



Impact Report 2015 – 2017



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Welcome

Sandie Mathers, Chairperson, College Board of Trustees

On behalf of the College of Radiographers Board of Trustees I welcome you to our impact report celebrating the activities and achievements of the College of Radiographers (UK). In this report we have focussed our evaluation on the work carried out within our UK wide strategy from 2014 to 2017. This work is in our three thematic areas i) standards for education and practice; ii) promoting and conducting research and iii) listening to patients and service users.

Our report showcases some of the excellent work that has been carried out to enable us to meet our strategic aims. The Trustees wanted to include not only the facts and the figures but also the voices of radiographers and their patients telling us the difference the work of the College had meant to them individually.

The case studies were provided by radiographers from clinical practice, education and research who answered a survey which was distributed on behalf of the College. Responses arrived from all areas of practice and from across the UK and their stories tell us not only about their experiences of working with the College of Radiographers but also

feedback from patients and colleagues on the differences their work has achieved in practice, education and patient care. We hope their experiences bring their innovative and inspirational work alive!

We as Trustees are very proud of the breadth and depth of work carried out and accomplishments achieved during the period of this strategy. You will appreciate we could not include everything but we hope this report delivers a real understanding of the work carried out and the many professional bodies, governmental agencies, and charitable organisations with whom we collaborate. It is also important that we inform you that some of the work is still not complete and the outcomes not fully implemented. Such is the long-term nature of some of the projects. Also, the figures in the report are correct at the time the report was drafted but may change slightly when all the projects have reached a conclusion.

Therefore, we hope you enjoy reading this report where you will discover where radiographers are already succeeding in changing practice and making a difference to patient care and patient pathways.

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Preface

Richard Evans, Chief Executive Officer, The College of Radiographers

The College of Radiographers issued my qualification in radiography in the form of the Diploma of the College of Radiographers. That was in 1982. The College no longer sets the qualifying exam or the curriculum for radiography degree courses. That role has disappeared but the College is alive and well and continues to have an important role in assuring quality of education provision through approval of radiography programmes.

This impact report marks a significant point in the continuing development of the College as the charitable subsidiary of the professional body for radiographers in the UK, the Society of Radiographers. As the Society approaches its centenary year, the College Board of Trustees sets out the scope of work which it conducts alongside the Society. Significantly, the report is not only about the tasks undertaken over three years but also examines the difference this work has made to practitioners, the profession and to the public who use radiographic services.

The radiography profession occupies an ever-more vital place in healthcare. In the UK, clinical demand has driven innovation in both diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy services. The way this innovation has manifested in workforce design and professional development is widely recognized. Advanced and consultant radiographic practice in particular is now underpinned by an impressive body of research evidence.

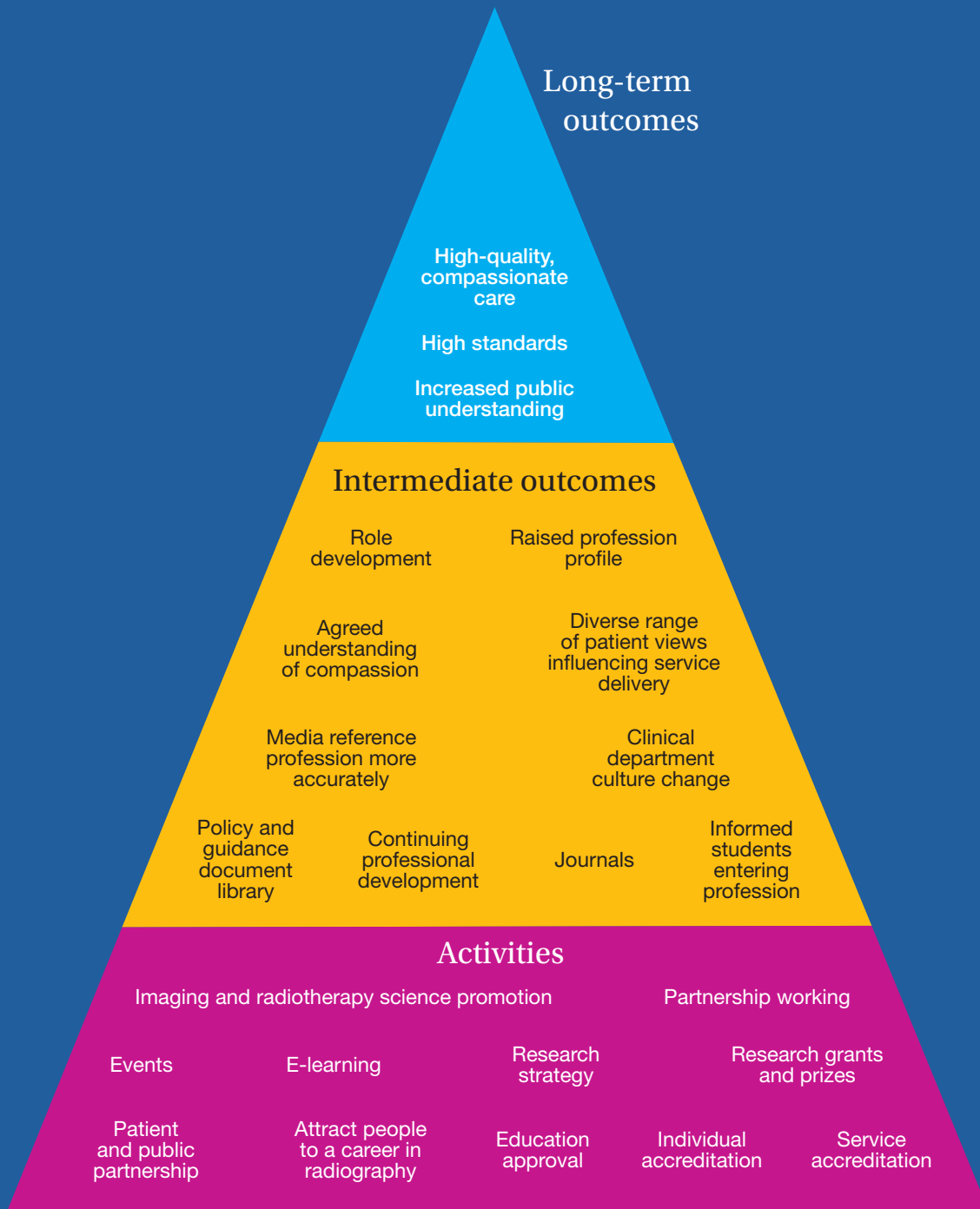
The development of the College is driven by the Board of Trustees who have established

a clear complementary remit alongside that of the Society. The work that takes place in pursuit of the College strategic objectives is naturally closely integrated with the professional body agenda of the Society of Radiographers. This is intentional and effective. However, the charitable basis of the College ensures that its objectives are fully focused on providing benefit for the public.

In this impact report you will read about the difference the College is making through setting quality standards; ensuring professional development and the research basis for radiography; developing professional practice and in promoting engagement with service users. The report is illustrated with case studies, which I hope will help to bring the value of the work to life as you read.

The work described in this impact report is a tribute to the staff of the Society and College and to Society members, whose dedication and professionalism in service to patients is clearly seen in the text and illustrations. It is also a tribute to the tremendous voluntary support from the College trustees. Much of the credit for building and sustaining the new strategic direction in the Board must go to past chair, Pat Williams. Thank you, Pat for your leadership and encouragement! Our current Chair Sandie Mathers has taken on the leadership role with characteristic enthusiasm and energy and has seen the delivery of this report through to completion. We look forward to building further on this foundation and I hope that, after reading this report, you will look forward with me to seeing more outstanding impact from the College of Radiographers.

