



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY  
16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207  
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

**PRESENT:**

- Liz Chapman {LC} {Chair}
- Alexandra Drought {AD}
- Gill Harrison {GH}
- Sally Hill {SH2}
- Gerry Johnson {GJ}
- Crispian Oates {CO}
- Michael Purdon {MP}
- Margaret Taylor {MT}
- Jacque Torrington {JT}
- Wendy Williams {WW}

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}
- Nigel Thomson {NT}
- Sue Webb {SW} {UK Council Representative}
- Steve Herring {UK Council, observing}
- Sheila Hassan {SCR President, observing}

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made, especially for the benefit of the SCoR President (Sheila Hassan) and President Elect (Steve Herring) who attended the meeting as observers.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Elaine Gardiner and Steve Savage.

**3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

3.1 With the amendment of one typographical error (link address 8.1) the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, were approved as a true and accurate record.

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

4.1 There were no matters arising.

#### **4a. LETTER IN JUNE SYNERGY NEWS RE SOCIAL/COMMERCIAL ASPECTS**

- 4.1 Richard Evans, SCoR Chief Executive, was invited to the meeting to give his views and to obtain the views of this group on a letter that has been published in the June edition of Synergy News. This was on the topic of the social and commercial pressures sonographers face in obstetric ultrasound, particularly with the two screening scans. There will be a follow up article by the same author in July's Synergy News. There is a long standing problem for sonographers who feel that the emphasis is now on the social aspects of the scan rather than on the medical aspects for which the scan is being undertaken. This also links to a survey on the topic run by the SCoR last year (2015) and the study day held in November (2015) in Birmingham. Sonographers are at the receiving end of frequent and often unpleasant complaints about the social/commercial aspects of the work. There are also many ill informed comments on internet sites.

There were wide ranging discussions. These focused on the consent issues that are at the heart of these examinations, who should obtain consent, what information is available and what actions can realistically be taken. There are many issues also around how many adults should be allowed into the scan room and policies towards younger children who rapidly lose interest and can cause a major distraction. The various ways in which sonographers are supported (or otherwise) by Trust or Health Board management were also discussed.

It was agreed that the NHS Litigation Authority may have a role and RE would investigate this. Members of the group were asked to send in examples of good practice protocols, which could be shared. Other suggestions included designing a poster for waiting rooms, discussing with FASP again and also providing more information of the sonographer's role and the problems they face for midwives.

***ACTION: RE and ALL***

#### **5. THE ETHICS OF NIPT – Nuffield bioethics call for views and evidence**

- 5.1 NT advised the group of a consultation by the Nuffield Bioethics Foundation into the ethics of NIPDT. Details of the consultation have been circulated to the group. NIPT will in the future be able to evaluate a very wide range of fetal anomalies and conditions along with early identification of the fetal sex. This raises ethical issues which is the focus of the consultation. The closing date is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July. <http://nuffieldbioethics.org/project/non-invasive-prenatal-testing/>

#### **6. HEALTH EDUCATION ENGLAND UPDATE AND PROGRESS**

- 6.1 NT updated the group on the HEE sonographer workforce project. A meeting was held in January 2016 where it was decided that the views of the service would be formally sought. A survey would be designed by HEE and distributed. This has since taken place with the survey due to be completed by June 24<sup>th</sup>. It has been sent to a wide range of stakeholders, individuals are also invited to complete. The SCoR has submitted a response. The main new addition to the pathways being evaluated is including sonography within a radiography undergraduate programme.

**Post meeting note:** HEE have arranged a meeting for invited stakeholders on July 19<sup>th</sup> where the results of the survey will be discussed.

## **7. STUDY DAY NEXT YEAR**

- 7.1 NT informed the group that next year's study day is set for 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 and will be held at SCoR HQ or a larger London location if sufficient demand. The study day will be on obstetric ultrasound with the programme having been developed by AD.

## **8. FASP ULTRASOUND AND LAB MEETING**

- 8.1 NT updated the group on the bi-annual meetings of the FASP ultrasound and lab group. The focus is on the laboratories but it is a good forum to raise ultrasound issues, which we do. Currently NT attends with Trish Chudleigh as alternate. Please contact NT if any specific information is required or if there is anything you would like raised. The next meeting is on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

***ACTION: ALL***

## **9. NICE EARLY LABOUR QUALITY STANDARDS**

- 9.1 NT distributed the SCoR response to the NICE consultation on Quality Standards for preterm labour and birth. The Guidelines themselves are NICE NG25. The Quality Standards consultation had included an open question as to whether transvaginal cervical length assessment should be included for all women at the anomaly scan. NT collated UAG comments received and responded to NICE. UAG members were asked to keep the circulated comments confidential until they are published on their website by NICE.

