



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD
DECEMBER 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT:

- Liz Chapman {LC} {Chair}
- Alexandra Drought {AD}
- Elaine Gardiner {EG}
- Gill Harrison {GH}
- Sally Hill {SH}
- Crispian Oates {CO}
- Michael Purdon {MP}
- Steve Savage {SS}
- Margaret Taylor {MT}
- Jacque Torrington {JT}
- Wendy Williams {WW}

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}
- Nigel Thomson {NT}
- Sue Webb {SW} {Council representative}

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 member Alexandra Drought.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Gerry Johnson.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE 2015

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2015, were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

4.1 NT asked MT to update the group on the Scottish working party on transducer contamination that she was involved with. MT explained that they were still working on this and were some way from a final report. They were swabbing probes to provide evidence of transducer decontamination. There is therefore still no national recommendation on the cleaning and decontamination of ultrasound probes, still a long way to go before any guidance is forthcoming.

4.2 FASP and the ultrasound and lab meeting (30/4)

To note that Trish Chudleigh attended this meeting and answers to queries had been previously circulated to the group. There were still concerns with the consent requirements for T13 and T18 and the complexity of this. The Jill Rogers online tool to support the fetal anomaly scan has been taken off-line and is now in the national archives. It is FASP's intention that this tool is re-published in due course. FASP requirements for the examination times are now in NHS England service specifications numbers 16 and 17

5. **HEALTH EDUCATION ENGLAND UPDATE AND PROGRESS**

5.1 NT updated the group.

A major piece of work is being undertaken by HEE which started about 2 years ago. A high level working group chaired by Professor Sue Hill (Chief Scientific Officer) has been set up to find a solution to the national ultrasound workforce shortage. A series of large meetings are being held with various organisations and individuals giving their views. HEE are interested in hearing from all who have an interest. There has also been the national survey conducted by the Centre for Workforce Intelligence. HEE would be assessing a range of options including undergraduate and postgraduate pathways. They are due to report in March next year. HEE are aware of concerns around undergraduate pathways and also those relating to lack of registration for sonographers. There are meetings planned for December 2015 and January 2016.

Some UAG group members felt that the current three year radiography training may need to include other modalities and become more varied but this is not easy given the registration requirements of the HCPC and the pressure on the undergraduate timetable. Sue Webb noted that Council have been discussing similar issues and she would monitor for the group.

ACTION: SW

6. **POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSISTANT PRACTITIONERS AND OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND**

6.1 The policy state was issued earlier this year. It was consequent upon comments received from members and was drawn up at the request of Council.

https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/2015_9_9_position_statement_final2.pdf

7. **UKAS GUIDELINES UPDATE**

7.1 NT updated the group and informed them that the new edition of the Guidelines are now ready with a simplified title, and will be published on 10th December at the BMUS annual conference in Cardiff. They will also be available from that date on both the SCoR and BMUS websites. WW and NT thanked all those who helped with the review of this document.

8. ON-LINE SURVEY AND STUDY DAY

Social and commercial considerations linked to the two NHS screening scans

- 8.1 To note that a questionnaire was sent out in July and the analysis is hoped to be published by the end of December. The study day in Birmingham went very well. It was noted that a West Country Trust is trialling a ‘cloud’ based commercial system to pay for video/photos after scanning. NT asks that any specific information on such developments be sent to him as members become aware. CO offered to share his posters on high BMI with the rest of the group.

ACTION: CO

POST MEETINGNOTE:

‘Social and Commercial considerations’ document now published at:

http://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/docuemnt-versions/two_nhs_obstetric_screening_scans-report-final.pdf

9. FGM STATEMENT

- 9.1 NG informed the group on the new mandatory requirements to report FGM. NT advised the group to look at the document on the SCoR website and also to have a look at the information provided by the NHS. It was noted that this advice does not apply to Scotland or Northern Ireland.

<https://www.sor.org/news/new-mandatory-duty-radiographers-england-and-wales>

10. CASE COMMITTEE

- 10.1 VA was tasked with checking if this advert was currently on the SCoR website. The SCoR is seeking a third CASE committee member.

ACTION: VA

POST MEETING NOTE:

The advert is currently running on the website and applications have been received.

11. WRITING FOR SYNERGY AND SYNERGY NEWS

- 11.1 NT asked group members if they would consider writing an article for Synergy or Synergy News as there are not many article on ultrasound within the journals (Synergy in particular).

ACTION: ALL

12. STUDY DAY NEXT YEAR

- 12.1 NT updated and informed the group that there is nothing planned as yet. He asked the group to send him any ideas they may have. To also note that there is a minimum six month lead in so would likely to be in the second half of next year if we can find a good topic.

ACTION: ALL

13. FASP ULTRASOUND AND LAB MEETING

- 13.1 The next meeting of FASP will be held on 28th January 2016 and NT asked that if group members had any questions for him to take to FASP to let him know. Trish Chudleigh and/or NT will be attending (Trish Chudleigh is the nominal alternate for the SCoR).

ACTION: ALL

14. NEW NICE GUIDELINES ON PREMATURE LABOUR

- 14.1 The newly published NICE guidelines on premature labour had been previously circulated to the group and were formally noted at this meeting. They may have implications for departmental workload.

<https://www.sor.org/news/nice-issues-new-guidelines-preterm-labour-and-birth>

15. ADVANCED PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATION

- 15.1 NT drew the attention of the group to the possibility of having their advanced and consultant practitioner roles accredited by the SCoR. You would then become a SCoR *accredited* Advanced or Consultant practitioner. There is a general initiative to try and increase the numbers of those seeking SCoR accreditation. Discussion followed, it was noted that the titles of Consultant, Advanced Practitioner and Sonographer are not protected. This may be important in the future as it appears some NHS regions are going to apply criteria to the role for title recognition purposes, although the full proposals have not as yet been seen.

ACTION: ALL

16. CONSULTATIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 16.1 NT gave an update on recent consultation and thanked the group for their input.
- ISAS standards. Closed 30/11/15
 - National Screening Committee consultation on cell free DNA in fetal anomaly screening Closed 30/10/15
 - New edition of UKAS Guidelines circulated to group for comment (agenda item 7) Due for publication 10/12/15
 - RCOG review of Greentop Guideline No 21. Ectopic pregnancy. Closed 30/8/15

17. DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN DOCUMENTS LIBRARY SINCE LAST MEETING

17.1 Assistant practitioners and ultrasound scans for fetal growth monitoring and assessment. Position statement. Link above. 11/9/15

Ultrasound examination times and appointments. 2nd edition. 22/7/15
<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/ultrasound-examination-times-and-appointments-0>

Ultrasound training, employment, registration and PII. 4th edition. 7/7/15
<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/ultrasound-training-employment-registration-and-professional-indemnity-insurance-0>

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18.1 There was no other business.

19. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

19.1 Dates of future meetings were agreed as:

- 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).