The College of Radiographers: activities, intermediate outcomes and long-term outcomes



Based on Charity Evaluation Services' Planning Triangle®



College strategy 2015 - 2017

Our Vision

Imaging and radiotherapy professionals
at the heart of a healthier nation

Our Values

Integrity, Advocacy, Transparency,
Courtesy, Equality

College Mission

The College of Radiographers will promote imaging and radiotherapy science and practice for the benefit of all.

We will do this through:

- Standards for education and practice
- Promoting and conducting research
- Listening to patients and service users

Our Priorities

Be informed by the
voice of the patient

Enhance stakeholder
understanding
of imaging and
radiotherapy

Promote accredited
professional
standards

Build professional
credibility through
research

Encourage the
development of
radiography worldwide

Standards for education and practice

High standards in radiographic education, practice and service delivery

Education approval

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 we approved/reapproved:



19 pre-registration programmes



12 post-registration programmes



32 short courses



5 assistant practitioner programmes

We advance the education and training of radiographers and other disciplines engaged in diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy by setting high standards in radiographic education. Through our Approval and Accreditation Board, comprising expert volunteers supported by our professional team, we oversee approval of education programmes and accreditation of individuals.

We work in partnership with clinical departments, universities and others to ensure that all UK radiography education programmes maintain and continue to develop the highest standards of clinical imaging and oncology practice and conduct. We approve programmes leading to registration as a diagnostic radiographer with

the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), programmes leading to registration as a therapeutic radiographer with the HCPC, post-graduate qualifications, related short courses and assistant practitioner programmes. We also collect and analyse related data, producing an annual report to inform our own work and that of education providers and commissioners.

We are a member of the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education which monitors and validates education standards in ultrasound. The primary role of the Consortium is to accredit high-quality training that promotes best ultrasound practice and ensures ultrasound practitioners are safe and competent to practise, whilst taking into account service needs.

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Individual accreditation and registration

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 we accredited/reaccredited:



365 assistant practitioners



41 advanced practitioners



19 consultant practitioners



72 practice educators

We actively encourage practitioners in the clinical imaging and oncology workforce to seek accreditation at three career framework levels: assistant, advanced and consultant. We also accredit practice educators: those practitioners educating in a clinical setting such as facilitating radiography student clinical placements.

The benefits to the public of individual accreditation are higher quality, safer healthcare services delivered from an improving evidence base of knowledge.

In 2016, we published online tutorials for our accreditation process and a new graphic illustrating the radiography career framework across clinical practice, research, leadership and education. This is positively resulting in an increased uptake of practitioners applying for accreditation.

At the Symposium Mammographicum 2016, an international biannual multi-disciplinary event for all those involved in breast screening/imaging, we gave a presentation promoting accreditation benefits. We also delivered a masterclass on achieving

accreditation for advanced and consultant practitioners attended by more than 30 radiographers.

In 2017, we presented our advanced practice accreditation scheme at the Scottish Clinical Imaging Network annual event. In Northern Ireland, we are working with the Allied Health Professions Federation Northern Ireland to create a multi-profession document for advanced practice.

Similar activities in England during the review period included work with Health Education England defining advanced clinical practice across all professions and promotion of accreditation of advanced and consultant practice at a meeting hosted by Health Education East of England for reporting radiographers.

In 2015, we upgraded our Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers: 401 sonographers were registered or renewed on the register in both the 2015 and 2017 registration cycles. This includes 153 sonographers who do not hold a statutory registration, such as with the Health and Care Professions Council or Nursing and Midwifery Council.



Find out more about our approval and accreditation activities at <https://www.sor.org/learning/education-accreditation/education-approval-and-accreditation>



CASE STUDY: Building the future of our profession

“Patients express their gratitude very clearly for taking a little more time to explain and put their minds at ease.”

From pre-registration to consultant reporting diagnostic radiographer, Dr Jonathan McConnell, who is based at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, acknowledges that the support of the College of Radiographers has been key to developing his academic and clinical career, and helping his team to develop their full potential for the benefit of patients.

“I believe that my consultancy, although having a clear clinical remit, has developed along a different path from that of others and I have made the best use of every opportunity provided by the College to support my role as widely as possible, whilst building multi-disciplinary relationships for the good of the patient.”

“The College has provided many opportunities for me and my team to progress and develop day-to-day and future practice,” he says.

The team has really developed across a four year period. In 2014, its annual reporting capacity was just over 32,000 reports, rising to a maximum of 79,118 in 2016. During late 2016 and 2017 staffing numbers reduced, however if reports per whole time equivalent (wte) member of staff are calculated (i.e. 520 half day sessions per year) and analysed, it is clear, through extending the reporting scope of practice and gaining experience, that performance continued to rise from 21,801 per wte in 2014 to 34,840 in 2017. This is also reflected in the number of sessions available for staff to report. In 2014, there were 771 sessions supported by a team of four, growing to a maximum of nine in 2016 with further trainees receiving education. Had reporting been sent to an external provider where an average charge of £5.50 per examination was made, a maximum of £435k was saved by the team in 2016, which allowing for reductions in staffing, resulted in a rise per wte reporting radiographer saving of £120k in 2014, to almost £192k in 2017.

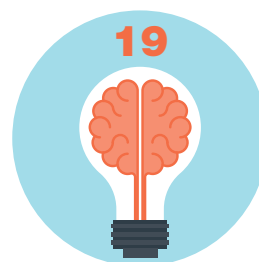
An audit of accident and emergency reporting found that in 2015/16, out of 10,369 images, 95.6% were reported in under 24 hours, 3.3% in 24-48 hours and 1.1% took over 48 hours (after accounting for the impact of weekends).

“As we tend to be a back room service, actual direct patient contact is rare, except when a particularly anxious individual needs reassurance and this is usually initiated by the radiographer or assistant practitioner’s request,” says Jonathan. “Patients express their gratitude very clearly for taking a little more time to explain and put their minds at ease.”

“Without participation in the work of the College, the progress, success and development my team and I have achieved would probably have been much less.”

Service accreditation

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 ISAS accredited/reaccredited:



19 imaging services

In partnership with the Royal College of Radiologists, we established and own the Imaging Services Accreditation Scheme (ISAS). ISAS is licensed to the UK Accreditation Service to manage and deliver the accreditation process.

ISAS is a patient-focused assessment and accreditation programme designed to ensure patients consistently receive high-quality services delivered by competent staff working in safe environments. It is the only nationally-recognised accreditation scheme available for diagnostic imaging services in the UK.

In 2017, we completed a review with our partners of the accreditation standard ensuring it remains patient-focused, reducing duplication and increasing the attractiveness of ISAS to imaging services. The review team included lay representatives and the resulting standard asks that every assessment team includes a lay assessor. We encouraged a member of our Patient and Public Liaison Group to become an accredited ISAS assessor.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) formally recognised ISAS as approved for use within its inspection methodology in 2015. The CQC have recognised ISAS as a robust

accreditation process and has agreed that its inspection teams will take account of accreditation status in their inspection approach. In 2016, NHS England outlined its support for the accreditation of diagnostic services. It remains committed to, and strongly endorses participation of diagnostic services in the ISAS scheme.

Following a meeting with the Health and Social Care Board in Northern Ireland to discuss a countrywide approach to ISAS, a proposal was submitted. As of September 2017, all five regions in Northern Ireland had employed a lead radiographer for ISAS.