## **10. TRANSDUCER CLEANING**

- 10.1 MT gave an update and informed the group that the Scottish study on transducer cleaning has now ended. Guidance has been produced with implications for sonographers. The link has been previously circulated to the group and applies in Scotland. There was a round table discussion around the cleaning and disinfection of probes. Wales is carrying out an audit but as in England there is as yet no definitive publication. It was noted that Steve Savage (UAG member) has trialled an Ultra-violet sterilisation system and if anyone has any questions they can ask him.
- <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/documents/hai/infection-control/guidelines/NHSScotland-Guidance-for-Decontamination-of-Semi-Critical-Ultrasound-Probes.pdf>

## **11. INTIMATE EXAMINATION AND CHAPERONE POLICY**

- 11.1 NT informed the group that a new edition of this document has just been published. It applies to the whole imaging and therapeutic workforce but does not replace local employer policies which should be read in conjunction. There are links within to the most current GMC and MDU advice. It is very relevant to practice with a summary of the key good practice considerations. The RCR published advice last year. The GMC advice reflected in this document is that an offer of a chaperone should be made but the whole document should be read for context and for detailed considerations relating to the various situations that may be encountered. There was a discussion around the need for more radiology support officers/helpers as many sonographers struggle to find a suitable chaperone.

## **12. PUBLIC VOLUNTARY REGISTER OF SONOGRAPHERS, CPD**

- 12.1 NT updated the group on the Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers (PVRs). The PVRs has its next renewal due to commence in March 2017. There is now a CPD audit process published that will apply to all on the PVRs who are not also statutorily registered. This will first operate at the March 2017 renewal. There are currently approx 750 voluntary registrants of whom 143 have no statutory regulatory home  
[https://www.sor.org/system/files/article/201604/2016.4.5\\_cpd\\_final.pdf](https://www.sor.org/system/files/article/201604/2016.4.5_cpd_final.pdf)

## **13. PAUSE AND CHECK POSTERS**

- 13.1 NT informed the group that the 'Pause and Check' poster for ultrasound has been published and is now available via the document library in A3, A4 and handheld versions. Please print out and use as required.

## **14. RECENT CONSULTATIONS**

- 14.1 NT gave an update on recent consultations and thanked the group for their input.
- Update of FASP U/S handbooks and programme handbooks (Closed)
  - Replacement for the Jill Rogers Associates 18w to 20w 6d resource (FASP) (Now published)  
<http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/fasp-elearning#fileid15054>
  - Quality Standards for NICE pre-term labour and birth (Closed- response attached above. Please keep confidential. Thank you to all who commented)
  - Amendment to fertility guidance, NICE (Closed, no comments)
  - Nuffield bioethics NIPT (Closes July 25<sup>th</sup>, agenda item, link above)

## **15. DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN DOCUMENT LIBRARY SINCE LAST MEETING**

- 15.1 Intimate Examinations and Chaperone Policy - 5/5/16  
<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/intimate-examinations-and-chaperone-policy-0>
- Have you Paused and Checked Ultrasound - 8/4/16  
<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/have-you-paused-and-checked-ultrasound>
- Two NHS Obstetric Screening Scans Report December - 2015  
[https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/two\\_nhs\\_obstetric\\_screening\\_scans\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/two_nhs_obstetric_screening_scans_report_final.pdf)
- Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice - December 2015  
[https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/ultrasound\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/ultrasound_guidance.pdf)

## **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 16.1 JT informed the group that the next British Society of Gynaecological Imaging study day is due to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Birmingham. JT will distribute further information.

- 16.2 CO informed the group that the high BMI poster he had designed will be published.
- 16.3 SH thanked the group for allowing her to sit in on the meeting and praised them for the excellent work they are doing and encourage them to keep on doing so.
- 16.4 SH asked to join the UAG Synapse group. This was agreed and VA will do this.

***ACTION: VA***

## **17. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

17.1 Dates of meetings for the remainder of 2016 and all of 2017 were agreed as:

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

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