

Diagnostic Imaging Advisory Group (DIAG)

Annual Report 2018

Established in 2017, DIAG is now finding its feet as a group and provides detailed feedback and advice to the SCoR on a diverse range of professional issues.

Group Membership

The group is chaired by Andy Creeden with the support of the Vice Chair, Rachel Nolan. SCoR professional support is provided by Sue Johnson, SCoR Professional Officer and administrative support is by Valerie Asemah.

In order to provide the widest possible range of feedback the membership of the group includes a diverse mix of SoR members from the radiographic workforce of various grades, specialties and experience from across the four countries of the UK. During 2018 we welcomed Stuart Mackay (Deputy Chair of HRE), Angela Meadows (NMMAG Chair) and Gareth Thomas (Council Member) to the group. We currently have a vacancy seats for a representative from the Patient Advisory Group and an assistant practitioner.

Meetings & Synapse

Two meetings were held during 2018 (22nd May and 25th October); both were well attended (despite a rail strike). Members unable to attend in person have successfully dialled-in using the new conferencing facilities at Head Quarters when required.

Synapse

A significant amount of discussion and debate has taken place between meetings via the Synapse online forum. All members have contributed during this period.

Activities

DIAG members responded to consultations on a wide range of draft documents, including those produced by the SCoR, NICE and HEE:

- Consent and MCA guidance (SCoR)
- Communicating Benefit and Risk (SCoR)
- National Occupational Standards (S4H)
- Apprenticeship standards / EPA (Institute for Apprenticeships)
- Long Term Cancer Plan (NHSe)
- Leading a Breast Screening Service (NHSBSP)
- Lung Cancer Standards (NICE)
- Facing the Facts, Shaping the Future (HEE)

DIAG members represented the SCoR on a range of committees:

- National Imaging Optimisation Board (NIOB)
 - The board has been responsible for developing the metrics for radiology services for the model hospital which was highlighted as a priority by Lord Carter. The data collection provides a national asset list, workforce data and important data on back logs, reporting times, activity etc. Continuing work on refinement of the metrics to ensure deliver accurate relevant data.
 - The board members have been represented on other working groups such as CT clinical advisory group looking at equipment specifications for NHS Supply Chain that are fit for purpose.
 - Development of TAT for reporting at the request of the CQC.
 - Sharing of good practice and work alongside the GIRFT team.
 - Involvement in early adopter's regional work.

- Health Education England (HEE) Workforce Plan
 - In response to the Cancer Taskforce, HEE are supporting 300 trainee reporting radiographer to increase diagnostic capacity. Regional mentorship and teaching has been provided to reduce variation and support local Trusts, with many integrating teaching with specialist trainee radiologists. Evaluation of the first (of 2) years has commenced, and the second cohort commences in September 2019.

- FACT project (SCoR)
 - Development of guidelines for the prescription of pre-habilitation in cancer care as recommended by Macmillan (e.g. actions relating to physical, dietary and psychological wellbeing and how health-care professionals can support patients with this, and with follow-up.
 - Promotion of a stronger role for radiographers (both therapeutic and diagnostic) in the areas of pain and fatigue management, body image, smoking cessation/alcohol reduction, anaemia, lymphoedema management etc.

- Cancer Research UK (CRUK) panel – both English and Scottish representatives
 - Informed policy decisions at CRUK on diagnostic workforce barriers to improved cancer outcomes for patients, participated in the "shoulder to shoulder" campaign and acted as associate members of the clinical advisory group.

- MSK Reporting standards (RCR/SCoR/HEE)
 - Emphasis made on the need for common standards and expectations for shared elements of reporting, focused on the patient receiving the best care regardless of the profession who provided the clinical report.



- Competency Framework for AHPs (Macmillan)

During 2018 DIAG has also provided feedback to the SCoR on a diverse range of issues through its Professional Officer (Sue Johnson):

- Mentorship
- Assistant Practitioners
- International recruitment
- Apprenticeships
- Imaging and Therapy Practice
- IR(ME)R implementation

Future activities

During 2019 DIAG will continue to provide the SCoR with high quality feedback relating to the profession, the organisation and its members. The group will seek to further increase its emphasis on providing feedback and representation relating to all four nations of the UK.