Clinical Service Accreditation Alliance

We participated in the Clinical Service Accreditation Alliance project during the review period which:

- Involved professional bodies, the CQC, third sector, patient representatives, local government, healthcare commissioners and providers working together; and
- Was concluded successfully in 2016 resulting in a publicly-available standard for clinical service accreditation.



Find out more about imaging service accreditation at <https://www.isas-uk.org/>

Policy and guidance documents

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 we published:



52 documents in our online policy and guidance document library bringing the total number to **159**

We publish a wide range of policy and guidance documents across the breadth of radiography with perspectives and insight from our Patient and Public Liaison Group. In 2015, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence accredited the process we use to produce clinical practice guidelines. Published documents in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include:

Diagnostic Radiography: A Survey of the Scope of Radiographic Practice 2015

The Scope of Practice Survey 2015 was conducted with the aim of identifying any practice developments. The results indicate that the scope of practice for diagnostic radiographers continues to be broad, diverse and expanding.

"My manager and I also accessed the College of Radiographers' guidelines to assist in drawing up a scope of practice for my extended roles."

"Having clear guidance and an easy way to access them is a fabulous resource. We use these when drawing up our own department guidelines."

Donna Kerlin, Consultant Radiographer at the Western Health and Social Services Breast Screening unit in Northern Ireland

Consultant Radiographer - Guidance for the Support of New and Established Roles

This paper details national requirements to support the role of Consultant Radiographer. Arrangements to facilitate achievement of the required four core domains of practice must be transparent and consistent across the UK.

Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes: The Vision for Therapeutic Radiography

This document helps inform the government's priorities in improving outcomes for cancer patients. It demonstrates the increasing contribution that therapeutic radiographers can deliver for patients.

Skin care advice for patients undergoing radical external beam megavoltage radiotherapy

This clinical practice guideline is a set of evidence-based recommendations to assist healthcare professionals to advise patients how to care for their skin while undergoing a course of radical external beam radiotherapy (excluding proton therapy).



Find all our policy and guidance documents at <https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library>



CASE STUDY: Positively impacting patients

“All NHS breast screening programme ladies were biopsied on the day of their assessment”

Donna Kerlin, who works at Western Health and Social Services Breast Screening Unit, began her extended practice in 2012, when she qualified as a reporting radiographer and has since gone on to become one of the first consultant diagnostic radiographers in Northern Ireland.

“The extension of my role to reporting, meant that reporting targets were met and radiologists could take their annual leave without worrying. Before this, films could not be double-read and results had to wait until the radiologists had returned from holiday. And then, when I began carrying out the stereotactic biopsies in 2016, there was a huge clinical impact.”

“In 2016, 88 of the 108 biopsies were performed by me as an advanced practitioner. And of the 104 stereotactic biopsies (vacuum assisted core biopsies or VACB) that were performed in 2017, 76 were undertaken by me. All NHS breast screening programme (NHSBSP) ladies were biopsied on the day of their assessment, with 53 of the 59 undergoing a VACB on the day of their initial assessment,” says Donna.

If an average time of 45 minutes is estimated for an advanced practitioner/radiologist to complete the procedure, relevant paperwork and report on the radiology information system, this would mean that having an advanced practitioner available to perform these biopsies has freed up at least 66 hours of radiologist time during clinics in 2016.

“Our NHSBSP assessment clinics run one day a week. Prior to my advanced practice, the stereotactic biopsies were kept until the end of the clinic before being performed, or if the clinic was very busy ladies were rebooked until another day. This meant some ladies had a very long, anxious wait or were rebooked to return another day. These biopsies are now performed alongside the clinic, reducing the wait for the ladies.”

Donna also noticed that there were many ladies being sent for their biopsy, with little or no information on what they were about to have done. She drew up new information leaflets in conjunction with the Trust’s communication team, and these are now handed out by the clinic nurses, breast care nurses and radiographers, as soon as someone is identified as requiring a stereotactic biopsy.

A patient commented: “The leaflet explained the reason for the biopsy and also the procedure very well. But also at all stages, the team fully explained everything that was happening and the reasons for doing each procedure.”

Events and learning

Conferences, seminars and other learning resources

College events

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 we held:

We are committed to life-long learning of all professionals in the imaging and oncology workforce. Our aim is to develop the knowledge and skills of anyone working in radiography or an associated profession to enable them to provide exceptional, patient-centred care at the forefront of medical imaging or radiotherapy. This aim includes delivering blended learning opportunities on new technology channels.

We organise a comprehensive programme of educational study days and conferences to promote best practice in all areas of the profession. As the only UK body representing the whole of the radiographic workforce, we are uniquely equipped to deliver an extensive programme of events, from small interactive workshops to multi-day residential conferences, covering a wide range of topics.

Leading the way

More than 110 delegates, presenters and exhibitors attended the inaugural International Radiographer Advanced Practice Conference in September 2016 titled 'Leading the way'. This three-day event was hosted by Sheffield Hallam University with our support and the support of the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists and our professional counterparts in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

Delegates from around the world were invited to Sheffield to discuss advanced practice in



50 study days and conferences

radiography. The programme was research-focused and included discussions on the need for research to be included in the role of advanced practitioners.

“Advanced practice is about providing a better outcome for the patient and creating new career opportunities for radiographers.” This was the message from Charlotte Beardmore, Director of Professional Policy in her keynote address. “We want to add value to improve patient outcomes and we have so much more to offer,” she told delegates. Charlotte spoke about the work we do in conjunction with colleagues around the globe, to develop clear definitions of advanced practice, both clinically and educationally.

Other conference highlights included workshops on subjects such as patient care and what it means, accreditation, how to make the most of research opportunities and how to plan for an advanced practice role. Presentations and papers across the event were wide-ranging: from discussing advanced practice from a manager’s point of view; benchmarking advanced clinical best practice; to personal reflections of role development.

UKRC and UKRO

We partner with the British Institute of Radiology and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine to organise the annual UK Radiological Congress (UKRC) and UK Radiation and Oncology Congress (UKRO).

These events, held jointly in 2016 for the first time, consist of a three-day multidisciplinary scientific congress and technical exhibition. UKRC is aimed at all those involved in radiological science and attracts between 1,700 and 3,000 people each year. UKRO is relevant to all those working within radiation oncology.

UKRC is also where we award the Fellowship of the College of Radiographers to up to four individuals each year. This is an honorary title bestowed on those who have made significant contribution to the radiographic profession.

Radiotherapy Conference

Our annual, three-day Radiotherapy Conference is as popular as ever and continues to support the development of first-time presenters, including students and researchers funded by our industry partners. The number of proffered papers and poster submissions continues to increase, supporting our goal of building research activity.

At the 2016 Radiotherapy Conference, successful collaborative study days for both the diagnostic and therapeutic radiography communities were held in relation to radiation protection. The profile of research work by radiographers for service improvement was high, as was the value of advanced and consultant practice. The patient voice and particularly efforts to be more inclusive in the approach to patient-focused care was another strong theme.

Other event highlights in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include:

- 100% of delegates at the three-day Developing Excellence in Clinical Leadership programme said the training met their objectives well or fully.
- Our annual Student Conference saw a record attendance of 113 in 2016.
- The National Conference for Radiology Managers organised jointly with Philips Healthcare was attended by over 300 delegates in 2016.
- A new event “Caring for Patients with Dementia in Imaging and Radiotherapy” was a success.
- A successful joint study day with Prostate Cancer UK held in October 2016 focused on advanced practice.



Find details of all our upcoming conferences and events at <https://www.sor.org/events>



CASE STUDY:

Opening the door to new opportunities

“I’m sure the mind-set of the students has definitely changed.”

