

Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 82nd meeting (by teleconference) held on 12 May 2022

Present:

Chairman: Professor K Bradley

Members:

Ms K Adamson

Ms S Aldridge

Dr C Beadsmoore

Dr M Cooper

Dr A Craig

Dr M Gaze

Mr D Graham

Dr J Dickson

Dr K Dixon

Dr N Hartman

Dr Nabil Hujairi

Dr P Julyan

Professor I Lyburn

Mrs C Moody

Dr G Petrides

Dr N Singh

Dr T Szyszko

Professor S Vinjamuri

Professor J Wadsley

Secretariat:

Mrs L Fraser (UKHSA)

Dr A Powell (UKHSA)

Miss K Stonell (UKHSA)

Item 1: Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the 82nd meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies have been received from Miss Nasreen Parkar, Dr Shahid Rasul, Ms Sarah Peters (DHSC) and Mr Matthew Ager (Welsh Government).
- 1.3 The Chairman advised members that Committee member vacancies were advertised recently for two NM specialists and one clinical oncologist.

Item 2: Declarations of members interests

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that members interests are published on the [members page](#) of the ARSAC website.
- 2.2 Members were asked to declare any changes to their interests since the last meeting. A declaration may be made now or at the start of any relevant item.

Item 3: Minutes and notes of previous meeting

- 3.1 The Chairman asked members for corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting.
- 3.2 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and will be published on the ARSAC website

[Action: Secretariat]

Item 4: Matters arising

a) Practitioner renewal form

- 4.1 The Chairman drew members' attention to the draft renewal application form. Members discussed the questions related to CPD and appraisal and how renewal applications should be processed.
- 4.2 Members proposed further revisions to the draft application. The Secretariat will amend the form and circulate by email to members for agreement rather than bringing back to next meeting.

[Action: Secretariat]

b) Notes for Guidance

4.3 The Chairman advised members that the 2023 edition of the NfG will be prepared by the Secretariat for members to review at the next meeting.

4.4 Members suggested changes to the DRL for ¹⁸F-FDG and further guidance on how weight based DRLs should be applied. The Secretariat will review this offline with members and include a proposal for the next meeting.

[Action: Secretariat]

4.5 Members should provide any further suggestions to amendments to DRL's, or other updates to the NfG to the Secretariat.

[Action: All]

Item 5: IPEM policy statement on MPE support for nuclear medicine

5.1 The Chairman drew members' attention to [the IPEM policy statement](#) in ARSAC 04-22. It has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal but is published on the IPEM website.

5.2 Mrs Fraser reminded members that the Working Group was set up following concerns with some employer licence applications which included very low levels of MPE support. Members were asked to consider how the recommendations should be used to assess employer licence applications, noting that each application is assessed on its own merit and therefore may not fit into the categories suggested in the guidance.

5.3 Members offered comments on how to apply the guidance and the need to consider overall scientific support.

5.4 Mrs Fraser noted that the employer application form is focused on MPE support. The application form could be amended to include additional questions about wider physics support. Members suggested a free text box was added to provide a narrative for MPE support and scientific support to the service.

5.5 The Secretariat will draft a statement for the NfG that ARSAC will look at MPE support and the wider physics support that is available. The application form will be amended at the same time to enable applicants to provide a narrative.

[Action: Secretariat]

Item 6: ARSAC guide for assessing applications

- 6.1 The Chairman drew members' attention to ARSAC 05-22. This guidance has been updated by the Secretariat.
- 6.2 Members agreed that the guidance was suitable in its updated form. The Secretariat will send an updated version to members.

[Action: Secretariat]

Item 7: HRA update

- 7.1 The Chairman drew members attention to ARSAC 06-22. Mrs Fraser reminded members that the HRA had intended to launch the revised radiation question set in the first quarter of 2022, but this has been delayed while a review is carried out.
- 7.2 Members discussed the impact of the delay on applicants and the ARSAC review process.
- 7.3 The Chairman was disappointed with the HRA's position and suggested that feedback was provided to HRA.

