Welcome from the Chairperson

A warm welcome to our Winter newsletter edition from the London Region Society of Radiographers (SoR). We hope you can spare a few minutes of your time to read the content. Please feel free to contact us with any of your work related issues, any feedback you might have and with any queries you may have for the SoR Annual Delegates Conference 2019.

I am delighted to report another successful London Region Society of Radiographers Annual Study day which took place on Sat 27th October 2018 at Mary Ward House. Our theme for this year was “To be or not to be – Specialist, Advanced and Consultant Roles”. We were fortunate to have a broad range of speakers from both diagnostic and therapeutic radiography. Charlotte Beadmore set a high standard with her opening presentation on what the Society is working on in terms of advanced and consultant practice. We were delighted to be joined by our current vice president, Chris Kalinka who made a strong contribution to our interactive debate entitled, ‘Should radiographers specialise immediately post qualification?’ A big thank you to all our other speakers Tina McCloskey, Dr Helen McNair, Alexandra Drought, Professor Beverley Snaith, Vishal Manek and Jeremy Weldon. Please read the feedback from our new student officers in this edition.

Now we start the process all over again. Have you an idea of what the theme should be for 2019? Please do let us know.

Our committee work voluntarily and conscientiously to support London radiographers. If you feel you want to get involved with our work, then please do drop us an email – please see our contact details overleaf.

Darren Walls

Radiographer of the Year Awards 2018

Congratulations go to Dr Helen McNair, Lead Research Radiographer, from the Royal Marsden Hospital. Helen won both the London Regional Radiographer of the Year and the UK Radiographer of the Year awards.

Congratulations to the General Imaging Radiographers at St Bartholomew’s Hospital for winning the London Regional Team of the Year award.
London Region SoR Student Officers Reflections on our 2018 Annual Study Day

“As a final year diagnostic radiography student at City, University of London, nearing the end of my training and about to embark on a career as a radiographer, I found it inspirational listening to leaders within the radiography profession tell their stories on how they became specialist/advanced/consultant practitioners. The study day has motivated me to make the most of every opportunity and to seek out opportunities which will drive the profession forward and improve patient care. The take-home message of the day was radiographers can do anything if given the right support and training which I truly believe is the case”. Ali Khandakar

“The study day event involved guest speakers talking about advanced, specialised and consultant roles in radiography. It was an important event in learning about how the profession of radiography has developed into an advanced practice stage and how important this progression is for the patient care pathway. The part of the event involving the debate of immediate specialisation post qualification highlighted how important it is for me to be fully competent in my role as a newly qualified radiographer before moving onto a specialised role. Overall, the event taught me the importance of learning and progressing in the profession post qualification to improve patient pathways and to fulfil the demands of a certain skill set needed by the NHS”. Jeel Desai

“The study day was a great success. From the multiple talks about career development and becoming a consultant radiographer I learnt that it’s important to say yes to every opportunity. Say ‘yes’ to doing more research, say ‘yes’ to doing a presentation for other staff members. These opportunities will make you stand out when applying for a job. My second lesson was ‘don’t give up when you hear no.’ Dr Helen McNair described how she was unsuccessful when applying to do a PhD; if she gave up then, she wouldn’t be a lead research radiographer now. Overall, I left the study day excited about the future and motivated to carry on the hard work.” Magdalena Pienkosz

UK Council

Merry Christmas everybody from your new London SoR Council member.

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody that voted for me and I am looking forward to getting to grips with Council life.

Being a Council member is daunting but there are many experienced people to help and guide, as we find in all of radiography. I began my radiography career as a mature student nearly 10 years ago, coming from a background of corporate hospitality. I have thoroughly enjoyed my new career and all the challenges that most of us face every day working for the NHS. Also my time as IR rep has given me a lot of satisfaction, supporting colleagues and making sure the voice of radiographers is heard throughout the Trust.

Being an active member of the SoR has given me a broader understanding of the workforce, diagnostic and therapy, has led me to meet radiographers from all over the country. It is this involvement that encouraged me to stand as your Council member.

There is much technical, legal and financial information I am still to get on top of, but it will get easier. Making positive decisions that will affect radiographers and patients is something I am looking forward to. There would be no point being in this role if I didn’t have an opinion. Ask my wife, I have plenty of those.

As your council member I am happy to hear from London members, and can take that to Council to represent your voice.

Vas Nevrides

Shortages in Radiography – The SCoR proactive in recruitment.…

This Nov at Skills London 2018, Excel London, (UK’s biggest jobs and careers event, aimed at 15-24 year olds) the SCoR was again present. Information was provided on careers in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiography with Powerpoint slide shows, props etc. As in 2017, there was a good interest, with people queuing to discuss a career in Radiography. This year, the two SoR Professional officers, Tracy O’Regan (Clinical Imaging and Research, Diagnostics) and Michelle Tyler (Profession Outreach, Therapeutic) were assisted on Friday by Gemma Lees (Therapeutic Lecturer Practitioner), Hannah Austen (Therapeutic Practice Educator, both from Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust) and Sindy Singh (Therapeutic Education and Training Superintendent – Charing Cross, Imperial NHS Trust) and myself. Everyone was there to inform and discuss queries for possible prospective students. Hopefully the extra help, reduced queueing and waiting times. Saturday, I also assisted. It was fantastic seeing faces light up when you enlightened students, parents, post grads and group leaders about our profession. We had the good fortune to be next to the “Border Control Officers” stand, with the friendliest “sniffer” dogs, attracting a lot of attention! Maybe the SoR could consider having an “pet” owl on our stand next year? After all, this bird of prey, is part of our emblem and also a recognisable symbol for knowledge……

Bozena Borzyszkowska

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