The College of Radiographers has had an enormously positive impact, not only on the career of Dr Sonyia McFadden, Lecturer at Ulster University, but on the education and experiences of her students, as well as her colleagues.

“The College has encouraged me to delve into the world of research, complete my PhD, develop a research profile, publish papers and articles, and present locally, nationally and internationally. I have been able to develop my evidence-based practice and the research has helped inform my teaching of undergraduate radiographers.”

“I received a College of Radiographers’ Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRIPS) award to help me complete a research project with international collaborators and develop research across Europe. In addition, I had the honour of being awarded a Fellowship by Portfolio,” Sonyia says.

Sonya firmly believes that the Fellowship by Portfolio has demonstrated to students and graduate radiographers that there is both credit and merit in performing research and developing the profession.

“I feel my research profile has developed and there are more radiographers than ever deciding to do research either at Masters or Doctorate level in Northern Ireland. We have our first graduate entry student about to qualify with her PhD this year, which is a bonus and a great example to future graduates in NI.”

Sonya uses her own publications in class to demonstrate the different types of research and encourage students to critically appraise the work. She believes that they are able to understand the study data and analysis more easily, as they can relate to the background/ methodology and the results.

“The students have expressed in class that it is so much easier to relate to the work as it is radiography related and they understand it better. Likewise, when they are writing their research proposal in final year I have papers showing sample methodologies for different studies, e.g. validating a questionnaire which they use as a template.”

“The graduates now have a better grasp of how to write a research proposal, how to gain ethical permission and how to write an abstract/paper for publication or a poster for a conference. We have final year students currently on clinical placement asking for a copy of their poster (created as part of coursework last semester) to exhibit on the wall of the department, as they are so proud of it, or asking about the possibility of staying on after graduation to do a PhD. This never happened before and I’m sure the mind-set of the students has definitely changed, as they are fully prepared and ready to engage in research/audit/ service evaluation.”

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Other events

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 we:

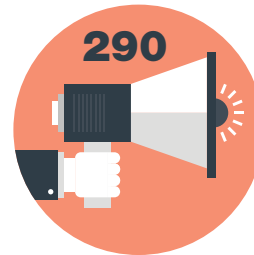
We attend a large number of events both in the UK and abroad to enhance the profile and influence of the profession. During the review period, we have had an influential presence in many UK multi-stakeholder events such as the British Nuclear Medicine Society spring meeting, Symposium Mammographicum, the British Association of Magnetic Resonance Radiographers annual conference, the National Cancer Research Institute Conference, the British Medical Ultrasound Society Annual Scientific Meeting, and the Northern Ireland Awards and Conference for Allied Health Professionals.

Internationally, we continue to have significant representation at the Radiological Society of North America meeting, the American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology conference, the European Congress of Radiology, the European Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology, and meetings of the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists.

These opportunities enable our representatives and volunteers to showcase advanced practice developments from across the UK and to share how the developing scope of practice, with underpinning education, is supporting improvements in patient care, whilst also learning about innovations from elsewhere in the world.

Continuing professional development app

We promote continuing professional development (CPD) for all those working in radiography. We maintain an online CPD planning, recording and evaluation system called CPD Now. This is available to all members of the Society of Radiographers. It



Awarded CPD endorsements to 290 events



Exhibited at 35 events

enables users to have their CPD accredited by us, and to demonstrate that they are undertaking CPD appropriate to their scope and level of practice – whether clinical, educational, managerial or in research. The number of Society of Radiographers' members using CPD Now rose from 4% in June 2013 to 36% in October 2017.



In 2016, we released a CPD Now app, for Society of Radiographers' members to continue their CPD via their Android or iOS devices. The app synchronises with the member's main CPD Now portfolio.

E-learning

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 our image interpretation e-learning module:



Gained more than **3000** new active users



Was rated **4.5** out of 5 by users on average



Was augmented by nearly **100** new sessions

We support and promote online learning for radiography professionals through a collection of e-learning resources developed with our partners, including image interpretation and Radiotherap-e.

Our image interpretation and Radiotherap-e modules sit on the e-Learning for Healthcare platform, which provides a wide range of online learning resources to NHS staff. E-learning for Healthcare is a Health Education England programme in partnership with the NHS and professional bodies.

New image interpretation sessions developed or updated in partnership with e-Learning for Healthcare during the review period, include adult skeleton, dental, cardiac, MRI and neuro-intervention sessions. We fund a part-time officer to lead this growth of our image interpretation e-learning resource.

Radiotherap-e is an e-learning resource produced in partnership with the Royal College of Radiologists, the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine and

e-Learning for Healthcare. As a high energy proton radiotherapy service is introduced in the NHS, we are supporting a multi-professional e-learning programme for proton radiotherapy. With our partners we are developing 25 proton beam therapy sessions to be published on the Radiotherap-e platform.

Both the image interpretation and Radiotherapy-e resources are available for NHS staff in the UK to use free of charge. We also promote these valuable resources internationally through our partners at eIntegrity. In 2017, the New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology purchased access to both the image interpretation and Radiotherap-e packages for their membership for one year. The Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy are also offering the programmes to their membership at a discounted rate.

Our e-learning resources continue to grow and evolve reflecting changing approaches to patient care, technology and techniques.



Find out more at <https://www.sor.org/learning/elearning>

Promoting and conducting research

Build professional credibility through research

In 2015, a new ambitious five-year Research Strategy from the Society and College of Radiographers was published with three key aims:

1. Embed research at all levels of radiography practice and education
2. Raise the impact and profile of radiography through high-quality research focused on improving patient care and/or service delivery
3. Expand UK radiography research capacity through the development of skilled and motivated research-active members of the profession

The new strategy, developed with input from our Patient and Public Liaison Group, sets high standards for the profession to achieve, centred around improving patient care and patient outcomes by continuing to grow a high-quality evidence base.

The strategy is targeted at all levels of the profession, from student to expert practitioners, and at all levels of research, from novice through to research professorships. Our policy is that all radiographers are required to engage with research.

To meet the aims and vision of the strategy, it was important to identify the key areas for radiography research in the UK. We commissioned a group from Sheffield Hallam University to lead the work to identify these research priorities using a modified Delphi Consensus methodology. The work was undertaken in close collaboration with our Research Group.

In 2016, a total of 133 priority topics were identified across five themed areas: technological innovations; public and patient experience; accuracy and safety; service and workforce transformation; and education and training. These priorities are guiding our funding decisions as illustrated by the following examples of projects funded in October 2017:

- Developing informed measures of patient-centred care for diagnostic radiography
- Breast Screen Reader Assessment Strategy (BREAST): UK Collaboration
- The legacies of contemporary medical imaging education: Graduate perspectives on preparedness for the workplace



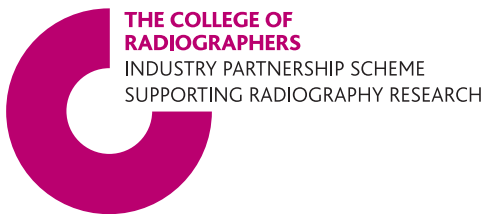
Read our research strategy in full at:

<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/research-strategy-2016-2021>

Research grants and prizes

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 our research grant scheme, CoRIPS:

The College of Radiographers Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRIPS) gives companies associated with imaging and radiotherapy the opportunity to support research and educational projects through our research grant scheme.



We wish to thank all our industry partners for the support they provide for radiography research.

As part of our commitment to implement our research strategy, grants are made to fund small projects related to any aspect of the science and practice of radiography. The principal investigator/applicant must be a radiographer and a member of the Society of Radiographers. Grants in this category are for sums up to £5000 for small projects and up to £10,000 for larger projects, although bids for funding exceeding this amount are considered, with over £100,000 awarded during the review period.

