



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY 15th
MAY 2014 AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY AND COLLEGE OF RADIOGRAPHERS,
207 PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON, SE1 2EW**

PRESENT: David Cole {DC}
Elaine Gardiner {EG}
Gerry Johnson {GJ}
Suzanne Poulton {SP}
Margaret Taylor {MT}
Wendy Williams {WW}

Nigel Thomson, SCoR Professional Officer, Ultrasound. Acting Chair and minute taker. NT

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

NT welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Hall, Julie Burnage, Gill Harrison, Crispian Oates, Michael Purdon, Liz Chapman (Chair).

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

NT had contacted Gill Yaz of SHINE since the last meeting and she has had discussions with FASP as all groups concerned with ultrasound will need to be involved. SP reported that she had discussed the points Gill Yaz brought to the meeting locally. (Use of terms such as 'banana' cerebellum and 'lemon' shaped head).

Item 5.1. The Chair of UAG (EC) had written on behalf of the group to Audrey Paterson.

Item 8. A study day on Quality Issues in ultrasound has been arranged for 7th October 2014 in Birmingham.

Item 11.1. The legislation affecting Professional Indemnity Insurance and HCPC registration has still not been enacted and is not expected until July 2014 at the earliest.

5. RCR/SCoR STANDARDS DOCUMENT/ UKAS GUIDELINES

The RCR/SCoR Standards are due for publication in the summer of this year. Now the Scope of these is known planning can commence as far as a new edition of the UKAS Guidelines is concerned. These can focus on areas not covered by the RCR/SCoR Standards document. Wendy Williams has agreed to be editor. The RCR/SCoR Standards will be circulated soon to members of the UAG; they will be in advanced draft form.

6. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A high level meeting took place at the Victoria offices of Higher Education England on 10th April that brought together several groups with an interest in the sonographer workforce. The meeting focused on ways in which the current sonographer workforce problems might be solved. The East Midlands LETB have proposals for increasing the number of sonographer trainees and the W Midlands LETB held a meeting in Birmingham in February 2014 which NT gave a presentation at.

There are a couple of universities that are exploring a first degree in ultrasound but there are many obstacles that will need to be overcome, not least the lack of statutory registration and the lack of a clearly identified role for band 5/6 sonographers. See also <https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/direct-entry-undergraduate-ultrasound-programmes-competency-practise-briefing-society-and-college> Yorkshire and Humberside LETB in conjunction with Leeds University have implemented the '3 plus 1' model linking radiography and ultrasound training. The SCoR will be repeating its 2011 Workforce Survey in June. It would be appreciated if the UAG would pilot the questions. NT to circulate to group.

ACTION: NT

7. FASP/DQASS MEETINGS

FASP arrange a regular series of meetings with laboratories and have extended the remit of the group to include ultrasound. Earlier this year they asked for a couple of representatives from the SCoR to attend. Details were circulated to the UAG but none of the current membership was able to participate. The SCoR representatives have since been finalised as Trish Chudleigh and NT. If you have any concerns or comments relating to the FASP screening scans please do let NT know. The next meeting will be in August 2014.

8. T13/T18 CONSULTATION

NT highlighted this consultation which has been circulated to the group. Closing date is 16th June 2014. It is a National Screening Committee/FASP consultation.

9. LAW SOCIETY REPORT

There has been a long and detailed report into the regulation of professionals in healthcare published. This may have an effect on the bid for sonographer registration but is too early to say yet. The SCoR will closely monitor any developments. There is a draft Bill associated with the report which will also have to find parliamentary time; changes cannot be enacted without the supporting legislation. The report has been circulated to UAG members and is also available at <http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/publications/Healthcare-professions.htm>

10. CASE

If any group member would like to apply to become a CASE accreditor they would be very welcome. Following discussions about the role of CASE, NT informed the group that if there are any problems with the delivery of ultrasound courses that are affecting members they should discuss with the HEI concerned and with CASE if necessary. The SCoR has two representatives to CASE, Vivien Gibbs and Gill Dolbear. NT does not have a formal role with respect to CASE.

11. AQP UPDATE

NT informed the group that central support for AQP via the Supply2Health website finished at the end of March and has been devolved to the commissioners.

12. UAG MEMBERSHIP

This was going to be Julie Burnage's last meeting but she was unfortunately unable to attend today. Julie has given long and valuable service to the UAG as an Independent sonographer. NT thanked Julie in her absence for her contribution over the years. We will be seeking an Independent sonographer for the UAG in due course. Julie's term officially ends at the end of June 2014.

ACTION: NT

13. EXPERT WITNESSES

We get many requests for experienced sonographers to formally comment upon cases from solicitors acting for the plaintiff or defendant. Please let NT know if you would like to become involved. NT to check that the SCoR PII cover is effective for this work. We hope to introduce a more formalised procedure and offer training in due course.

ACTION: NT

14. RECENT CONSULTATIONS (since last meeting)

NICE Quality Standards on pain and bleeding in early pregnancy - closed 7th April
RCOG consent standards- closed 10th May
RCOG ultrasound in the embryonic period- closes 16th May
FASP Trisomy 13 and 18- closes 16th June
HCPC- Consultation on standards of proficiency for biomedical scientists and clinical scientists closes 20th June

Coming up

RCR/SCoR Standards for Ultrasound Service Delivery (see item 5). Advanced draft, will be sent Monday 19th May. Please keep confidential.

14. AOB

GJ commented that there would be potential problems if Guidelines and Standards were published by several different groups and all said different things. NT commented that the

proposed update of the UKAS Guidelines would not duplicate the RCR/SCoR Standards but would complement them by concentrating on areas that were not covered in that document. BMUS had contributed to the RCR/SCoR document so hopefully we will not see any duplication. The BMUS Guidelines on QA of ultrasound equipment will be incorporated into the RCR/SCoR document with due acknowledgement.

Toshiba are holding a study day looking at the issues surrounding endo-probe cleaning and decontamination. SP is attending on behalf of the UAG and will report back.

ACTION: SP

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25th November 2014. Please note that this is a **TUESDAY** and not the usual Thursday. Charlotte Beardmore who has taken over from Audrey as Director of Professional Policy at the SCoR will hopefully be attending.