

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

Section of Imaging

The Section of Imaging, of the Manchester Medical Society, held a mini symposium entitled **“Role of consultant radiographer and sonographer”**. The meeting took place on **Thursday 13th March 2008** at **6.00 pm** in **Theatre 2 of the Stopford Building, University of Manchester**.

The President of the Section, Dr W J Gunawardena, opened the meeting and introduced the two speakers as follows: -

Mr Peter Cantin

(Consultant Sonographer, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust)

“The consultant sonographer: possibilities and pitfalls”

Mr Cantin discussed the challenges to the ultrasound service which led to his setting up of the role of the consultant. He talked about the relevance to the various stakeholders and discussed the core elements of the work of the consultant sonographer. These included expert practice, research and development in the department, leadership and reduction in waiting lists. He also discussed his role which included complex cases, contrast administration, contrast ultrasound, FNAs and also developing guidelines and governance within the department. He outlined the subsequent results where the waiting list had improved from one year down to two weeks and the department felt it provided a high quality patient centred service and contributed to hospital strategic planning and work force planning. He also runs the journal club and has research sessions. He outlined his work plan for five clinical sessions and five non-clinical sessions. In summary he also outlined the opportunities for career progression and service development with service and financial improvement.

Professor Peter Hogg

(Director of Radiography, University of Salford)

“The big plan – how consultant radiographers will take over the radiology world!”

Professor Hogg defined the role which has various aspects including clinical, teaching, leadership and research, and felt that the leadership role was probably most important to develop the service and improve quality. The role of consultant radiographer had in recent times been quite difficult and difficult to define with a small number of early resignations of consultant radiographers due to the difficulty quantifying the precise role. This was also due to the lack of general planning of the precise role, the poor training particularly as regards research and leaderships skills, and the extreme limitation of managerial power. He emphasized the importance of collaborative working and went through various leadership models of the role planning and the assessment of skills prior to

employment as well as adequate training both prior to taking up the post and after the post.

Website address for specialised core elements of both consultant sonographer and radiographer www.radiologyimprovement.nhs.uk.

The talks were followed by a lively question and answer session. A vote of thanks was given to both speakers by the President and this was closely seconded by prolonged applause from the audience.

Following the meeting there was a dinner held in honour of the speakers, at the Moso Moso Thai Restaurant on Oxford Road.