

Chief Executive Officer  
Richard Evans OBE



## Ultrasound Advisory Group (UAG)

### Meeting Summary

**Date:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Time:** 1.00pm – 3.30pm

**Venue:** Society and College of Radiographers HQ

#### In Attendance:

<b>Members: (state names with initials in brackets)</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Site</b>
Gill Harrison (GH)	Chair	Ultrasound Programme Director	City, University of London
Alexandra Drought (AD)	Advisory	Superintendent Ultrasonographer	West Middlesex University Hospital
Ellen Dyer (ED)	Advisory	Sonographer	Rosie Maternity Hospital
Karen Hammett (KH)	Advisory	Clinical Ultrasound Manager	Barnet Hospital
Catriona Hynes (CH)	Advisory	Lecturer	Sheffield Hallam University
Sandra Morrissey (SM)	Advisory	Sonographer	Pinderfields Hospital
Helen Ong (HO)	Advisory	Fetal Anomaly Scanning Lead	The Ulster Hospital
Michael Purdon (MP)	Advisory	Senior Chief Cardiac Physiologist	Hinchingbrooke Hospital
Lorraine Walsh (LW)	Advisory	Sonographer	Good Hope Hospital
Sue Webb	UK Council	UK Council	Broomfield Hospital
<b>Observers:</b>			
Nigel Thomson (NT)	Professional Officer		Society & College of Radiographers
Valerie Asemah (VA)	Minutes		Society & College of Radiographers
Catherine Kirkpatrick (CK)	BMUS Liaison		BMUS

Quartz House, 207 Providence Square, Mill Street, London SE1 2EW

T: 0207 740 7200 E: [info@sor.org](mailto:info@sor.org) W: [www.sor.org](http://www.sor.org)

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**Apologies:**

Victoria Cooke (VC)	Advisory	Sonographer	Freeman Hospital
Morag Stout (MS)	Advisory	Consultant Sonographer	QE University Hospital Glasgow
Lorelei Waring (LW)	Advisory	Lecturer	University of Cumbria (Lancaster Campus)
Lynne Williams (LW)	Advisory	National Ultrasound Lead	InHealth

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

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
4.1	At the last meeting NT had informed the group that the poster entitled 'delivering difficult news' designed by Lorraine Walsh had been endorsed by SCoR Council. This has now been published and can be found on the website.	NT		Completed
4.2	NT again requested for a volunteer from this group to sit on the Diagnostic Imaging Advisory Group (DIAG) and report back to this meeting. CH volunteered. VA will update Sue Johnson (professional officer in charge of DIAG) with this information and she will liaise with CH.	VA & SJ		Ongoing
14.3	It was noted that an annual report and work plan for the group is needed. NT and the Chair will draft a paper and send it out to the group for comment and feedback.	NT & GH		Ongoing
14.4	A journal club and an online discussion group was discussed at the last meeting as one way for the group to be involved with ongoing work. Although a good idea it would only work if the group takes control of it. Group members were asked to think about how to go about this when formulating the workplan. With regard to using Glasscubes NT informed the group that SCoR does not hold enough licences to introduce for the UAG. E-mail and Synapse communication should be sufficient. Some UAG members on other SCoR groups also found Glasscubes difficult as full message not available when alerted to a post without logging in.	Group		Ongoing

As per standard Agenda to include:

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made.
- 1.2 NT introduced Catherine Kirkpatrick, representative from BMUS who will be attending these meeting on behalf of BMUS as an agreement has been reached for a representative of each organisation to attend meetings of their equivalent professional groups.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Victoria Cooke, Michael Purdon, Morag Stout, Lynne Williams and Lorelei Waring.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 3.1 With the amendment of one typographical error (item 8.1.1. – remove the words ‘and sexing’) the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, were approved as a true and accurate record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

**5. ANNUAL REPORT AND WORKPLAN**

There was a group discussion on the annual report and workplan for this group. The Chair asked group members to please comment on the workplan which will be uploaded to Synapse for all to see.