Final reports are made available online and researchers are encouraged to publish their work in *Radiography* or *Imaging and Therapy Practice*. In total, since its inception in 2006, we have awarded more than £400,000 and supported 25 papers in *Radiography* and 21 in other peer-reviewed journals.

The aim is to support at least one grant each funding round for someone who has little or no previous research experience. In 2017, we launched a research mentorship programme



Was supported by **32** industry partners



Awarded **19** CoRIPS grants (plus **5** pre-registration grants)

'FORM' to support novice researchers.

Two pre-registration research grants are also made available each year to provide research experience to student radiographers who have research potential and to encourage them to consider a career in scientific research.

Our Doctoral Fellowship Grants support up to two appropriately qualified, experienced members of the Society of Radiographers to undertake doctoral level projects each year. A key condition of each grant is that the successful individual will implement and disseminate the work into practice for the benefit of patients and their families and carers. Applications for funding to the value of £25,000 are considered.

We also award small monetary prizes, funded by legacies, for the best posters proffered at our annual UK Radiology Congress by radiographers and students.

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CoRIPS-funded research carried out in 2015, 2016 and 2017 includes:

Therapeutic Radiographers' perceptions of the barriers and enablers to effective smoking cessation support

Public Health England (PHE) is encouraging Allied Health Professionals to promote the health and wellbeing of patients. This research with therapeutic radiographers has the scope to identify the barriers and facilitators which will assist patients to stop smoking, ultimately impacting on clinical outcomes, improved quality of life and reduced risk of further cancer and other chronic diseases.

Sequential analysis of uterine artery Doppler waveforms in women at high risk of placenta mediated disease (PMD) receiving response controlled prophylactic aspirin therapy

Using aspirin as a prophylactic has been found to be an effective treatment for some patients who are at risk of Placenta Mediated Disease (PMD) which can lead to devastating perinatal outcomes. This research will use Doppler ultrasound in order to better understand the relationship between uterine artery measurements and aspirin response, with the potential for giving more informed care and treatment of 'at risk' patients.

The accuracy of the diagnostic pathway for staging of low-mid rectal tumours with endoscopic, MRI and Endo-rectal Ultrasound (ERUSS) assessment

The research investigates the diagnostic pathway for the staging of rectal tumours using endoscopy, ultrasound and MRI. The impact on patients is that the accuracy of staging may be improved because of higher resolution imaging, with the potential that patients may then be able to avoid radical pelvic surgery.

“I used the CoRIPS grant and developed a collaboration with colleagues in London and Holland to perform research across Europe, which has impacted positively on my career and practice.”

Dr Sonyia McFadden, Lecturer at Ulster University

The impact of high volume training on bone density in adolescent and young adult sports academy players and the effect of off-loading post injury

Using DXA (bone density) scanning, this research considers the long-term impact of injury on bone health in young athletes involved in power sports. The findings will assist in the design of effective rehabilitation programmes, thus allowing young athletes to fulfil their potential in sport.

Exploring compassion and compassionate behaviours in cancer care: A mixed methods study

Patient experience is an important facet of UK Government policy and compassionate behaviours are synonymous with patient-centred care. However, no definition of compassion exists where its meaning is accepted by those who are delivering or receiving care.

The research aims to develop a “co-created” definition of compassion enabling the development of evidence-based teaching in compassionate care.

Comparison of Double Inversion Recovery Magnetic Resonance imaging (DIR-MRI) and Dynamic Contrast Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging (DCE-MRI) in Detection of Prostate Cancer: A Pilot Study

The purpose of this research is to assess the effectiveness of an imaging technique to diagnose prostate cancer which is less invasive and pain free in comparison to the existing standard procedure. This pilot study will provide the necessary data to calculate a sample size for a subsequent study.

Direct feedback from a patient indicated that he would be happy to participate in the study if the findings showed that the new technique would become standard, to prevent others from undergoing the invasive procedure. The researcher commented: “Keeping patients more informed and having them at the centre....is key to our practice.”

“The grant has been a stepping stone in my quest to develop as a radiographer undertaking primary research. I cannot thank the College enough in this regard.”

Eric Onwuharine, an MRI radiographer at University Hospitals North Midlands



Find all our CoRIPS reports at <https://www.sor.org/about-us/awards/corips-research-grants>



CASE STUDY:

A better experience for staff and patients

“... the way you have cared for me today has alleviated my concern for my biopsy appointment in the next few days.”

“The support I have received from the College of Radiographers (CoR) has definitely helped me to improve my clinical knowledge, which in turn has enhanced my confidence and work,” says Eric Onwuharine, an MRI diagnostic radiographer at University Hospitals North Midlands.

Eric was awarded a College of Radiographers’ Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRIPS) research grant to complete a study on prostate cancer, adding to the body of knowledge concerning multi parametric MRI, and ultimately improving the experience of men who have a prostate condition.

“My work compared the equivalence of dynamic contrast enhanced (DCE) MRI and double inversion recovery (DIR) MRI of the prostate,” Eric says. “The primary aim is to see if DIR can replace DCE in mpMRI investigations. This will reduce cost by eliminating the use of contrast, to which some patients have an adverse reaction and eliminate the need to cannulate patients, which is invasive.”

The impact on patient care as a result of Eric’s research can be summarised by one of the patient participants: “I am happy to be used as many times as you like as far as your study is concerned if it can get rid of the contrast injection in MRI investigation for all men suffering from prostate cancer.”

Another patient comments: “I have dreaded both this MRI and biopsy investigations. My worries are not about the results of the investigation, but my hospital phobia. But the way you have cared for me today has alleviated my concern for my biopsy appointment in the next few days.”

Eric says: “Research is a way to increase one’s wealth of knowledge; its importance can never be overemphasised. Participating in original research has impacted on my career positively because it has exposed me to other people’s questions and answers, while trying to find answers to my own questions. By so doing, my own knowledge has increased and my colleagues and patients have benefited immensely.”

Eric believes that with the CoR’s support, his team have increasingly become more empathetic radiographers, who give patients the best compassionate care. “Keeping patients more informed and having them at the centre of everything is key to our practice,” he says. “I can remember one patient telling staff in the department and I quote: ‘this is my best experience since I started my journey for prostate problem in the hospital, your professionalism, sense of humour and your good listening quality is amazing. Thank you for your good work’.”

Journals

Our quarterly, peer-reviewed journal *Radiography* promotes evidence-based practice by disseminating high-quality research related to diagnostic and therapeutic radiography. *Radiography* is essential reading for researchers, practitioners, educators and students. We publish research articles, systematic and narrative reviews, editorials and letters of international relevance that advance knowledge and encourage innovation within radiography. We aim to convene at least one author workshop annually to support new researchers.

In 2017, *Radiography* was accepted into the MEDLINE database. Having *Radiography* listed is recognition by the U.S. National Library of Medicine that radiography is a profession distinct from radiology and oncology and it has a developing evidence base. This significantly raises the profile of the journal and makes high-quality radiography research more widely accessible.

The journal is delivered to over 24,000 Society of Radiographers' members in print each edition. A total of 286,303 *Radiography* articles were downloaded from our electronic platforms in 2015.

We are an active member of the MedRadJClub Twitter club. On 19th May 2016, a *Radiography* article on compassionate care in radiography recruitment, education and training attracted 100 contributors, generated 1,228 tweets and had a total 'reach' of 989,497.

In 2016, *Radiography* became the official peer-reviewed journal of the European Federation of Radiographer Societies which has 38 member countries. In 2017, it also became the affiliated journal of the Irish



Institute of Radiography and Radiation Therapy where all members will receive an electronic subscription.

