



## **Letter from the UKNG Executive committee (EC) to UKNG members (Jan 2024)**

Dear UKNG members,

We are writing to summarise activities of the UKNG EC during 2023 and provide some insight into continued projects for 2024.

UKNG EC members have the following roles: Rob Lenthall – Chair EC, Hannah Stockley – Hon Secretary and Chair Communications/External Liaisons Subcommittee, Peter Flynn - Treasurer, Alex Mortimer – Chair Standards Subcommittee, Aubrey Smith – Chair Training Education and Research Subcommittee (Academic lead Tom Booth), David Minks - Webmaster, Adam Rennie – Paediatric Lead, Tarini Ratneswaren – Trainee representative, Phil White – ex Chair EC.

### **UKNG meetings**

The meetings in London in June and Nottingham in November were well attended and successful. We experimented with a shared specialist interest group (SIG) day in Nottingham with British Neurovascular Group (BNVG) members attending a joint whole day session on the Friday. The feedback was positive and multi-specialty attendance enabled broader discussion of clinical scenarios. We have no plans to change the meeting format, which is primarily the choice of the INR unit running the meeting, but we support efforts to engage with allied specialties and encourage continued development of the training session (part or whole day) prior to the UKNG meeting.

### **Work on the RCR sponsored Credential MTAIS**

The curriculum for Credential MTAIS, was approved by the GMC in Jan 2023. After this, the statutory education bodies (SEBs) in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales decided not to implement Credential training, leaving England the only SEB preparing to do-so.

The RCR has continued to position itself as the appropriate body to oversee Credential training and is developing an oversight group to coordinate implementation. This will have robust input from UKNG EC members and representation from each of the SIGs and parent specialties likely to participate in Credential training or learning.

The NHSE Thrombectomy Implementation Group (TIG) has identified funding for training posts in Radiology Academies (and for use of the RCR ePortfolio), but the process of guaranteeing (and funding) paired, geographically appropriate, clinical training opportunities for Credential learners following academy training, is not yet agreed.

The UKNG has been asked to refresh data on staffing levels and training opportunities at UK Neuroscience centres offering MT services and will seek to do so in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024. Please respond to the survey, so that planning can be informed by contemporary information.

Work on implementation, perhaps including creation of funded Credential training posts, will have to account for availability of training posts in each MT centre and the plans of local radiology trainees and IRs wishing to develop MT competencies.

## **Work with the TIG**

The UKNG has successfully argued that INR representation on the NHSE TIG should be expanded, to ensure robust attendance and INR cover for all TIG meetings. There are now two UKNG representatives (Phil White and Hannah Stockley).

Following promotion of WIST training by publication (April 2023) and by representation at the NHSE TIG, we produced a commentary published in Clin Rad in August (see UKNG website). With RCR and Lead Dean support, we have continued to advise that training to acquire competencies to deliver MT services should align with one of the three GMC approved pathways i.e. INR training, IR training as per BSIR/UKNG supplementary guidance, or the Credential.

## **Other work / opportunities with the RCR**

The RCR are seeking to strengthen relationships with all SIGs. This includes:

- 50% funding support for visiting professorships within the UK
- Access to RCR infrastructure to help SIGs achieve their objectives.
- Developing an IR GIRFT project (as proposed by the BSIR). The RCR has advised the BSIR that an IR GIRFT should include contributions from INR as well as IR (we will be seeking volunteers for role(s) as this project develops in 2024).

## **Joint BSNR/UKNG statement on Sexual Harassment and Assault.**

This statement was prepared by the BSNR and reviewed and approved by the UKNG EC. It is available on the UKNG website and should be read by all members.

## **Training Education and Research**

- Monthly webinar
- Trainee days prior to the UKNG meeting
- Measures to streamline research activities
- REC/HRA approval is being obtained for UK-wide INR research

## **Standards**

- Benchmarking exercise for MT imaging outcomes.
- Feedback to NICE about IPG for middle meningeal artery embolisation for chronic subdural haematomas
- RCR consultation on paediatric trauma

## **Communications**

- The UKNG has formed a partnership with the Stroke Association and routinely attends virtual meetings with industry partners. It is agreed that INR's are specialist advisors regarding MT.
- UKNG members provided comments / contributions to the #SavingBrains campaign, both the original report on 2022 and follow up report published in 2023.
- Joint meeting with industry in Birmingham 16/2/23 (coordinated by Hannah Stockley). The main topics of the meeting were industry support for national access to 24/7 MT, educational partnerships with industry and medical device safety.
- National MT training capacity survey (March 2023).

The joint meeting with industry started a conversation about the social media (SoMe) profile of the UKNG and the UKNG's role and identity, particularly in the light that other SIGs and specialty groups with a higher SoMe profiles were frequently participating in the conversation about MT service development in the UK.

As a result, with the support of an industry partner (Penumbra) the UKNG is going to invest in advice from a marketing company to help identify and define it's brand and then develop a SoMe campaign that helps the UKNG 'own it's space'.

During the development phase of this project, we will try to gather a diverse group of UKNG members and trainees. The successful roll out of a campaign will be dependent on the work of a core of enthusiasts, so please consider volunteering.

### **Trainee participation**

We are fortunate to have seen trainee numbers rise sustainably over the last five years. Our trainees have appreciated the UKNG trainee days and have contributed to the UKNG meeting and EC committee work. We encourage trainees to join subcommittees and learn about the role of the UKNG.

### **Other work delivered by UKNG members**

There are several roles UKNG members deliver for the BSNR, BSIR, RCR and other organisations, that the UKNG EC is aware of, but does not receive feedback about. It would be helpful to maintain a register of these roles and we encourage the role holders liaise with the UKNG EC to optimise UKNG work, and to help avoid duplication, or misunderstanding.

### **Volunteers please**

The success or otherwise of the UKNG community is dependent on the contributions made by it's members. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts and apologise if these have been overlooked. There is much work to do in 2024 and we are seeking volunteers and new ideas to help develop the committees and work on the projects mentioned. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with one of the EC members by email or phone to discuss.

### **Available posts in 2024**

UKNG chair role. The term of chair is for 2 years and is due for replacement starting at the next UKNG meeting (June 2024). Any UKNG member in good standing who would like to take on this role should obtain a second and put themselves forwards.

### **Next UKNG Meeting**

Belfast on 13th-15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (trainee sessions 13<sup>th</sup> pm and 14<sup>th</sup> am)

Oxford in Nov 24 (dates TBC)

With best wishes for 2024

Rob Lenthall, Hannah Stockley, Peter Flynn, Alex Mortimer, Aubrey Smith, David Minks, Adam Rennie, Tarini Ratneswaren, Phil White.