

Brachytherapy Radiographers special interest group meeting 29th Jan 2024 Sheffield

Report for SCoR:

27 members of the brachytherapy radiographer's special interest group (SIG) met in person for the first time since the pandemic. Twelve centres, and one university were represented which provided opportunities to share practice in what can feel like an isolated specialty.

Several centres offered to present recent work and the theme was focussed on patient experience and how as brachytherapy radiographers we can best support our patients.

We had talks about patient experience and recommendations to improve, a report back from recent ESTRO "Groupe Européen de Curiethérapie" (GEC-ESTRO) meetings and how this meeting is an opportunity for brachytherapy radiographers to gain greater knowledge and network with European colleagues, and a presentation on reporting errors and near misses from the UKHSA. Brachytherapy centres appear to be under reporting compared with external beam levels and there was discussion over why this might be. We also heard about workflow improvements, time saving initiatives, patient friendly avatars (to support patients on their first attendance guiding them around the department) and the challenges of decontaminating specialist brachytherapy applicators.

We aim to organise an in-person meeting in the Autumn to provide further networking opportunities, but we will also organise online meetings in the interim so that we can reach more members and reduce costs and travel time. Thanks to Elekta for supporting the meeting and to Sheffield Hallam University for providing the meeting room without which, the meeting could not have happened.

About the Brachytherapy radiographer's special interest group (SIG):

Brachytherapy is a small specialised area within radiotherapy. Some areas of brachytherapy are seeing considerable increases in complexity of techniques and a need for greater resources including therapeutic radiographers to provide this. In each radiotherapy centre there are usually very few brachytherapy radiographers and their roles can vary widely between centres. This can leave brachytherapy radiographers feeling quite isolated in their specialised roles. The Brachytherapy Radiographers SIG is intended to facilitate the support and professional development of those therapeutic radiographers who are involved or wish to be involved in the provision of brachytherapy services. The forum provides a means for radiographers to meet and exchange ideas, information and support in this developing area within radiotherapy.

We have over 100 people registered on the Synapse messaging forum hosted by the Society and College of Radiographers. The organising committee welcomes volunteers to support the future organisation of the meetings and maintenance of the SIG pages. To find out more, please contact: Pauline.Humphrey@uhbw.nhs.uk.

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