5.1 It was agreed that the Chair and NT would get together to draft the annual report.

5.2 Workplan – the group discussed workplan targets for next year.

Hold a study day. Topics suggested included:-

- Transgender issues when scanning
- FGM
- Vulnerable Adults
- Mental Health
- Dementia
- Pregnant women using cannabis and alcohol
- Chaperoning

5.2.1 Other ideas included setting up a UAG Alumni Group, Ultrasound Journal Club on Twitter.

***ACTION:ALL***

## **6. HEE UPDATE**

6.1 NT informed the group that he attended the first HEE meeting in 2014 and has been actively involved with developments since then.

NT updated the group on the work that is being led by Health Education England. The proposed new career and education structure has been previously circulated to the group. There are three HEE working groups reporting to HEE's Integrated Imaging Workforce Development Group. Both SCoR and BMUS are stakeholders as are many other organisations with an interest in ultrasound services. The three groups are working on 1) career and educational framework (group is led by Pam Parker) 2) Regulation 3) Clinical training capacity. Proposals have reached an advanced stage but they are not yet fully ready. BMUS have been commissioned to write a report on developing a capability framework to link all levels of practice and allow a sonographer to progress through the framework with the necessary support in place. The HEE bid for statutory registration that is supported by all the CASE organisations has not yet been submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care. This will include a report from the Professional Standards Authority who are influential on government policy on regulation. The clinical training capacity working group have been very active and are investigating many clinical training possibilities and sources of funding.

**Post meeting note:** The PSA report to HEE has now been published and is not supportive of statutory regulation. <https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/home>

The medical ultrasound integrated degree apprenticeship trailblazer held a consultation on the mandatory End Point Assessment in March. The Standard associated with the apprenticeship was approved last year. No specific further information although the apprenticeship funding is lower than expected and may be a problem for the HEIs. Apprenticeships are under the remit of the Institute of Apprenticeships and Technical Education which is part of the Department of Education, not Health. The apprenticeship proposals are, however, fully integrated into HEE's proposed educational and career framework.

HEE's '200' project to recruit that number of new sonographers to undertake third trimester growth studies has completed. It did reach its target although the great majority were midwives who are a shortage profession in their own right. This project was commissioned a couple of years ago directly with HEE by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

## **7. MEDICAL ULTRASOUND AWARENESS MONTH**

- 7.1 Following on from the success of last years 'Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month' (MUAM) the group indicated that they would like to repeat it again this year. The aim is to have an article on a different topic relating to ultrasound each working day. This is quite a demanding target. Deadline for initial articles is the end of August and to be sent to the Chair or NT. Articles can be very varied and off-piste such as last year's ones on ultrasound cake baking and an ultrasound ghost story for Halloween.

***ACTION: ALL***

## **8. FUNDING FOR MSc**

- 8.1 SM had a query around the Society's stance on funding for MSc students. There are various sources of funding available. NT will make enquiries of Rachel Harris who leads on research for the SCoR.

***ACTION: NT***

## **9. BEST PRACTICE ADVICE FOR NEONATAL HIPS**

- 9.1 LW had a query around neonatal hips and what is the best practice. NT had previously circulated information from NIPE. These scans stand outside the national screening programme for infant examination and there is not an agreed standardised procedure. Many variations of the Graf technique are in use. If any group members have relevant information please could they let Lorraine know?

***ACTION: ALL***

## **10. GUIDANCE FOR IMAGING TRANSGENDER PATIENTS**

- 10.1 CH queried what information there was on the imaging of transgender patients. Following discussion it was suggested that CH speak with Peter Higgs, SCoR Regional Officer who works with Equalise and has great experience in this.

***ACTION: CH***

**Post meeting note:** CH circulated a couple of relevant articles to the group.

## **11. USING EXPERIENCE OF PAST UAG MEMBERS**

- 11.1 The Chair wanted to find out how past UAG members could be involved in giving advice/guidance to current members and engage with consultations relevant to their area of practice etc. and following a discussion the group felt that this was a good idea and suggested setting up something along the lines of 'The UAG Alumni Group'. It was agreed that GH and NT would ask Jason Custance (SCoR IT Manager) for help in setting this up and discuss further within the SCoR.

