



**NOTES OF THE RADIOTHERAPY ADVISORY GROUP (RAG) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH
SEPTEMBER 2009, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT:

Gaile Biggart {GB}
Angela Duxbury {AD}
Jane Head {JH}
Susan Lamb {SL}
Kate Love {KL}
Bernadette McCarthy {BM}
Nicola Redgwell {NR}
Christine Richards {CR}

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah James {SLJ}
Valerie Asemah {VA} {Notes}

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 SLJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Michael Graveling {MG} was unable to attend today as he was unwell. As no other Council member was present this resulted in the meeting being non quorate. SLJ chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 To note that new member Dawn Brunning was unable to attend the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Charlotte Beardmore, Dawn Brunning, Hazel Colyer, Nicky Cornelius, Angie Craig, Michael Graveling, Steve Harris, Julie Massey and Noreen Sinclair.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2009

- 3.1 The group requested three minor changes to the minutes. SLJ will pass to the Chair for approval at the next RAG meeting.

Action: SLJ

4. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

- 4.1 The group indicated that it would be useful if 4 Tier country reports could be distributed to the whole group. SLJ will ensure that this is done.

Action: SLJ

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS/UPDATES FROM EACH OF THE UK COUNTRIES AND CONSIDER ANY SUPPORTING ACTIONS/WORK REQUIRED BY THE SCoR/RAG

- 5.1 England NRIG: JH reported that there has been no NRIG meeting since the last RAG meeting and the next one is not due until 30th October 2009, and the meetings has now been reduced to two per year. The workforce event scheduled for 25th September was briefly discussed, and the group were reminded about the NRAG day on 13th November 2009.
- 5.2 Scotland TriS & SRAG: NR reported that planning for the implementation of IMRT and IGRT is ongoing. Scotland has not been invited to be part of the tendering process for proton services in the UK.
- 5.3 Wales: BM reported that a similar situation to Scotland with regard to implementation of IGRT and IMRT. Due to a variety of issues, radiotherapy is high on the 'political agenda' in Wales. A business case for additional linacs is in progress.
- 5.4 Northern Ireland: GB reported that work is ongoing to commission an assistant practitioner course for radiographers in Northern Ireland but funding is only currently available within radiotherapy for one trainee/assistant practitioner. Work is also ongoing to commission an accredited Supplementary prescribing course for radiographers, podiatrist and physiotherapists, from the University of Ulster.

The business case for an additional linear accelerator and CT Simulator with associated staffing cost is being finalised.

6. RAG SUBGROUP REPORTS

- 6.1 To confirm that the new staff guidance entitled Radiotherapy Moving Forward: Delivering new radiography staffing models in response to the Cancer Reform Strategy was published in July 2009 and implementing the career progression framework – policy into practice guidance was published in August 2009. JH was thanked for her contribution.

7. FUTURE OF RAG

- 7.1 SLJ is to attend the next managers meeting in October and it was agreed that the group should be updated on RAGs activities. It was agreed that this should be a regular two-way feedback process between RAG and the RT managers group.

Action: SLJ

8. SCoR ADVANCED AND CONSULTANT PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATION

- 8.1 Working documents were circulated from AMP on the above and discussion on the process ensued. AMP is keen to get feedback from this group and the radiotherapy managers groups. SLJ will email AMP the details of key issues raised today. The group will email SLJ with further comments as soon as possible.

Action: SLJ & Group

9. TO RECEIVE UPDATE WORK FROM THE RCR SCoR IPEM RADIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT BOARD

9.1 To note that the work of the Radiotherapy Department Board is due for publication which is anticipated in early 2010. It is hoped that therapeutic radiographers will have easy access to these documents via a website link that. SLJ will keep group updated on progress.

Action: SLJ

10. ACORRN

10.1 KL reported that an application had been submitted by the Steering Committee to the Charity Commission but to date a response is still outstanding. It was felt that a network of technical advice would be lost if ACORRN is not maintained as it is a vehicle of communication for service improvement and best practice. KL will keep the group updated on progress.

Action: KL

11. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE RCR CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FACULTY BOARD MEETING

11.1 MG was unable to attend this meeting, but will update the group at the next meeting. SLJ will be attending the next meeting in October 2009 and report at the next RAG meeting.

Action: SLJ

12. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE SCoR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE RCR CLINICAL AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

12.1 NC was unable to attend this meeting, but will update the group at the next meeting.

Action: NC

13. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE RCR CLINICAL ONCOLOGY PATIENTS LIAISON GROUP

13.1 HC was unable to attend this meeting and no report was available.

14. SCoR VERT PROJECT

14.1 The group discussed the report. All present were encouraged to provide user feedback to Moira Tomlinson as soon as possible.

15. REPORT FROM RT MANAGERS MEETING

15.1 To note that the next radiotherapy managers meeting will be held on 15th -16th October 2009. SLJ to liaise with Carolyn O'Donovan that RAG members would like feedback on R-PORT.

Action: SLJ

16. OTHER NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS

- 16.1 The RCR multidisciplinary group to establish paediatric guidelines was noted.
- 16.2 Joint working group to develop radiosurgery guidelines – stereotactic radiographs to be discussed at next NRIIG meeting.
- 16.3 Cancer Peer Review Measures is currently out to consultant and publication due in late 2009/early 2010. Julia Solano representing SCoR.
- 16.4 Dosimetrists working group – a business case is being written for managers to secure funding to support a pilot practitioner programme in RT physics (dosimetry) over 3 years.
- 16.5 RCR/SCoR/IPEM RT Planning Working Group. Guidelines in progress and likely to be published later this year.
- 16.6 DH E learning for Health Project – technical radiotherapy. Multi- professional group established chaired by Dr Li Tee Tan, first meeting held 31st July. SCoR representatives: Audrey Patterson, Jane Head, Michael Graveling, Julie Davies, Natalie Howes, Adele Stewart-Lord. JH reported that the DH has a whole department around publications and teaching.
- 16.7 Macmillan Long Term Consequences of RT treatment group. Debbie Collins representing SCoR.

17. NICE update

- 17.1 To note that the IMRT appraisals (breast, head and neck, prostate) announcement that they have been stopped since June 2009.
- 17.2 To note that the Lung Cancer Clinical Guidelines are still awaiting publication.
- 17.3 Ovarian Cancer Clinical Guidelines final scope published June 2009. Lisa Punt, Consultant Radiographer at Addenbrookes is SCoR representative.
- 17.4 Colorectal Cancer Clinical Guidelines scope published July 2009. Rosalind Waugh, Consultant Radiographer at St James Cook Hospital is the SCoR representative.
- 17.5 Update to technology appraisal process consultation closed on 3rd March 2009.
- 17.6 Provisions of information for the general public on the prevention of skin cancer consultation. The final Stakeholder Comments Response Table for this consultation posted on the NICE website.
- 17.7 Topic selection process for technology appraisals consultation ended 22nd May 2009.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 18.1 Nicky Cornelius and Christina Freeman are attending a meeting today with Shelagh Morris (Department of Health) to discuss the issue of radiographers becoming independent prescribers. SLJ will request an update on this meeting and report back to RAG members.

Action: SLJ

- 18.2 JH reported 2 radiographers (Suzanne Henwood and herself) have been accepted onto the Expert Reference Panel as part of the Pan London Review team. The report is due out in December 2009.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 19.1 SLJ to identify future RAG meeting dates (April and November) and email to members.