

Chief Executive Officer  
Richard Evans OBE



**CoR**  
THE COLLEGE OF  
RADIOGRAPHERS

**MINUTES OF THE DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING ADVISORY GROUP (DIAG) HELD ON  
TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS,  
207 PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

**PRESENT:**

Andy Creeden {AC} {Chair}  
Deborah Henderson {DH}  
Victoria Hughes {VH}  
Jonathan McConnell {JMC}  
Richard Newman {RN}  
Rachel Nolan {RN1}  
Rakesh Puni {RP}  
Colin Ross {CR} {Guest}  
Sue Webb {SW}  
Nicholas Woznitza {NW}

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}  
Sue Johnson {SJ}

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Leandre Archer, Nina Arcuri, Charlotte Beardmore, Alison Jenkins, Claire Watkiss, Terissa Williams and Helen White

2.2 To note that Helen Erhardt (Patient and Public Liaison Group representative) has resigned from the group. No new member has been identified yet.

2.3 David Jones (Nuclear Medline Advisory Group representative) has also resigned from the group. Angela Meadows new Chair of NMAG has replaced him.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017, were approved as a true and accurate record.

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#### **4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES;**

##### **4.1 Mentorship: invite Alexandra Lipton to next meeting (minute 4.3)**

SJ invited Alexandra Lipton to attend the meeting today but she explained that there is a lot of work going on with the NHSE so she has deferred her attendance until she has more to report. She hopes to attend the October meeting.

##### **4.2 Chase up HEI reps for a named contact (minute 7.2)**

SJ had agreed to chase up HEI representatives for a named contact to join this group as per the terms of reference. This has been done, and Stuart Mackay has now joined and will be involved.

##### **4.3 DIAG to ensure that DIAG career progression work or frameworks link with therapeutic radiographers via the Radiotherapy Advisory Group (minute 7.3)**

To note that this has been agreed so that work of RAG will go hand in hand with DIAG. Minutes from both groups will be shared between SoR officers.

##### **4.4 Small working party to work on new scope of practice (minute 7.4)**

To note that a small working party consisting of VH, JM, LA, TW and DH volunteered to work on the new scope of practice document for assistant practitioners has been set up.

***ACTION: SJ, VH, JM, LA, TW & DH***

##### **4.5 Questions around workforce (minute 7.5)**

At the last meeting, it was agreed that SJ would put workforce questions on synapse for the group to comment on. SJ has spoken to Charlotte Beardmore {CB} around the number of consultations/surveys sent out and it was agreed that these should be sent in the first instance to the Chair and SJ. Nothing further to report at the moment, but SJ will update when more is available.

#### **5. REVIEW OF DIAG OBJECTIVES (Work Plan and ToR)**

5.1 SJ informed the group that all advisory groups have to provide a workplan. The group went through the objectives to ascertain what they meant to them as a group and how they planned to meet them. Group can feedback on the objectives but cannot change them.

5.1.1 The group would like to publicise DIAG and its work by having articles in Synergy News.

5.1.2 Career Development Framework – the group would expect that when this publication is being reviewed that they would be invited to assist. There was a question around the sort of research DIAG could facilitate.

#### **6. DIAG 2018 WORKPLAN TARGETS**

6. The group went through and discussed the targets for this year.

## 7. SoR AND CoR STRATEGY UPDATE

- 7.1 SW gave a verbal update on the SoR and CoR Strategy for the next three years. At last week's Council meeting 20 objectives were given. One of the objectives was that the SoR website is to be remodeled and should be up and running by 2019.
- 7.1.1 SW further reported that the Annual Delegates Conference (ADC) was very successful. One hundred motions were presented but eventually was brought down to eighty-five. There was a big debate around pay. However, nothing controversial this year.
- 7.1.2 SW updated DIAG on the special round of CoRIPS grants for this year: – **Overseas grant** (which will allow a member of a small team of members to travel overseas to present the findings of their research and/or service evaluation as an oral paper at an international conference).and the **UKRCO grant** (which is offered to support qualified member of SCoR based in the UK, to travel to present the findings of their research and./or service evaluation as an oral paper at the UKRCO event. There were quite a few enquiries around the E-Learning package.
- 7.1.3 The group queried branding – should they be using CoR branding or SoR branding. Following discussion VA was tasked with speaking to Charlotte Beardmore Director of Professional Policy for clarification on if we should be using CoR, SoR or SCoR headings.