[Action: Secretariat]

Item 8: Trends and issues on applications

a) Research studies for therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals with limited dosimetry

- 8.1 The Chairman drew members' attention to a recurring issue of research applications for therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals with limited or no dosimetry.
- 8.2 Members offered comments on this issue and reaffirmed the Committee's position. Members noted concerns about staffing resources.
- 8.3 A communication will be drafted to DHSC with member input as required.

[Action: Secretariat]

- 8.4 Professor Wadsley advised members that molecular RT is going to be a key strand of the CTRad Group for the next 3 years. A roadmap will be produced to move molecular RT forward in the UK. Dosimetry will be pushed as part of that.

Item 9: UKHSA update

a) ARSAC annual report

9.1 Dr Powell drew members' attention to ARSAC 07-22. The annual report was agreed and will be published on the ARSAC website.

[Action: Secretariat]

b) Jira applications

9.2 Dr Powell advised members that new and amendment employer licence applications have now been incorporated onto the Jira portal. The next stage of development is to incorporate notifications.

c) ARSAC application processing timescales

9.3 Dr Powell drew member's attention to the analysis from Jira for processing time and application resolution time. As more employer applications are processed, more statistics will be available.

Item 10: Nuclear medicine items from other committees or meetings

a) RCR

10.1 Nothing to report.

i. Clinical Oncology

10.2 Nothing to report.

b) RCP

10.3 Mrs Fraser advised members that an alternative to the Kings MSc course will be available at Brighton and Sussex Medical School, developed by Dr Charlotte Fowler and Professor Sabina Dizdarevic, enabling the nuclear medicine training scheme to continue. This is being launched as a modular on-line course which may mean that some parts of the course are accessible to other staff groups.

c) ICSC

10.4 Nothing to report.

d) UKRG

10.5 Total body PET was discussed at the last UKRG. Dr Cooper asked for the committee's view on research applications for total body PET and giving doses to pregnant women to look at foetal development, and healthy volunteers. The Chairman advised that any research applications would be assessed by the committee but suggested this could be an agenda item going forwards.

e) BNMS

10.6 More teaching modules are being developed.

10.7 The BNMS Spring Meeting is taking place 16 to 18 May 2022 in Glasgow.

f) SCoR

10.8 The 2016 guidance on standards for operating a CT scanner in NM is being updated. Mrs Moody voiced concerns of service risks due to falling numbers of licence holders from retirement/resignation.

10.9 ARSAC was praised for its newsletter related to 177-Lutetium PSMA licences.

g) EANM physics committee

10.10 A paper on a revision to the EANM dose card for long field of view (25cm) PET scanner has been published.

10.11 An informal group of 'Heads of Radioimmunotherapy / Nuclear Medicine' has been established by IPEM, providing a forum for national physics issues and feedback from this group should be added to future meeting agendas.

Item 11: Date of next meetings

11.1 The Secretariat will issue a Doodle poll for the next meeting in November 2022. A decision on whether the meeting is held on MS Teams or face to face will be made nearer to the meeting date.

[Action: Secretariat]

Item 12: Any other business

12.1 Mrs Fraser advised members that Nasreen Parkar is on maternity leave for around 12 months.

[Action: Secretariat]

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ARSAC	Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee
BSSD	Basic Safety Standard Directive
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CT	Computed tomography
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
DRL	Diagnostic Reference Level
EANM	European Association of Nuclear Medicine.
HRA	Health Research Authority
ICSC	Inter-Collegiate Standing Committee
IPEM	Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
IRAS	Integrated Research Application System
IR(ME)R	Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations
NM	Nuclear Medicine
NfG	Notes for Guidance
PET	Positron emission tomography
PSMA	Prostate specific membrane antigen
RCP	Royal College of Physicians
RCR	Royal College of Radiologists
UKHSA	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
UKRG	United Kingdom Radiopharmacy Group