

Minutes of Quality of Life Study Group meeting 2006
Saturday, June 24th 2006.
Toronto, Canada
Co-Chairs: Dr Dick Gralla and Andrea Bezjak

The meeting of the MASCC Quality of Life Study Group (QLSG) was held during the 2006 annual MASCC meeting. It was attended by 20+ QLSG members, ie MASCC members who have expressed an interest in QOL.

The meeting commenced with introductions of the attendees. The study group co-chairs, Dr Dick Gralla (US) and Dr Andrea Bezjak (Canada) reviewed the history and activities of the study group, including activities since last study group meeting in Geneva in 2005. The importance of study groups in the activities of MASCC organization, the opportunities for MASCC members to get involved, the availability of modest funding for study group projects, and the information accessible on the web, were highlighted.

The group then discussed the project led by Dr Francisco Luis Pimentel (Aviero University, Portugal), on Use of QOL in Daily Practice, a survey of MASCC members, that is being planned currently. The questionnaire, based on the previously published MD-QOL questionnaire (Bezjak, Taylor et al Quality of Life Research Vol 10, No 1, pp 1-13, 2001- self-administered questionnaire exploring physicians' attitude, behaviour and knowledge of QOL information and physicians' willingness to use QOL), is currently being modified and finalized in preparation for this survey. It was distributed to the attendees, with the request to provide feedback to the study group chairs and/or Dr Pimentel [fpimentel@cs.ua.pt]. The logistics of the survey were discussed as well; the plan is for an electronic survey of MASCC QLSG members. Please watch for the survey and complete it, and let us know your perspective on QOL in clinical practice.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing contributions to the MASCC website, ideas for future projects, and topics for the QOL session of the 2007 MASCC meeting. The one-hour meeting was thus concluded. Members were encouraged to communicate via email and visit the MASCC website for future information.