Together with the Society of Radiographers, we also publish *Imaging and Therapy Practice* and *Imaging and Oncology*. Our monthly *Imaging and Therapy Practice* magazine covers the latest thinking and techniques in professional practice. In 2015, for the first time, it included a special edition which contained content written entirely by students. *Imaging and Oncology* is our annual 'blue-sky-thinking' title that spans all radiography and radiology practices, making it of interest to a wide range of professionals. The journal brings articles together from leaders within the professions.



Find all our publications at <https://www.sor.org/learning/library-publications>



CASE STUDY:

Research awards are the true enablers

“I chose an area of research that would make a great deal of difference to the way we were practising and to patients.”

Mark Warren, a Lecturer in radiotherapy at the University of Liverpool, acknowledges that the key to his successful completion of an MSc was being the recipient of a College of Radiographers’ Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRIPS) research award.

“It allowed me time to perform the research because it funded some of the costs and that was the real enabler and motivator for me,” says Mark. “I chose an area of research that would make a great deal of difference to the way we were practising and to patients. I concentrated on lung cancer and the planning done around treatment with intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT). Without the funding, I would not have been able to take the ideas from my Masters study and scale it up into something more significant.”

Promoting the research, which was also funded by the grant, Mark says was “a great experience. I travelled to a European conference and presented a poster there. And my research was taken up and used as part of the development work to support a new trial, playing a very small part in a bid for Cancer Research UK funding. The potential benefit of a positive result to this research is huge, as its aim is to improve the survival rate for lung cancer patients who undergo radiotherapy.”

Although the results of a clinical trial take a long time to come to fruition, Mark’s work on new radiotherapy techniques already has other benefits for patients. “The clinical skills I developed through my research were then put into my routine clinical practice. I was able to help in widening the skill base at my trust for treating lung cancer patients with IMRT.”

“I encourage my students to take every advantage of College of Radiographers’ opportunities. This year, one of my students entered into the *Imaging & Therapy Practice* Student Competition and was awarded joint first place. I supervised her research into how to support patients with stopping smoking during radiotherapy. She really enjoyed her experiences, and since registration has begun to translate her findings into practice. Hopefully this will result in more patients feeling supported and empowered to quit smoking during radiotherapy.”

In 2016, Mark was the recipient of the Arthur Kay travel award, enabling him to travel to The Netherlands to see the latest developments in MRI-guided radiotherapy. He subsequently presented a paper at the Annual Radiotherapy Conference and was published in *Synergy News* and *The Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*.

Services to the profession

Role development

The scope of practice for radiographers is diverse and continues to expand. We support initiatives to develop the profession of radiography where these lead to improved services for patients.

In 2015, we carried out scope of practice surveys for diagnostic and therapeutic radiography. These provide evidence about the development of the profession and inform education providers and other key stakeholders about changing practice.

Reporting

The reporting of diagnostic images by trained specialist, advanced and consultant radiographers is long established in the UK. There is now evidence of radiographer reporting in many patient pathways including plain film reporting, ultrasound, CT, MRI and radionuclide imaging studies.

In 2016, benchmarking results for NHS services in England indicated that over 21% of all imaging examinations receive definitive reports from radiographic staff and sonographers. In 2017, this had increased to 35%.

We commissioned a health economist from King's College London to lead a project modelling the costs of radiographer reporting compared to radiologist reporting of chest x-rays in the lung cancer pathway. The results, published in *Radiography* in 2017, contain strong evidence that reporting of chest x-rays for lung cancer by trained reporting radiographers is both effective and

cost-effective. Probabilistic analysis indicates a 98% likelihood that radiographer reporting is cheaper and more effective than radiologist reporting after inclusion of treatment costs and outcomes.

In 2017, we began using this model as part of a larger trial, funded by the Cancer Research UK Early Diagnosis Advisory Group, that is examining the impact of immediate reporting of chest x-rays referred from general practice.

We also approved funding in 2017 for a similar project: a health economic evaluation of radiographers' changing role within breast imaging. This work aims to model the potential economic impact of extending the role of radiographers to encompass interpretation and reporting of mammograms in symptomatic breast services.

We organised a study day in October 2016 titled 'The Future of Radiographer Reporting in Wales'. 60 radiographers attended and a Welsh Reporting Group was established.

We contributed to the draft framework for the national radiography reporting standards by NHS Scotland Shared Services and the Scottish Clinical Imaging Network in 2017. The focus of these is on general radiography / appendicular skeleton reporting by radiographers but there is assurance that this will be a benchmark for future development in other areas. We were also involved in the Scottish National Framework for Reporting Radiographers which concerns reporting across and between health boards.

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In 2016, we began supporting the development of a reporting radiographer toolkit for managers, working with the NHS-England-funded ACE (Accelerate, Co-ordinate, Evaluate) programme. During the review period, we also contributed to an East Midlands radiology project reviewing remote reporting led by NHS England. We helped establish governance structures to support radiographer reporting. It is planned to roll this out to radiographers under the same clinical governance as for radiologists. If this goes forward, it will form a good basis to further build support for radiographer reporting through the development of a national NHS England framework.

In 2015, we contributed to a Cancer Research UK scoping project and subsequent published report 'Horizon scanning: An evaluation of imaging capacity across the NHS in England'. This highlights the important contribution of radiographers to service innovation and reporting.

Independent prescribing

From 2016, advanced-practice therapeutic radiographers can train to undertake independent medicines prescribing to meet service need in England. This follows considerable work from our professional team and volunteers as part of a programme led by NHS England and is a very welcome development for patients receiving treatment for cancer. We continue to work with stakeholders to support consideration by the Commission on Human Medicines of independent prescribing rights for diagnostic radiographers.

Other role development

In 2016, NHS England consulted on proposals for modernising radiotherapy services, to ensure high-quality, safe and effective services are accessible across the country, regardless of where patients live. The proposals focus on the development of networks of non-surgical clinical oncology

services. We were represented as an affiliated organisation on the radiotherapy clinical reference group.

We responded to a Health Education England call for evidence to support workforce planning in 2016/17. We supplied data showing the developing and changing scope of practice of the radiography profession.

We participated in a two-year Health Education England Advanced Clinical Practice project which began in March 2016. This work aimed to enable a consistent approach to advanced practice development and the harmonisation of definitions across medical and non-medical advanced practice.

In 2017, we helped work on a diagnostic radiography career framework with Skills for Health commissioned by Health Education England. Our feedback together with feedback from members of the Society of Radiographers has led to a recommendation that the National Occupational Standards for Diagnostic Imaging be reviewed and updated to reflect advances and changes in practice.

“The College of Radiographers has been consistently supportive and always really helpful when I make contact. My impression is that all of the staff are very committed to the College mission and go above and beyond.”

Mark Warren, Lecturer at the University of Liverpool



CASE STUDY: Unstintingly supportive

“We will have engaged practitioners seeking to further the evidence, wanting to advance their practice, and all of that impacts on patient outcomes.”

The College has been instrumental in progressing the career of Dr Nick Woznitza, Consultant Clinical Academic Diagnostic Radiographer, Homerton University Hospital and Canterbury Christ Church University. Since 2005, Nick has progressed through the profession’s career structure from radiographer to reporting radiographer, to advanced practitioner and he now holds a consultant practitioner post.

“A College of Radiographers’ Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRIPS) research grant is the only reason I was able to complete my PhD,” Nick says. “It’s that simple: I could not have done it without the grant. The College recognises that the profession needs help to become a research active profession and without that support I wouldn’t have my doctorate.

