

ARSAC NEWSLETTER

Issue 5
December 2010

Contents

1. Changes in ARSAC membership
 - a. New members
 - b. Current vacancies
2. Support Unit update
3. Hot Topics
 - a. Changes to application forms (part C)
 - b. New serial in Notes for Guidance
 - c. Extensions to research certificates
4. Future work

1. Changes in ARSAC membership
 - a. New members

The following were appointed to the Committee in April 2010:

Dr Kevin Bradley	Consultant Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Physician, Churchill Hospital, Oxford
Dr Thomas Gruning	Consultant in Nuclear Medicine, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth
Dr Simon Hughes	Consultant in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Dr Tom Lynch	Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Physician, Belfast City Hospital, Belfast
Dr Julian MacDonald	Medical Physicist, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire
Mr Daniel McCool	Head of Nuclear Medicine Service, Royal Free Hospital, London
Dr Ann-Marie Quigley	Consultant in Nuclear Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, London
Mr James Thom	Principal Radiopharmacist, Radiopharmacy, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton

b. Current vacancies

Following the retirement of Dr Tom Nunan, the vacancy for the position of Chair of ARSAC is now open. An information pack and application forms are available on the Appointments Commission website:

https://www.appointments.org.uk/JobDetails.aspx/1212/Administration_of_Radioactive_Substances_Advisory_Committee_ARSAC_Chair/

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon on the 19th January 2011.

2. Support Unit update

The Support Unit is required to meet performance standards set by DH. These standards monitor the time taken for applications to pass through each of the different stages of the process and also the overall time taken. A maximum time of 60 days for the whole process to be completed is stipulated by DH and performance reports are generated quarterly.

The staff in the Support Unit work extremely hard to achieve these targets with the help of the specialist sub-group ARSAC members who review the individual applications. 2010 Quarterly reports for completed applications within 60 days:

March	98.5%	September	100%
June	99.6%	December	-

3. Hot Topics

a. Changes to application forms (Part C)

The ARSAC Working Party established a working group to review the information contained within Part C of the ARSAC application form. From the 1st February 2011 all applications to ARSAC will require a full part C to be completed (additions and functional group forms previously only required a signature of the applicant to confirm no significant changes in staff or facilities).

The new forms are available on the ARSAC website (www.arsac.org.uk) additional guidance is contained within the full form.

b. New serial in the ARSAC Notes for Guidance

The following serial will be included in the ARSAC Notes for Guidance from the 1st January 2011:

Serial	53a 5iv
Radionuclide	123I
Chemical form	MIBG
Investigation	Sympathetic innervation imaging of the heart
Route of Administration	IV
Diagnostic Reference Level (MBq)	370
Effective dose (mSv)	4.8 [†]
Dose to uterus (mGy)	3.7
Functional group	1: I Cardiac

[†] with the thyroid blocked

This serial will be included in the cardiac functional group. Any ARSAC certificate holders with this functional group on their certificate schedule will have 53a 5iv added to their certificate automatically from the 1st January 2011.

Certificate holders who do not have this functional group may apply for an additions application using the appropriate form on the website www.arsac.org.uk

c. Extensions to research certificates

Following changes to the ARSAC database, it is now possible to keep the same RPC number for extensions to research certificates beyond 5 years. It is hoped that this will improve administrative procedures for hospitals involved in extended research projects.

4. Future work

a. ARSAC report into ⁹⁹Mo shortages

ARSAC has submitted a report to DH to provide a review of the supply of Molybdenum-99, the impact of recent shortages and the implications for nuclear medicine services in the UK. It is hoped this will be published on the ARSAC website shortly.

b. Guidance on training requirements for therapy certificates

The ARSAC therapy working group was set up to establish the training and competencies required for a range of therapy serials and to review those serials listed in the ARSAC Notes for Guidance. It is hoped that this guidance will be available to applicant wishing to apply for therapy certificates in the first half of 2011.