

Monthly Radiotherapy Clinical Fellow Blog

December Issue

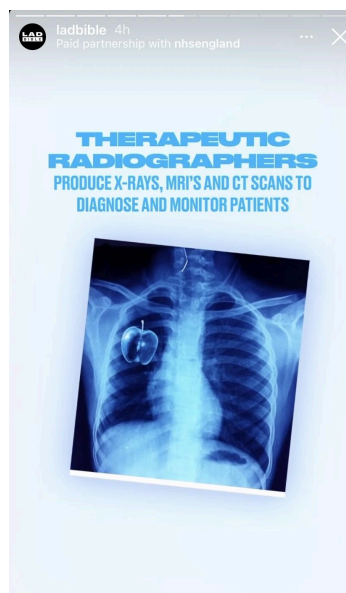
Jo

Seriously where has the month of December gone? I cannot believe it is almost Christmas. Ordinarily it would be a quiet time of year, but this year is unprecedented (after this year I never want to use that word again!) and we are still putting in a significant number of Zoom hours.

So, what have we been up to?

December has seen our first National Radiotherapy Careers meeting with our amazing steering group. We intend to create a resource and host a careers event specifically for those seeking a career in Radiotherapy. We are targeting a very diverse range of people to consider careers in dosimetry, radiotherapy physics, radiotherapy engineering and therapeutic radiography, integrating lots of SiHED, RePAIR and HEE projects. There is nothing better than hearing all the innovative ideas people have about promoting careers in radiotherapy, as well as highlighting how much we already do.

I am sure you all saw this week's media faux par on Ladbibles social media pages, where a recruitment campaign by NHS England confused a diagnostic radiographer with a therapeutic radiographer. I know this isn't the first time we've had misrepresentation, but it is the driver we all need to promote our profession and ensure that anyone doing a campaign like this, whether in healthcare or not, would notice the mistake!



Hazel and I are going to work closely with the SCoR to create a campaign to help us all promote our role, in the meantime have a think about email signatures and your name badges, do they state 'Therapeutic Radiographer'? This campaign will launch in the new year.

This is a picture of me looking festive at the recent Health Education England celebratory event, where I was blown away by the sheer amount of work individuals and teams have pulled out of the bag this year. Hazel and I have a lot to live up to I assure you.

Can you tell I love Christmas?



As part of our fellowship role, Hazel and I have been involved in the Macmillan's PROsPeR project, which is around prehabilitation and rehabilitation for patients living with cancer. It has been a really insightful project and has identified huge opportunities for the role therapeutic radiographers can play. We have some projects planned, working with Danny Hutton programme manager for the North West Radiotherapy ODN , so watch this space.

This month has also been a month of abstract writing, as we are submitting abstracts for UKIO, one around prehabilitation and rehabilitation and the other about the impact our fellowship roles can have. It is important to ensure that the work we are doing is disseminated and shared to promote all the work the profession does.

Hazel and I are really passionate about ensuring that Macmillan are aware of the knowledge and skills Therapeutic Radiographers and other AHP's have and that job adverts (e.g. Information and support roles) are open to HCPC registered professionals. Again, we will keep you updated!

Hazel

This month saw me do a presentation for Macmillan Professionals Best Practice Forums on advances in radiotherapy: [event website](#) . Naturally it was on a topic very close to my heart - Protons! I talked about how during the project we involved patients in build and service design. It is really important to remember, in whatever we are doing in healthcare, it should always have the patient at the heart of decision making. It was the patients who chose the green nature theme throughout the proton centre; they wanted it to feel calm and relaxing.



Whilst part of our work is to celebrate the diversity of roles therapeutic radiographers both do and have the potential to do, it is really important not to forget those working tirelessly in planning and delivery of radiotherapy. I recently did a few clinical shifts back on a linac at Christie at Oldham satellite centre. I was a little bit rusty and the team were super patient with me showing me the ropes again. I loved it! Thoroughly enjoyed being with patients again, and working as part of a team (not a virtual one!). So big thank you to Christie at Oldham.



So from both of us, we wish you a 'Merry Christmas' and hope you all get to relax, enjoy some festive films and spend time with friends and family (even if it is virtually)!