



AGREED NMT ACTING CHAIR 4/12/1/2

**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH
NOVEMBER 2012, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF CHIROPODISTS &
PODIATRIST, 1 FELLMONGER'S PATH, TOWER BRIDGE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT: Jean Carter {JC}
David Cole {DC}
Trish Chudleigh {TC}
Vivien Gibbs {VG}
Crispian Oates {CO}
Suzanne Poulton {SP}
Michael Purdon {MP}
Wendy Williams {WW}

IN ATTENDANCE: Audrey Paterson {AP}
Nigel Thomson {NT}
Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 NT welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained that he would be chairing the meeting as the Chair (Elizabeth Chapman) was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Round table introduction were made.
- 1.2 NT informed the group that Audrey Paterson {AP} would join the meeting later.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Julie Burnage, Elizabeth Chapman, Alison Hall, Gerry Johnson and Teresa Killeen.
- 2.2 Formal congratulations were given to Gerry Johnson on being chosen as UK Radiographer of the Year.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY 2012

- 3.1 Subject to a typographical error and the rewording of item 3.1 the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th May 2012 were approved as a true and accurate record.

NT will reword item 3.1 and confirm with JC to approve before replacing.

ACTION: NT & JC

4. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

- 4.1 Discussion with fetal anomaly screening programme (FASP) representatives (first trimester combined test} *minute 3.1*).

NT informed the group that following FASP representatives' attendance at the last UAG meeting the series of Q's and A's has been published with FASP's agreement on the Society's website. There will also be a link to this document from the BMUS website until end December 2012.

- 4.2 Sonographer shortage (*minute 5.1*)

Follow up re: Meeting with RCOG. The Ultrasound Advisory Group of the RCOG met on 10th July 2012 with Geraldine Masson as Chair replacing Christoph Lees. There was low attendance from the representative bodies. The RCOG would like to learn more about CASE's work and perhaps also contribute. Concerns were expressed from SCoR UAG members' attending today's meeting about clinical relevance, maintaining competence, funding and lack of planning for some of the RCOG trainees within the programme.

Group members were asked to email NT with specific concerns.

ACTION: GROUP, AMP & NT

- 4.3 BMUS Liaison meeting (*minute 5.2*)

NT informed the group that there has not been a liaison meeting since the last UAG meeting so there was nothing to report.

- 4.4 Any Other Business (*minute 5.3*)

To note that JB was unavailable to attend the meeting today to give an update but the item can be closed following recently circulated information from JB.

- 4.5 3D/4D in Contracted Hours (*minute 8.1*)

To note that this is currently under discussion within the SCoR in terms of what sonographers can and cannot do and whether they can refuse or not. The group felt that there will be pressure on sonographers to reduce times for other scans if they have to carry out 3D/4D scans within their contracted hours. It would be very difficult for a sonographer to refuse to carry out a souvenir 3D/4D scan if asked during their contracted hours of work. The BMUS souvenir scanning advice is available on their website and is well known.

- 4.6 Any Qualified Provider (*minute 12.1*)

NT informed the group that this is continuing to roll out and all Trusts should keep watch on the DH Supply2Health website for details of contracts being offered.

- 4.7 Study Days (*minute 13.1*)

To note that the study day (10th June 2012) in Birmingham was very successful. It will be repeated with a slightly changed format on May 22nd 2013 in London. Alison Hall and the MSK Special Interest Group may be running a 'hands-on' MSK study day in the near future.

4.8 Any other business (minute 15.1)

VG queried whether there had been any further update/news on the using of Tristell wipes. It was noted that there is no national agreement for the cleaning of endo-probes although some Trusts and Boards are insisting that sonographers use a specific wipe or procedure. Anyone that comes across any local requirements could they please let NT know (for interest and possible future research). There has been a recent MHRA alert relating to endo-probes following the death of a patient subsequent to use of a trans-oesophageal probe. The alert will need to be read individually although as far as NT is aware no specific cleaning advice is given.

ACTION: **GROUP**

4.9 Any other business (minute 15.2)

NT reminded the group to continue reporting ultrasound services they know are not registered with the CQC (England).

5. GOVERNANCE RISK IN MSK ULTRASOUND

5.1 Alison Hall had previously raised the point with NT that there are a wide range of people trained and using MSK ultrasound who are not audited and are outside of standard ultrasound clinical governance procedures. Following discussion it was agreed that AH will contact NT for further discussion if required. Alison was unable to attend this meeting.

