

ACADEMY NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IMAGING
ACADEMY WALES



WELCOME

by Victoria Whitchurch, NIAW Manager

The National Imaging Academy Wales (NIAW) was established with a clear purpose, to support training and facilitate the increased training capacity within the Welsh Radiology Training Schemes as well as supporting the professional development of other diagnostic imaging professionals across NHS Wales. We are pleased to report that we have been able to achieve these key objectives over the past 2 years and continue to develop our training programme to include additional, alternative & innovative professional development opportunities for the diagnostic imaging workforces across NHS Wales.

Alongside our primary focus of training, we also have an expanding responsibility for innovation, collaboration and research within diagnostic imaging and, in order to highlight the great work that our team and collaborative partners are doing, we are pleased to launch our first NIAW Newsletter that describes our progress, ongoing developments and upcoming events.

We would like to thank everyone who has worked with us over the past two years, helping us to establish a truly innovative NHS Wales organisation that offers so much to the diagnostic imaging workforce across Wales.

GET IN THE KNOW:

INNOVATION AND
RESEARCH

02

COLLABORATION

03

TRAINING

04

EVENTS

05

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

06



Innovation and Research

Project Funding

NIAW is committed to promoting Postgraduate healthcare/medical education within the diagnostic imaging workforce in NHS Wales as we believe that this will improve the knowledge, skills, confidence and competence of the educators and increase learning opportunities throughout diagnostic imaging.

We were keen to support enthusiastic professionals along their personal educational journey by providing financial support for the learner during their study but also provide a platform on which they can implement and practice their new skills in a supported environment. So, the Academy put out a call to the diagnostic imaging professionals across NHS Wales and we are pleased to announce we will be funding and supporting 3 projects. Please see below to find out more about each project.



Dr. Helen Blundell

PHYSICS TEACHING FOR RADIOLOGY TRAINEES

Helen is a Clinical Scientist working in the Medical Physics Department at the University Hospital of Wales and teaches Physics at Cardiff University as part of the Medical Physics BSc course and also the Physics component of the Part 1 FRCR scheme here at NIAW.

Helen will enrol on a PGCert course in Medical Education and as a component of this, will be undertaking a research project, based on feedback from FRCR part 1 students. The hope is that the results of this project will enable the physics teaching for FRCR to be adapted where necessary, either in content, or the way the content is taught, to achieve the best possible learning outcome for all of our students.



Richard Mabbott

PHYSICS OF MRI

Richard has completed a postgraduate certificate in Medical Imaging (MRI) and is going to carry on his post graduate studies at Bradford University with a specific focus on Cardiac MRI. This will help improve his knowledge and skills which, in turn, improve the service that we provide for cardiac MRI's.

Richard will focus on how to make learning the complex physics of MRI easier for those who work in medical imaging but do not have a background in physics and mathematics using a qualitative approach.



Rebecca Wallace

IMAGING WORKFORCE - LEADERSHIP ROLES, TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Rebecca will be conducting a qualitative study in collaboration with NIAW to explore and seek to gain insight into the thoughts and feelings of the Imaging workforce in relation to leadership roles, and their perception of currently available training and support. The challenges and pitfalls associated with a modern Imaging department require the effective management and leadership of skilled individuals. Multiple publications outline the challenges of leading within Radiology, and even what an ineffective leader looks like within this discipline. However, little information exists as to what skill sets and experience are considered important and what training and support are available to those in or considering taking on a leading role within imaging departments in Wales.



Collaboration

Intelligent Ultrasound & Welsh Government

Intelligent US loaned us a BodyWorks Eve simulator with their ready developed COVID-19 US Lung scenerios. The BodyWorks Eve is an ultra-realistic female patient simulator designed for interactive Point of Care Ultrasound (PoCUS) scenario training, it has 100 real patient scans and over 10,000 pathology variations across cardiac, lung, transabdominal and pelvic ultrasound.

When COVID-19 came everything changed overnight for life at NIAW but this is where our collaborations really came into their own and we were able to work with struggling clinical and business services across NHS Wales. Thanks to our established collaboration with Intelligent Ultrasound we have been able to organise focused lung US training including COVID-19 scenarios for experienced US practitioners with online learning and face-to-face training.

Following the collaboration with both Intelligent Ultrasound Group plc and the Welsh Government, we have been successful in obtaining a new simulator which brings our total to three Scan Trainer (2 x Transabdominal and 1 x Transvaginal) simulator units and two BodyWorks Eve simulators which deliver interactive PoCUS training.

ScanTrainer supports training in ultrasound scanning skills, allowing trainees to learn in their own time and pace in a low pressure, non-clinical environment. It allows you to learn TA and TV probe handling skills, acquire quality images, recognise pathology and test diagnostic skills.

See more information at - <https://www.intelligentultrasound.com/>





Training

Happy Birthday

NIAW TURNS 2

In August 2020 we celebrated our 2 year anniversary and in that time we have been supporting an increasing number of trainees within the South Wales radiology scheme and have been achieving outstanding exam results.

