



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH
NOVEMBER 2009, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT:

Julie Burnage {JB}
Jean Carter {JC}
Elizabeth Chapman {EC}
Trish Chudleigh {TC}
Anne-Marie Dixon {AM}
Regina Fernando {RF}
Vivien Gibbs {VG}
Gerry Johnson {GJ}
Rosemary Kelso {RK}
Pauline Kilbourn {PK}
Rosemary Lee {RL}
Audrey Paterson {AP} {Chair}
Rita Phillips {RP}
Wendy Williams {WW}
Lisa Wright {LW}

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nigel Thomson {NT}
Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and brief introductions were made.
- 1.2 AP chaired the meeting as Gill Dolbear was unable to attend.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Gill Dolbear, Janis Martin and Crispian Oates.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH JULY 2009

- 3.1 With the amendment of one typographical error the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2009 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING & ACTION POINTS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

4.1 NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme for England Update (*minute 4.2*)

It was noted that this programme relates to England only and not the whole UK. The new Standards for the 18w to 20w 6d fetal anomaly screening programme will be launched in January 2010. The SCoR is continuing to input into the design of the on-line resource being developed by Jill Rogers Associates to support this new screening programme.

4.2 Sonographer Reporting and the Support Required

At the last meeting it was agreed that NT and RF would draft a paper to outline good reporting practices and to give advice on the questions raised by Regina's discussion paper which had been brought to the group. This has now been completed with the help of AP and has been posted on the website. It will also be published in Synergy News.

5. ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA) SCREENING - ENGLAND

- 5.1 NT informed the group that the next meeting of the steering group will be held on 2nd December 2009 and Crispian Oates (CO) will be attending; anyone wishing to make comments should give them to NT and he will pass them on. Measurement techniques were yet to be agreed. The tender specification for training will also be going out in early December. The group decided in any event to request that any decision on measurement techniques should be evidence based and published as soon as possible. NT will contact CO.

ACTION: NT

It was noted that Wales has not made a decision on AAA screening as yet; neither has Northern Ireland. With regard to Scotland –RL advised that it should be up and running by March 2011 as training is being developed and it is hoped that it will be CASE accredited.

6. FEEDBACK FROM UKAS STUDY DAY 2009

- 6.1 TC reported that the UKAS study day was very well attended and demonstrated that a multi-disciplinary event could be successfully held. Thanks were given to TC for taking the lead on this study day and to everyone else who took part. It was noted that AP would speak to Claire Brown (Conference and Events Manager) with regard to the evaluation of the day. It was agreed that AP would write an article for the December issue of Synergy on the study day.

ACTION: AP

Post meeting notes: an article on this study day was published in the December 2009 edition of Synergy News.

7. PLANNING THE 2010 STUDY DAY

- 7.1 There was a query from WW with regards to the group holding study days in 2010 and in subsequent years. Following discussion it was felt that it would be useful to have a study day in the spring and another one in the autumn. The SCoR conference manager would need a proposal to start this (to include topics and volunteers) with a 6 month minimum lead time to start preparing for any study day. RP and TC agreed to work together to develop a programme.

It was hoped that the autumn study day could be held in mid November in a northern venue (but to be aware of the BMUS 2010 conference which is being held in September 2010). It was noted that there will be a joint SCoR/BMUS study day on 'Ethical Dilemmas in Ultrasound' on May 26th 2010.

***ACTION:** RP & TC*

8. NHS OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND SCANNERS

- 8.1 NT informed the group that the UAG Chair (Gill Dolbear) was recently contacted by a group called KCARE; an independent evaluation centre who carry out work for the NHS Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing who would like this group to act as peer reviewers for a document they are producing on obstetric ultrasound scanners. They also requested that the SCoR assist with the dissemination of an on-line survey of sonographers. This was discussed by the group and it was agreed that we would be pleased to help. NT will liaise with KCARE.