ACTION: **AH && NT**

6. CASE UPDATE

6.1 VG gave an update to the group. A new chair (David Oxborough) has been appointed, but a vice-chair is still being sought. A large number of re-accreditations have been planned for the coming year. New accreditors are currently being sought to cope with the workload. Due to the growing numbers of nurses and midwives undertaking ultrasound training, the RCM will be approached to see if they are interested in re-joining CASE as a member body, now that the organisation has reached a more stable position. A meeting for member bodies is planned for December 2012.

7. MODERNISING SCIENTIFIC CAREERS

7.1 CO gave an update on modernising scientific careers to the group. There was a discussion on the likely effects of the new Academy of Healthcare Sciences on voluntary registers.

8. UKAS GUIDELINES – NEXT EDITION

8.1 It was noted that the UKAS Guidelines will be updated for 2013. The SCoR is keen that these guidelines are accredited by NICE but this will need to be a two stage process with the Guidelines updated first, as these are needed as soon as possible. EC has agreed to lead on this project supported by NT. Several other members of the UAG have also offered to help and CO and MP offered advice in their specialist areas. Maria Murray (Professional Officer) is the SCoR lead for document accreditation and will also participate.

ACTION: **EC & NT**

9. EXAMINATION TIMES/PRESSURES ON SONOGRAPHERS

- 9.1 It was noted that there have been complaints from sonographers with respect to the appointment times allowed in general medical ultrasound examinations and inappropriate use of 'doubling up' to compensate for possible DNAs.

Following discussion it was agreed that NT and AP would see if new advice could be issued that stated a minimum examination time and redistribute to the group. The draft document will also be taken to the December Regional and Professional Officers meeting for comment.

AP has drawn this issue to the attention of Erica Denton and also Lesley Wright at NHS Improvement.

ACTION: NT & AP

10. MEETING WITH SCOTTISH SONOGRAPHERS

- 10.1 AP informed the group that she had recently met with a group of Scottish sonographers in Glasgow to discuss a wide range of issues relating to service delivery, especially how to tackle difficult issues in the workplace.

11. UAG PROJECT

- 11.1 JC informed the UAG that the project group had applied to BMUS to present orally at the December Scientific meeting but was offered the opportunity to present a poster instead. The group is currently in the process of designing the poster. The group is led by JC supported by NT, TC and Regina Fernando.

The poster will be displayed at the December 2013 annual meeting in Telford. It will be professionally produced by Deesons.

JC will ask Deesons to arrange for some A4 copies of the poster to be available on the stand (around 100 copies) for delegates if they wish to take one and also a copy of the poster for each of the contributors to put up in their departments if they so wish.

ACTION: JC

12. PVRS UPDATE

- 12.1 NT updated the group on the PVRS upgrading which is progressing well. Current voluntary registrants are being contacted in alphabetical order (just completed) and a final call has gone out. The plan is to merge the new and old register and only those who have renewed their registration will be on the new database.

Statistics were presented relating to current application types and numbers.

To note that a letter is being published in the 'Midwives' magazine this month relating to problems some Midwives have had with renewing their registration with the NMC.

The 'old' register will close on 31st January 2013.

13. UAG SUCCESSION PLANNING

- 13.1 Following a discussion on succession planning for this group NT reiterated that it is an advisory group and must cover a wide range of different specialities, as well as providing a four country perspective.

NT commented that the last four years (of service on the group) seem to have passed very quickly and we will need to look to change some of the group members after the April 2013 meeting. NT and AP will be discussing possible processes as we also do not want to lose too many members all at the same time. It may be the case that we advertise for a limited number of group members as other advisory groups within the SCoR are now doing.

ACTION: AMP & NT

14. RECENT CONSULTATIONS (since last meeting)

- 14.1 Consultations responded to since last meeting:
- Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (Voluntary Registers)
 - NICE Pain and Bleeding in Early Pregnancy
 - 2nd round of the FASP T21 National Standards for England consultation (All previously circulated)

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 15.1 There was no other business.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 16.1 The date of the meeting was confirmed as Thursday 25th April 2013, to be held at the Society of Radiographers, commencing at 1.00pm (sandwich lunch available from 12.30pm),