**ACTION: VA**

### 7.1.4 RCR/SoR Relations

To note that the RCR will not now be re-joining UKRC in 2019. DIAG will have chance to comment on jointly produced documents such as the Team working document.

## 8. NATIONAL IMAGING OPTIMISATION BOARD - UPDATE

- 8.1 DH gave an update and informed the group that she has been asked to represent DIAG on the NIOB (which was founded as a result of the Carter report). This is a huge undertaking with a very quick turnaround. A discussion followed around data inputting mistakes, national asset register not being detailed enough etc. It was agreed that DH should write an article around good ways of sharing good practice for Synergy News.

**ACTION: DH**

## 9. ITEMS FROM SYNAPSE/SINCE LAST MEETING

### 9.1 Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

SJ thanked everyone on the group and informed them that the document was signed off at the last Council meeting.

## 9.2 International Recruitment HCPC- Colin Ross, Leicester

Colin Ross {CR}, Radiology Site Manager, Leicester was invited to the meeting and gave an update on how the HCPC assess standards of overseas applicants, as there has been considerable concern around the competence of overseas radiographers. CR informed the group that he is very pleased with the standard of the radiographers he had recruited from overseas. In addition, through the agency he uses, he usually skypes candidates and travels overseas (Europe) to interview the potential candidates. He reiterated that the HCPC has a process in place so it is important prospective registrants provide full details of their curriculum studied and supply as much detail, as possible. HCPC does not assess competence, registration is based solely on the information provided and matched to Standards of Proficiency. Following further discussion the group agreed that such information should be available on our website and in Imaging and Therapy Practice magazine. CR agreed to work with DIAG on this issue as the recruitment of international radiographers is crucial. SJ to liaise with CR to develop a web article and I&TP article.

***ACTION: SJ***

## 9.3 Irefer – technical issues, lack of contact, feedback, payment

This used to be funded by the NHSE but funding has been withdrawn and there are problems with getting fund locally. The Imaging Board is disappointed that funding has gone, lots of discussion but no evidence to support its value. There have been challenges to as it is not evidence based. There is a proposal to explore whether access could become a SoR member benefit. A European version of decision support is available.

## 9.4 Cancer workforce Strategy

NW updated the group informing them that 150 radiographers across England will be funded to support them becoming reporting Radiographers via CoR approved programmes, which will be managed at local level. The process is being managed by HEE cancer networks. NW will forward paper onto the group.

***ACTION: NW***

## 9.5 **Apprenticeships:**

- Diagnostic Radiography degree level
- Therapeutic radiography
- Mammography associate
- Advanced Clinical practice
- Ultrasound

SJ updated the group on where we are with apprenticeships and presented a consultation document, which was then briefly discussed. The group agreed to take the document away for more in-depth reading and give feedback to SJ.

***ACTION: ALL***

## 10. OFFICER UPDATES

- a. National occupational Standards
- b. Medicines Management, Patient Group Directions
- c. IR(ME)R/IRR: No update was available today as professional officer is currently on sick leave. Lynda Johnson will provide update.
- d. SPA (Suspect Physical Abuse): the guidelines were issued last September but there is a consultation on some of the standards.

### **HEFCE/ Office for Students project**

A project manager has been appointed, hosted by the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists, who are hosting the overall project. The project MOU with this organisation is being finalised. Recruitment to the profession specific outreach officer is underway. There has been considerable interest to date. Interviews will be held on Friday 18 May 2018.

Bids are encouraged, for the challenge fund and marketing expertise sought for the programme. SCoR officers are involved in all the selection processes.

*[For information: The Strategic Interventions in Health Education Disciplines (the “programme”) is a consortium of partners which has been awarded a grant of £1m by HEFCE (now the Office for Students) to establish and deliver the SIHED Programme which aims to:*

- *increase awareness of allied health disciplines*
- *increase understanding of and demand for small specialist allied health disciplines*
- *strengthen and diversify the delivery of the small and specialist disciplines covered by this initiative*
- *develop a better understanding of the mature student market for nursing, midwifery and allied health]*

### **HEE Sonography programme**

Work continues with the 3 workstreams reporting to an overarching steering group comprising HEE, SCoR, RCR, BMUS and CASE representatives. Progress remains positive.