***ACTION:** NT*

9. VIDEO RECORDING STATEMENT

- 9.1 NT reported that at the last UAG meeting the issue of parents wishing to videotape obstetric ultrasound scans were raised and it was felt that some sonographers was not entirely happy with this. NT had re-worded the Society's old statement from the now withdrawn 'Guidance for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departments' and distributed to the group for comment. Following further discussion around this document it was agreed that NT would apply change and re-circulate 2nd draft to the group.

***ACTION:** NT*

10. ULTRASOUND WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PAPER

- 10.1 NT thanked everyone who responded to circulated drafts of this important document and informed the group that it has been through Council and has been published to the members' section of the website to allow people to make comments and respond. Dominic Deeson will be producing a press release for this document. It was noted that this document was developed by SCoR. RL as Chair of CASE agreed to distribute this document to CASE members, the SCoR being one of the constituent members of CASE.

***ACTION:** RL*

11. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION

- 11.1 NT reported that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is introducing a new registration scheme for all healthcare providers, starting with NHS Trusts and Health Boards. The group then discussed the implications for ultrasound companies and individual sonographers working in the independent sector. It was noted that SCoR advice on Independent Practice presently in the document library would soon need updating. There was also a discussion on the difficulties sonography manager's face in negotiating the labyrinthine structures associated with primary care commissioning. It was hoped that the SCoR would be able to publish advice on this in the New Year.

***ACTION:** NT*

12. PUBLIC VOLUNTARY REGISTER OF SONOGRAPHERS

- 12.1 NT updated the group on the public voluntary register of sonographers and informed them that a working group had been identified to help develop the Voluntary Register so that it continues to support the application to the HPC for regulation. Members of the group had been previously informed of the progress of this application. TC and WW have agreed to join the working group which will meet in early January 2010.

13. 'ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN ULTRASOUND' STUDY DAY ON 26TH MAY 2010

- 13.1 NT informed the group on the study day which is being held jointly with BMUS and wanted to know if the group would like to contribute. Discussion then followed and the group was encouraged to sign up to the day and take part. AP would look into distributing the chosen 'dilemmas' to Bond Solon who are representing the morning's programme. UAG members are asked to let NT know if there is any topic that they think might be suitable.

ACTION: AP & NT

14. RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON TARGETS

- 14.1 RL and NT reported that Mike Richards (Cancer Czar) recently spoke on a BBC (Radio 4) news discussion about the extension of the 2 week wait to 'suspicion of cancer' with breast, ovary and bowel cancers likely to be first targeted. Following discussion it was agreed that the UAG would keep a close watch on developments as there are clear resource issues. The SCoR is likely to be involved via the National Imaging Board.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 15.1 VG asked whether any of the group working in a Trust was aware of any SHA funding that can be obtained for paying for HEI training, and if anyone has actually managed to obtain any of this funding for sonography training. She also wanted to find out if any Trust had managed to obtain backfill money to cover additional staffing needed when people are on training programmes.
- 15.2 To note that RL has resigned from the group. The group members regret that RL is resigning and wished her all the best for future endeavours. Thanks were given to RL for her hard work whilst on the group. AP to send a thank you letter to RL.

ACTION: AP

- 15.3 RK informed the group that Northern Ireland will be setting up their multidisciplinary group on 14th January 2010.
- 15.4 NT informed the group that information can be found on ultrasound training models and phantoms on the 'Medphor' website and also on the 'Limbs and Things' website which have been previously circulated. NT encouraged the group to visit the sites concerned and to let him know if anyone has any comments.
- 15.5 We are likely to be short staffed as far as the SCoR stand at BMUS is concerned and if any members of the group are attending and can help out, even if only for a short time, this would be appreciated.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16.1 It was agreed that dates for 2010 would be circulated to the group by VA.

Post meeting note: Meeting dates confirmed as **Thursday 13th May 2010** and **Thursday 18th November 2010**, commencing at 1.00pm (lunch at 12.30) at Society HQ.