

Fatigue Study Group Meeting Minutes - 2006

Saturday, June 22, 2006, 07:15-08:15

Toronto, Canada

Present: Nine Group members: Barbara F. Piper, DNSc, RN (Co-Chair; USA), Marylin J. Dodd, PhD, RN (USA), Ulrich Friedrichson, MD, PhD (Germany), Ulla Hjortebjerg, RN (Denmark), Louise Jones, MSc, BA (Hon) (United Kingdom), Gary Morrow, PhD, MS (USA), Boris Zaidiner, PhD (Russia), Maria Steingraber, MD (Germany), Manon LeMonde, PhD, RN (Canada).

Introductions & Handouts: Following introductions and a brief discussion of what each member wanted the group to do for them, handouts that included a roster for members to sign in and update their listing, the meeting agenda, the 2005-2006 annual report, the Group's history and purposes were distributed and briefly discussed.

Meeting Outcomes:

#1: Research: The Group decided that it was important to conduct two activities for the coming year (2006-2007) if possible. These activities included:

a) Surveying the membership about current fatigue practices; experience with guidelines and gaps in current guidelines that have been noted; what research is being conducted on fatigue or is needed from their perspective and/or their country's perspective; and what fatigue resources they were using or they need in their practice settings. Conducting such a survey would establish a "benchmark" internationally for what was being done in fatigue, what was available internationally and/or what was needed by Study Group members. Assignments: All in attendance said that they would work on the survey.

b) Conducting a more international review of the literature on fatigue than what is currently covered in the National Comprehensive Cancer Guidelines (NCCN) if needed. Assignments: Barbara will contact Dr. Mock (NCCN Guidelines), and the Chairs of the Mucositis and Nausea/Vomiting Study Groups to determine costs and methods used for their literature reviews to determine the need and costs associated with this activity.

#2: Education:

a) MASCC Website Activities: All fatigue-related oral presentations selected for the MASCC 2006 meeting will be posted on the MASCC Education & Resource Center Section. Assignments: Barbara circulated the Conference presentation listing and asked for additions. Dr. Morrow asked that his poster addressing Modafinil, be posted on the website.

b) Fatigue Study Group Website Activities: Postings of annual report, meeting minutes, history and purposes of the Group will continue to be posted and revised by the Co-Chairs and Beth, the MASCC Webmaster. Assignments: In addition to the activities of the Group Co-Chairs, Manon, Ulrich, Maria, and Boris wanted to be involved with education and fatigue-related postings on the Group's website. Additional postings suggested by Barbara included the ONS PEP cards, Berger et al's

state of the science paper on sleep; and possible links to ASCO, ESMO, EONS and ONS websites for fatigue-related resources.

c) 2007 MASCC Plenary Topics and Speakers: Barbara and others mentioned several topics that might make excellent plenary session presentations on fatigue in Switzerland. These included the following topics: 1) State of the Science on Pharmacologic Interventions for Fatigue (to include a paper by Dr. Gary Morrow on Modafinil Study Update with 800 patients); 2) State of the Science on Biomarkers and Fatigue; 3) State of the Science on Fatigue and Symptom Clusters 4) State of the Science on Fatigue and Symptom Clusters: How to Statistically Analyze Clustering Overtime; 5) State of the Science on Insomnia/Sleep Disturbances; and 6) State of the Science on Actigraphy and Sleep Disturbances.

Papers should address a particular phase of treatment if at all possible (i.e., patients on active treatment, survivors, no longer on treatment, and patients at end-of life). Barbara also reminded members that if they could identify speakers who were preferentially members and from countries close to Switzerland that would help conference planners.

#3: Adjournment: Before adjourning the meeting and thanking all who attended, Barbara encouraged everyone to make every effort to attend the Study Group meeting and conference next year in Switzerland, as the lack of consistency in membership attendance and its continuity from year to year has been problematic for all Groups. She also will suggest that the Board try to schedule Group meetings to not conflict with other major conference meetings, in an attempt to increase attendance at the Group meetings.