1. Regulation
2. Scope of practice/ carer progression framework
3. Training capacity

### **CASE**

Consortium for Accreditation of Sonography Education – held a workshop to review processes and to streamline / develop the system ready to support an increase in course submissions, for ultrasound programmes and short processes, seeking approval. CASE continues to support the delivery of quality education at all levels of practice and across the diversity of settings. This was a productive meeting comprising members from the Member Organisations and CASE committee. Work continues.

### **HEE National ‘reporting’ standards and assessment**

HEE is working jointly with the SCoR and RCR to scope out a potential project to support the development of reporting standards and national assessment for non-radiologist reporting. The next meeting is 25 May 2018. Dr Keith Piper from Canterbury Christchurch has been approached to undertake the project work, subject to funding receipt from HEE.

### **SCoR and RCR Team working document review – update**

We are continuing to work with the RCR reviewing the Team working document in clinical imaging in line with the principles agreed by UK Council, and using the standards within ISAS to underpin this work. At the last meeting we agreed that a shorter succinct version is required, which will include some case studies. The aim continues, with completion of the guidance planned for autumn 2018.

### **Apprenticeships update**

1. To note that the **Education Level 7 ‘Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship’** - has been approved by the Institute of Apprenticeships and is ready for delivery. The standard was approved in November 2017 and the assessment plan just recently approved. ACP apprenticeships will enable experienced practitioners to progress to advanced practice roles through part time apprenticeships. It has been designed to be relevant to all ‘registered’ health care practitioners. A short news item will follow in Synergy news.
2. **Education Level 6 BSc (Hons) Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiography** - Trailblazer groups are making good progress with the standards development. Updates are being provided for members, in Synergy News by the trailblazer leads. Diagnostic Standard – out for consultation until 21 June.
3. **Education Level 4 Mammography associate** – The standard is being finalised following consultation and the end point assessment is in development.
4. **Education level 6 BSc (Hons) Sonographer trailblazer**- work continues in developing the end point assessment, and in checking alignment with the wider HEE sonography work. Officers remain engaged in this work.

HEE Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) framework - work continues in supporting the implementation of the framework through a number of funded workstreams funded by HEE. In addition, it has been agreed that a framework for the ‘Consultant level’ of practice should be developed and published to harmonise this level of practice as per the ACP.

### **Controlled drugs: therapeutic radiography profession**

NHSE, therapeutic radiographers, HCPC, SCoR, HEI and 2 other associated professionals including an oncologist attended a meeting of the Technical Committee of the Advisory Council for Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) in central London. The delegation was invited to attend the ACMD to review the information previously submitted in 2016 with regard to therapeutic radiographers (those appropriately educated, trained and with annotation on the HCPC register) being entitled in legislation to independently prescribe from a limited list (6) of controlled drugs to their patients.

This has been approved and a recommendation will now be made to ministers.

### **Medicines administration in clinical imaging**

Patient Group Directions for contrast agents are no longer recommended as the most appropriate legal mechanism for administering contrast agents. A new project, yet to be agreed/defined, for pursuing legal exemptions for Radiographers (+/- independent prescribing again) is to be developed. In the interim model PGDs are being developed by a small working party from the professional bodies led by the Specialist pharmacist for PGDs.

### **Workforce**

National Imaging Optimisation Board (Carter project) continues work to reduce variation across clinical imaging. National data collection is proving challenging but should provide for the first time a true picture of staffing models, vacancy rates etc. and equipment profiles for all NHS service providers. Networks are currently under development /focus. Some of these are virtual and IT based but some are

looking at Human Resources and staff networks. Early work on pilot sites shows some real challenges to overcome the contractual and liability issues.

### **Breast screening failure to recall**

Thousands of women have missed a breast screening recall due to a computer error. Services are being expected to run additional clinics to screen the missed women. The workforce is already under pressure through high vacancy rates in both radiologists and Radiographers.

### **National occupational standards**

A large piece of work is underway to review the NOS across radiography, ultrasound and breast imaging. Commissioned by HEE they want to review the career development framework. Completion due by end of year.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 VH informed the group that her role will be changing in July. She will be relocating to Liverpool as a Lecturer and will no longer be in a management role.

## **12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

12.1 The dates of future meetings were agreed as:

- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Post meeting note: an alternative date may need to be found for the October meeting as it falls within half term for some members.**