These are not SCoR proposals and if they were to be accepted by the SCoR we will need to be formally asked to comment and they will go to Council. HEWM are aware of all relevant SCoR documents on ultrasound education, career structure and assistant practitioners. UAG members expressed particular concerns with the proposals for assistant practitioners as well as what a newly qualified sonographer with a primary degree would do. Undergraduate entry course proposals by Birmingham City University were noted. The known issues around statutory registration were discussed. Richard Evans will provide feedback from the comments of the group to HEWM, particularly noting the concerns around the assistant practitioner proposals. SCoR policy is to support the development of primary degrees but there are many factors to be taken into account and we will accredit through CASE.

ACTION: RE

iii) Centre for Workforce Intelligence

The Centre for Workforce Intelligence will be conducting a major survey of ultrasound staffing and its relationship to demand in the next few weeks.

6. FASP AND THE ULTRASOUND AND LAB MEETING (30/4)

- 6.1 FASP holds ultrasound and lab meetings twice a year. The SCoR representatives are NT and Trish Chudleigh. The last meeting was held on 30th April. A series of questions were submitted in advance and the answers were circulated to the group at this meeting. They will be made publically available once NT has confirmed this with FASP. Trish Chudleigh attended the 30/4 meeting on behalf of the SCoR.

7. PVRS UPDATE

- 7.1 NT updated the group on the Public Voluntary Register for Sonographers, which went through its renewal between March 1st and April 30th of this year. Currently there are 685 sonographers who are voluntary registered. 109 of this number have no statutory regulatory home. NT was asked what the backgrounds of those who are not statutorily registered are. He responded that they largely those who trained overseas or who trained in the UK but cannot statutorily register. There are also a few midwives who started off as being statutorily registered and then lost it, as well as a few who could register with the HCPC but choose not to do so. The next renewal will be March 2017.

8. ON-LINE SURVEY-SOCIAL/COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS ALLIED TO THE NHS SCREENING SCANS

- 8.1 NT and Anne Barkworth (Knowledge Officer) are close to finalising a survey-monkey on-line questionnaire which will go to all ultrasound department managers. This will provide information on the wide ranging practice relating to sale of images, accompanying adults and children, sexing and other commercial considerations as linked to the two NHS obstetric screening scans.

9. RECENT RCR STATEMENT ABOUT REPORTING

- 9.1 The recent re-issued RCR statement on reporting and its implications were discussed. The re-issue was not discussed with the SCoR. There is no recognition within the statement that not all sonographers will hold statutory registration and may not have a registration number.

10. UKAS GUIDELINES UPDATE

- 10.1 WW updated the group and informed the group that work is still ongoing on the Guidelines update. These will be joint with BMUS and it is hoped that they will be ready in time for the BMUS annual conference in December. The 2008 UKAS Guidelines have now been archived within the SCoR document library.

11. FUTURE STUDY DAYS

- 11.1 There was discussion around ultrasound study days. GJ who sits on the BMUS committee queried the possibility of having a joint study day with BMUS in 2016.

ACTION: NT/GJ

12. CONSULTATIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 12.1 NT gave an update on recent publications.
- Antenatal Screening Wales consultation (closed 30/4/15)
 - RCOG monochorionic twin pregnancy Greentop Guideline, new edition. Closed 17/4/15
 - Copies of responses available from NT.

13. DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN DOCUMENT LIBRARY SINCE LAST MEETING

- 13.1 The joint RCR/SCoR publication entitled 'Standards for the Provision of an Ultrasound Service' has now been published.

http://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/bfcr1417_standards_ultrasound.pdf

- 13.2 Sale of Images, determination of fetal sex and commercial aspects related to NHS obstetric screening examinations, 2nd edition.

<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/sale-images-determination-fetal-sex-and-commercial-aspects-related-nhs-obstetric-ultrasound-6>

14. UAG PLANNING

- 14.1 It was noted that this was SP's last meeting and she was formally thanked for her time and hard work whilst on the group. David Cole who was unable to attend today was also thanked.
- 14.2 VA will draft letters in the first instance.

ACTION: VA

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 15.1 JT updated the group on the British Society of Gynaecological Imaging ultrasound study day arranged for 12th September at Friends House in Euston, London. Everyone was invited to attend.
- 15.2 NT gave the group an update with regards to the proposed survey on social and commercial aspects of ultrasound service delivery as related to the two obstetric screening scans. This has been piloted by the group. It is hoped that this will be distributed on-line via 'survey-monkey' by end June.

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 16.1 Dates of future meetings were agreed as:
- Thursday 3rd December 2015
 - Thursday 16th June 2016
 - Tuesday 15th November 2016

All being held at SCoR HQ and starting at the usual time of 1.00pm (with refreshments available from 12.30pm).