

MSPPAG Medical Sonography Postgraduate Program Advisory Group

Minutes

Tuesday, 16 May 2023 4.00pm – 4.45pm

Zoom

Members present: Sean Coveney (Chair, Repat Health Precinct SAMI), Amelia Buick (Melbourne Vascular Diagnostics), Bec Perry (UniSA Stream Coordinator Cardiac), Jessie Childs (UniSA Program Director Medical Sonography), Sandra O'Hara (SKG Radiology), Sandy Maranna (UniSA Stream Coordinator General), Shylie Mackintosh (UniSA Dean of Programs - Allied Health), Sue Lundy (Perth Radiological Clinic), Trisha Mathers (Benson Radiology)

Apologies: Kate Lamb (UniSA Stream Coordinator Vascular), Kate Paddick (SAMI), Michael Cursaro (CALHN,) Richard Allen (SALHN)

Item	Notes	Action Required	Person(s) responsible
1. Welcome and Apologies	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome to new members Sandra O'Hara and Sue Lundy. A note was made of apologies.		
2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting	1 November 2022 Meeting Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record		
3. Business arising	a) Discussion re: students entering program with prior supervised scanning hours -Should there be a cap? - Students can record in their logbook the number of hours they have completed prior to commencing at UniSA. Recently a student entered the program with a large number of previous scanning hours which prompted the question as to whether there should be a cap? - Trish said it wouldn't make much difference as students get beyond the required number of hours anyway and are not reliant on any previous hours. It is important that the hours are meaningful and align with training and study.		

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	- Sean agreed that the quality of the hours is important and wondered how they could be capped. - Jessie noted that students still have to show competence in a range of areas, which isn't necessarily aligned with the number of scanning hours. - The general agreement was that there wouldn't be any benefit to having a cap, and each student needs to be treated on a case-by-case basis. b) Double delivery of scanning course (potentially Abdominal Sonography) - The program has previously introduced a single delivery of a number of courses. Students doing the new enrolment pathway (which allows completion in 2 years) are doing Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation and Abdominal Sonography together, and Professional Issues for Sonographers and Superficial Parts together. Feedback suggests that students will struggle if they haven't already done Physics and Professional Issues and try to go further. Professional Issues and Physics are already delivered twice a year. Jessie proposed that if one extra course was delivered twice a year it would provide a better pathway for students. Abdominal Sonography has been suggested for this double delivery. - The group agreed that that Abdominal Sonography is generally the first scanning subject taken and is the easiest, so would be the best course to double up. - Jessie said that students starting in February would do Physics and Professional Issues in SP2, followed by Abdominal Sonography and Superficial Parts in SP5. Those starting mid-year would do Physics and Professional Issues in SP5, then Abdominal Sonography with Vascular Sonography (preferably) or Obstetrics in SP2. - The group discussed the sequence of courses. c) Addition of new Mammography online course for students who don't need the CPM - Currently an ICBR Breast Imaging Certificate is offered for students who study Mammography via the BreastScreen SA clinic at City East. Students who complete the Mammography course are eligible for a Certificate provided they have a radiography background. As not all students can get this and only 10 students can do the Mammography workshop per year, there is a long wait list. Could we create an online	Arrange a double delivery of the Abdominal Sonography course	Jessie Childs

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	equivalent course as an alternative? - The group agreed that this would be a good idea, provided it is not an ASAR regulation to do the SA Breast screen course. It is worth investigating what options there are, and a new course would broaden options for students. d) Prerequisites – reduce, absorb, another course, create room within program? - The General Stream requires prerequisite knowledge of one Human Anatomy course, two Human Physiology courses plus a Pathology or Patho-Physiology course. Monash Uni has a course which covers all this prerequisite knowledge, and some students are doing this course at Monash then coming back to UniSA. All students must have a bachelor degree in an approved field of education, but it is possible to enter with a degree that doesn't have much anatomy content. - Jessie wondered if UniSA should put together a course similar to the Monash course or alternatively build this knowledge into the current program? - Sandy said that UniSA's strict prerequisites are what makes it popular with practitioners. They look closely at students' undergraduate degrees, so it would be useful if there was a new course that covered these areas to cater for people with varying backgrounds. - Trish supported the idea of it being a standalone course separate from the program, as it would give students an idea of what they are committing to. - Sean agreed that it would be a good idea to develop a new course, although unsure what format would be best.	Investigate the development of a new Mammography online course Investigate options for developing a standalone course which covers the IGSO/ IMSO General Stream prerequisites	Jessie Childs Jessie Childs
4. Standing items	a) Staff Updates About to employ a new staff member in Cardiac.		
	b) Program Updates Jessie reported that all is going well with the program and student numbers have		

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	increased. Preparation is underway for accreditation in 2025.		
	c) Academic Integrity Issues - The program is battling with the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. It is a requirement for students to identify when they are using AI, although Turnitin will also flag it. - Recently a student was expelled for dodging clinical hours. - Sandy has found that AI image manipulation is still pretty basic but we need to keep a watch out as AI develops.		
5. Future Agenda Items	Nil		
6. Any other business	Nil		
Next meeting	Tuesday, 14 November 2023 at 4.00pm via Zoom		