“The College has consistently signposted me to where I need to be and given me support, resources and guidance.”

And Nick believes this has a direct impact on patients.

“The grant has contributed to a strong evidence base that is underpinning CXR (chest x-ray) reporting by radiographers. This is fundamental because we have poor outcomes for lung cancer and it is a priority area.”

“The CoRIPS funded research led to a successful bid for Cancer Research UK funding for the immediate reporting of chest x-rays (CXR).”

Nick is involved in the training of 14 reporting radiographers to deliver faster outcomes for patients. Positives include a shorter patient journey, reduced anxiety, an earlier and more timely diagnosis and, ultimately, a better prognosis.

Nick is keen to pass on his College experiences to other individuals in his team, by encouraging them to move from an extended scope role to advanced practice.

“I have been emphasising the need to take on formal audit roles, encouraging them into research and getting them to think about how they are going to position themselves to move to accredited advanced practitioner. We will have engaged practitioners seeking to further the evidence, wanting to advance their practice, and all of that impacts on patient outcomes.”

“I am the College’s biggest fan. It has been truly instrumental in my career and practice. I couldn’t do my current role if it wasn’t for the unstinting support of the College.

“It is fantastic at promoting and supporting the profession. Keep up the good work!”

Partnership working

In 2015, 2016 and 2017:

We promote the role of the radiography profession in delivering patient-centred, compassionate healthcare. We collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure that the workforce needs for clinical imaging and radiotherapy services are appropriately planned, taking account of changing service needs, to support the delivery of safe, effective, high-quality services for patients. We meet with national stakeholders; provide expertise on multi-professional committees; participate in media interviews; present at universities, clinical departments and conferences; carry out surveys and respond to consultations on behalf of the profession.

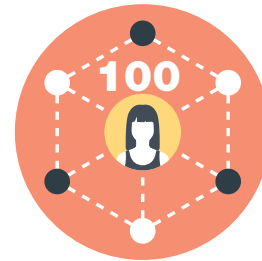
Professional groups

Our comprehensive structure of committees and advisory groups relies on volunteers who generously give their time and expertise. Each committee and advisory group is led by one of our officers and supported by our professional team.

Our Research Group is an example of one of our successful, pro-active professional groups. Members include consultant radiographers, educators, and representatives from different clinical backgrounds. In 2016, we launched an online collaborative forum to support the radiography profession's research network.

Government and NHS bodies

We contribute professional advice and leadership to several national work streams and consultations led by the Department of Health and its arm's length bodies to ensure the contribution that radiographers make is understood and appreciated. A number of specific Health Education England work



Over 100 radiography volunteers donated their time engaging in committee, accreditation and other work on our behalf.

streams in relation to the radiography and sonography workforce, advanced practice, the impact and management of the change from student bursaries to loans, and retention of therapeutic radiography students were a focus during the review period. We also provide expert advice and guidance to the Scottish government, NHS Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland.

In 2017, we successfully supported trailblazer groups seeking approval for the development of separate apprenticeship standards for diagnostic and therapeutic radiography.

“The opportunities through working on the various College groups have enabled me to add to contacts made throughout my career. New contacts have enhanced my ability to operate nationally as a consultant radiographer, delivering talks, publishing research and being part of government related groups that are driving current practice development.”

Consultant reporting radiographer, Dr Jonathan McConnell, based at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Professional bodies

We work closely with professional bodies in our field and in allied health professions.

We hold two intercollegiate boards with the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine and the Royal College of Radiologists. In the Clinical Imaging Board, work during the review period prioritised evaluations of the installed CT and MRI equipment base in the NHS. While the Radiotherapy Board focused on new practice guidance for Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy in the UK. We have been a member of the Council for Allied Health Professional Research since its inception. The collaboration, led by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, provides local support, resources and advice for research activity at all levels.

Positive working relationships have also been established with the UK Oncology Nursing Society, the International Radiation Protection Association and Society for Radiological Protection. For example, in 2016, we worked with the UK Oncology Nursing Society on means to improve communications and understanding about radiotherapy amongst community healthcare professionals.

Cancer charities

We partner with cancer charities to support the work of the profession and its impact on patient care. During the review period, there was significant work with Cancer Research UK analysing the non-surgical oncology workforce, and with Macmillan Cancer Support (MCS) and Prostate Cancer UK on the role of therapeutic radiographers in supporting cancer patients.

We facilitated therapeutic radiographers' involvement in the development by MCS of allied health professional competences for practitioners caring for patients living with and beyond cancer. We also arranged for advanced and consultant practitioners to

attend MCS workshops in July 2016 as part of the development process.

In 2016, we worked with MCS and the Pelvic Radiation Disease Association to enhance the training of therapeutic radiographers in the care of patients experiencing long-term side effects of pelvic irradiation.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



Martin Ledwick (Head Cancer Information Nurse, Cancer Research UK) following a radiotherapy presentation delivered by one of our officers at Cancer Research UK in September 2017:

“Thank you so much for giving your time yesterday. All the nurses who attended the session found it extremely helpful. We respond to 12,000 individual enquiries a year on our helpline from people affected by cancer and our cancer information website got 37 million visits last year. So, helping us to keep up to date in developments in radiotherapy has had a huge effect on helping people with cancer get the information they need.”

CASE STUDY:

Prostate/urology specialist role development with Prostate Cancer UK

Therapeutic radiographers are critical to prostate cancer patient care: they have the expertise to plan and deliver radiotherapy treatment.

This joint project, commissioned by and funded by a £50,000 grant from Prostate Cancer UK, focused on this specialist radiographer role in the care and treatment of men with prostate cancer. The aim of the project was to describe the current situation in relation to these roles and to understand better their nature and value. To do this we surveyed UK cancer centres and carried out practitioner workshops.

The results show that 18 cancer centres use these prostate/urology specialist roles and their numbers are increasing. The role is not yet sustainably embedded and might best be described as 'emerging'. These early implementers have provided valuable insights into the role that should be developed as a standardised, specialist role to ensure the best treatment and care for men with prostate cancer.

A joint report of the findings was published and promoted in 2015. The results have also been shared through conference presentations, patient information webinars, practitioner workshops, a *Urology News* feature article and case studies.

Our contribution to the project:

- expertise through
 - a professional officer and
 - our network of health professionals
- the patient voice via
 - our Patient and Public Liaison Group.

As part of the project, an online community forum was started for prostate/urology specialist radiographers in the UK. This will support practitioner networking, encourage joint research initiatives, share evidence-based practice and provide opportunities for future role developments.



Read the final report in full at: <https://bit.ly/2sB0AJz>

Encourage the development of radiography worldwide

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 we awarded:



£11,900 supporting radiographers who volunteered through the Overseas Placement Fund in collaboration with RAD-AID

We support members working voluntarily for less developed countries in the field of radiography through our overseas placement fund in collaboration with RAD-AID, the international non-profit organisation for diagnostic imaging professionals. In response to the Nepal earthquake in 2015, we were able to send a practitioner at short notice. Her work focused on training and education rather than immediate disaster relief. The RAD-AID ethos concentrates very much on legacy and reports indicate that her contribution was highly valued. In addition, we supported two RAD-AID placements in India in 2017 working with the Asha Jyoti mobile women's health van and its partner the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research. Imaging modalities available on Asha Jyoti include mammography and bone densitometry scanning.

“Ms. Sacker’s participation as a team member and her contributions as an experienced qualified mammographer were important to the growth and development of RAD-AID Chandigarh. She will always be considered a team member for this program, and the program manager hopes to be able to use her expertise and experience in the future.”