***ACTION: GH & NT***

## **12. NHS ENGLAND SAVING BABIES' LIVES v2 CARE BUNDLE. (SBLv2)**

12.1 NT updated the group on version two of the publication by NHS England on Saving Babies' Lives. Following a discussion NT requested feedback from the group especially around implementation. There will be a potential impact on the time available for the FASP mid-trimester anomaly scan. The National Screening Committee have a still open consultation on whether to screen for stillbirth, the recommendation is that it does not meet NSC criteria. There are likely to be training issues also relating to uterine artery Doppler. To note that there will be a letter on this issue in the July edition of Synergy News with a response from NT. NT has been in contact with FASP and will raise SBLv2 at the FASP ultrasound and lab meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

## **13. BANDING IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

13.1 HO discussed the banding of sonographers in Northern Ireland, particularly when they were not scanning a full range of patients, for example holding a postgraduate certificate and practice limited to obstetrics. Discussions on wider UK banding in this situation followed.

## **14. UAG MEMBERSHIP**

14.1 It was noted that this was Alexandra Drought's last meeting and she was thanked for all her work during her tenure. She expressed the desire to keep abreast of any ultrasound changes/updates. NT mentioned the two new members Emily Skelton and Matthew Anderson who will be joining UAG from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

## 15. RECENT CONSULTATIONS

### 15.1 Recent consultations (since last meeting) and circulated to the group.

NICE ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage. Diagnosis and Initial management. Closed 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Has since been published at <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng126>

[NICE publish all feedback received during Guideline development which can be viewed if interested.](#)

Health Education England, Information to support bid for statutory registration.

<https://www.sor.org/news/evidence-put-forward-statutory-registration-sonographers>

AAA Screening Programme. Standards. Closed 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

National Screening Committee appraisal. Prevention of stillbirth. Closed 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

The recommendation being consulted on was that the criteria required for setting up a national screening programme for the prevention of stillbirth were not met. Note this is population screening as part of a national screening programme. <https://legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/stillbirth> Due to complete August 2019

Sonography Apprenticeship Trailblazer End Point Assessment consultation. Closed 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

NICE multiple pregnancy. Closed 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Publication due later this year.

Pilot of SCoR ultrasound workforce survey. Closed 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Has been finalised, sent out and will close soon.

15.2 NT mentioned to the group that SCoR gives feedback to NICE consultations. NICE publishes all feedback and NT suggested to the group to have a look, just for interest. SM confirmed that being on NICE was a good experience and suggested everyone should take the opportunity

## 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 There was a discussion around SCoR and BMUS having a joint or similar type of study day next year. It was agreed that NT and CK will discuss further.

***ACTION:NT & CK***



16.2 Charlotte Beardmore {CB} Director of Professional Policy came to the meeting to give an update from an HEE meeting which she attended earlier in the day. To note that the Integrated Imaging Workforce Development Group of which both the SCoR and BMUS are members is responsible for ensuring the supply of the radiography and sonography workforce and is over-seeing the development of the proposed sonography education and career framework. Sonography was discussed. CB reported on the meeting which focused on the three working groups referred to earlier in this UAG meeting and a discussion ensued. Charlotte confirmed that HEE's bid for statutory registration for sonographers had not yet been submitted.

## 17. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

17.1 The dates of future meetings has been confirmed as:

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Meeting Actions Log

Item No.	Description	Owner	Due Date	Status
5.2	UAG Workplan 2019: Group discussed workplan and suggest topics that should be included. Chair and NT to start draft and upload to synapse for comments.	Chair/NT	Ongoing	
7	Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month: Group indicated that they would like to have a medical ultrasound awareness month following the success of last year. Ideas/articles to be sent to Chair or NT by end of August 2019.	All	By 1/10/19	
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		

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.	NT		
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		

**Conferences & Events dates for the diary:** None at the moment