Welcome!

2020 ST1 TRAINEES

In August we welcomed our new intake of eighteen ST1 trainees on the South Wales Radiology Specialist Training Scheme.



RCR Examinations

IN RADIOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Prior to COVID-19, the Academy was interested in becoming an examination centre and following the pandemic the Royal College of Radiologists have decided to implement examinations remotely. We are really pleased that we are a UK regional examination site for the 2020 Radiology and Clinical Oncology examinations.

The Future of Training

AFTER COVID-19

The Academy has further assessed how we deliver training and discuss improvements regarding the future and virtual education during the pandemic. In order to prepare for the return to training social distancing and new cleaning procedures have been implemented. The Academy reopened for training in June 2020 for our South Wales trainees.



Events

Recent Courses

EM INDUCTION, CHEST XRAY, FRCR 2B

Since reopening the Academy following the COVID-19 pandemic we have successfully run the above courses with a blended learning approach to allow for social distancing. Room capacity had to be reduced so all attendees were safe and socially distanced. Our FRCR Course has been hosted virtually this year to prepare candidates for the new format of the RCR Examinations for 2020 - all examiners were based at the Academy and used Microsoft Teams to videoconference with course attendees from their homes.

Upcoming Events

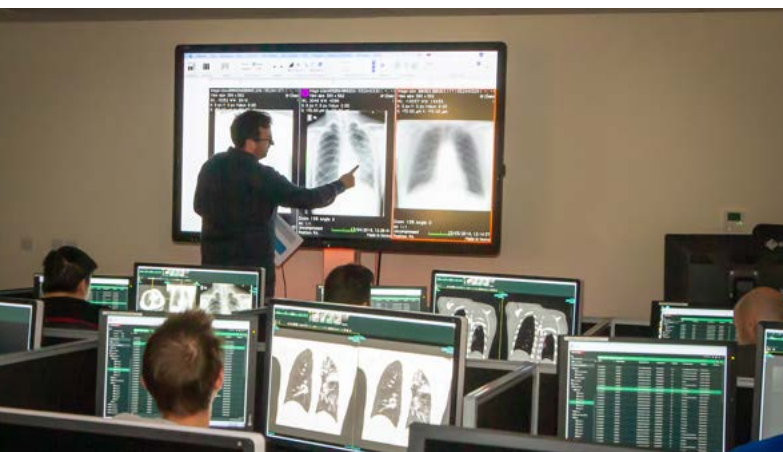
CT COLONOGRAPHY COURSE

Please note this course is expected to commence early 2021 and we are currently gauging interest levels, a final date has not yet been confirmed

<http://imagingacademy.wales/ct-colonography-course>

FRCR EXAMINATIONS

Throughout October and December 2020 the NIAW will be hosting the Radiology FRCR examinations and the Oncology examinations.





COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS



ACADEMY DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Normal operations ceased at the Academy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with so much planning activity on maintaining essential services including clinician redeployment which included some of South Wales Radiologist trainees.

Our team & facility continued to be very busy, providing support for essential services (including training) and preparing for future activity in the new normal.

Our initial COVID-19 activity was the collaboration on hosting a Regional COVID-19 testing centre for essential workers. This was a successful development, working well in parallel to Academy activity. The testing centre has now been relocated, and we thank the nursing team for their tremendous work and being excellent company and colleagues to boot.

Our first priority was supporting essential service activity as a Radiology Reporting Hub. NIAW is ideally placed for this, with the capability to reporting diagnostic imaging studies for nearly all Health Boards. This was very helpful to Health Boards whilst home reporting was being set up, to maintain business continuity of Radiology reporting activity and clinical multidisciplinary team input with robust IT infrastructure and at a COVID-19 safe location. Additionally, our team set up a second Reporting Hub as contingency in collaboration with NHS Wales Collaborative at River House, in case of IT breakdown.

During the pandemic, NIAW provided workspace for FujiFilm's 'Operation Workstation' to provide new home reporting workstations for Radiologists. This was an industrial exercise with workstations being built for nearly all HBs in the Academy's conference space.

The Imaging Academy site and IT capability was also used to support business continuity for other organisations. NIAW worked with NHS Wales Collaborative to facilitate their NHS Wales Radiology Informatics Systems Programme, hosting virtual workshops across NHS Wales. This enabled this essential programme to continue despite the lockdown. Ad hoc training and VC facility was used to support training during lockdown, including undergraduate radiography.

In addition to US Lung training, we made available our support for Radiology. Our website presented a shared learning resource for clinicians who may have been redeployed, focus on the essentials of chest radiograph interpretation and diagnostic imaging in COVID-19. These were developed and presented by Academy Radiologists, Dr Grant Griffiths and Dr Timothy Pearce. These are still available on imaging.academy.wales

Post lockdown, our training activity is now at pre pandemic levels and our virtual training delivery continues to be enhanced. The opportunities for developing safe are significantly increasing whilst maintaining a safe environment so there should be much to report for our next newsletter.