Our commitment to promoting radiography worldwide includes membership of the European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS) which is recognised as the voice of radiographers in Europe. The EFRS work programme is vast and supports the development of radiography across 37 member countries representing over 100,000 radiographers. We are actively involved, with delegates on a number of EFRS committees during the review period.

Debra Poelhuis, MS, RT(R)(M) Associate Director RAD-AID India following mammographer Karen Sacker’s placement with the Asha Jyoti mobile women’s health van.



We work with several international organisations including the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists.

Public engagement

Listening to patients and service users



Philip Plant, Chair of our Patient and Public Liaison Group

The patient voice is given clear emphasis and priority in our strategy. Our objective is to gather and understand patient opinion about radiography and use this data for professional and service development. This work is led by our Patient and Public Liaison Group (PPLG) who provide patient and care perspectives in relation to diagnostic and therapeutic radiography services.

In May 2017, we held a one-day scoping workshop attended by patients, trustees, PPLG members, health professionals, charity representatives and other stakeholders. The key outcome, which was to recognise true patient and public partnership, requires a shift in strategy: we must put the patient at the centre of standards and guidance.



Word cloud source: Workshop May 2017



In the 2017 edition of *Imaging and Oncology*, a member of our PPLG told her story of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. In it, Gillian highlights that no two people experience cancer in the same way and that 'one size' does not fit all. We are actively learning from patients by listening to experiences such as these and the College Board specifically supports education and training in this area.

“When a patient attends for radiotherapy they may be facing myriad emotional and physical issues of which we as healthcare professionals are simply not aware – so my message is clear – don’t assume you know what they are going through, and don’t assume that when they say they are ‘fine’ they are fine. The reality is probably quite different.”

G. Thompson, “Up Close and Personal with the Breast Cancer Pathway - A View From the Other Side of the Fence,” *Imaging and Oncology*, p. 28, 2017



Find out more at <https://www.sor.org/about-radiography/patient-and-public-and-liaison-group>



CASE STUDY:

Opening new patient communication channels

“37.5% of respondents said they were influenced to attend for breast screening as a result of visiting the hub.”

Recently retired from the University of Salford, Dr Leslie Robinson, who worked as a clinical practitioner for many years before becoming a full-time lecturer in diagnostic radiography, successfully applied for a CoRIPS research grant. The funding was used to find out how social media could be used to engage practitioners and patients in an online dialogue. Leslie’s research specifically was to help mammographers to communicate with patients, offer them support and to promote breast screening.

In March 2016, the WoMMeN hub was launched, reaching out to the UK breast screening population. The hub is designed for every woman who has been invited for breast screening and wants to know what it’s all about. It’s also for relatives, friends and carers who might be supporting the woman and need to understand how best to do this. The site enables patients to talk to other women on a breast screening forum and practitioners from the NHS breast screening service, as well as providing lots of useful written information, videos and images.

So far, 29 mammographers have signed up to the hub practitioner forum and many post and comment on the WoMMeN Facebook group. A number of other screening centres have set up their own site-specific social media groups, where they communicate with their own patients.

The response from patients and practitioners has been extremely positive.

Facebook posts from patients:

‘Everyone please go, it saved my life 18 months ago. I had a routine mammogram and it was picked up very early and now clear and well. Nothing to be afraid of.’

‘Routine breast screening discovered a tiny tumour, had wedge excision and six weeks radiotherapy, still here to tell the tale, but easily might not have been had I not gone for that mammogram.’

Leslie says: “Last year we carried out a pilot evaluation of the WoMMeN Wordpress hub. 37.5% of respondents (n=57) said they were influenced to attend for breast screening as a result of visiting the hub.”

The following comment shows that listening to other women’s views is a reminder to attend: ‘External contact gives other people’s experience and sways me towards knowing screening is good.’

The WoMMeN hub also contains blogs written by patients specifically for the hub, sharing their experiences for the benefit of others. You can read these at



<http://wommen.org.uk/blog/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BreastScreeningMammography/>

Attracting people to a career in radiography

In 2015, 2016 and 2017:



An average of **10k** per month visited radiographycareers.co.uk



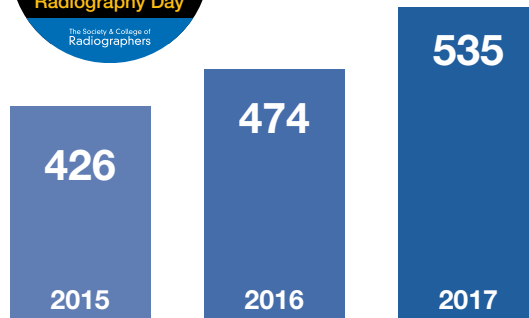
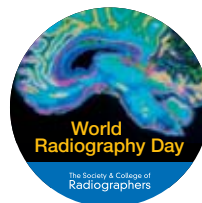
We distributed **200** careers packs for use in schools and at careers fairs

For those considering a career in radiography, our careers website and Twitter feed @DoRadiography provide a valuable source of information.

The annual UK Radiological and Radiation Oncology Congress hosts a science taster session for school children aged 13-14 introducing them to the basics of radiological science. Around 400 students attended the session in 2017 where Professor Robert Winston was a speaker.

We support World Radiography Day on November 8th each year by supplying promotional packs. These packs are created to help members celebrate World Radiography Day and include a selection of posters, materials and radiography career information.

In 2016, we began participating in a specialist professions project led by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. This project seeks to inform a marketing and development strategy aimed at increasing applications to smaller allied health professions such as therapeutic radiography. The risks of universities not being able to recruit into qualifications for these roles are significant.



Number of World Radiography Day packs supplied by year



Find out about becoming a radiographer at <http://radiographycareers.co.uk>

The future

Impact report conclusions and the future direction of our work

This report succeeds in illustrating the impact of our work in two ways. First, the ongoing impact which is evident from the inspiring stories of radiographers making a difference every day, as educators, researchers, leaders and practitioners. Second, the impact which is achieved over the long term, due to investments made during the review period, which may not come to fruition for a number of years.

What is indisputable is that there is compelling evidence to show that our greatest impact is made through the individuals working at the interface between the patient and advancing technology: radiographers, assistant practitioners and associated professionals. Their expertise, knowledge and innovation have inspired the development of the changes in patient pathways which in turn result in better outcomes for patients.

The College of Radiographers complements the work of the Society of Radiographers. We are, and will always be, there for members of the Society. In today's challenging context of a changing healthcare and technology landscape, we are a constant that members can rely on. Through our expert voice, we underpin continuity in the delivery of radiography services, even when such services are subjected to repeated reorganisations or outsourcing. Our

commitment remains steadfast in uncertain times; members know that we are always there to support them.

In turn it is appropriate here to gratefully acknowledge the sustained financial support the College of Radiographers receives from the Society of Radiographers and its members. Each year the UK Council of the Society approves a budget contribution that funds, on average, 75% of the cost of our programme of work for the forthcoming year.

Looking to the future, our work will continue to focus on the themes of patient partnership, compassionate care, research and advancing practice for radiographers. Our view is that UK healthcare is best served by making full use of the specialist skills of all health professionals. Evidence-based innovation in this area is a wonderful opportunity to deliver better healthcare with limited resources.

In conclusion, this first impact report demonstrates the activities and achievements of the College of Radiographers. The report showcases the excellent work which has met our strategic aims. It will be a trailblazer and model for future reports, and we hope it will provide evidence of our dedication to the continuing improvement in patient care and service delivery for all.



Full details of our annual finances can be found at

<https://www.sor.org/about-us/statutory-documents/legal-reports-accounts>



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