

2006 MASCC/ISOO International Symposium – Toronto, Canada  
**Minutes of Study Group Meeting - Mucositis Study Group**  
23 June 2006

Attendance: 46

The MSG meeting was called to order by Dr. Keefe. Opening welcoming remarks were made by Dr. Keefe and she emphasized that it was important for the group to increase the activity and contributions by more MSG members.

All members in attendance introduced themselves and stated their professional associations and institutions.

**Review of last year's activities:**

Dr. Keefe summarized the MSG accomplishments over the last year since the Geneva meeting:

Mucositis Guidelines

- The June 2006 issue of Supportive Care in Cancer includes 13 papers and an editorial from the MSG stemming from the up-date to the groups Mucositis Guidelines. We will be looking to make the papers available on the MASCC website as PDF files or links to the Journal's web site.
- The manuscript for the guidelines paper will be submitted to Cancer in the very near future.
- Plans for the updating the mucositis guidelines were discussed at the MSG's Leadership Group meeting. As the pace of advances in mucositis research increases, it will become important that updates be able to be made to the guidelines between consensus meetings. We look to conduct reviews of specific products or agents immediately after they are approved by the FDA or similar bodies for prevention and management of mucositis. After appropriate review and scoring of evidence for that agent and consensus of the group is obtained, the guidelines would be updated on the MASCC Website. If a critical addition to the evidence for a specific agent is published (evidence that would change the "current" recommendation of that agent), we are also looking to develop a process for reviewing and scoring of the new evidence, combined with previous assessment of evidence, and obtaining consensus for establishment of a guideline change.
- The MSG looks to consider exploring the possibility of convening a consensus conference to review mucositis guidelines developed by various groups and reach consensus on guideline recommendations (see below 5-year plan). This activity could utilize a process similar to what the MASCC antiemetic group has done. Groups that have developed mucositis guidelines include:
  - o MASCC/ISOO
  - o Cochrane Collaboration
  - o Joanna Briggs

- European Bone Marrow Transplant Group
- German Radiation Oncology Group
- Others

Funding would be sought for this effort and the current thought would be to plan this activity for 5 years from now.

### **Research:**

Since the MSG does not currently have the administrative structure to administer and specifically support research, no MSG sponsored research is possible. However, it is clear that the MSG has been able to foster collaborations between members. The Triad Burden of Illness study is a good example of this – where L. Elting, S. Sonis, and D. Keefe have organized a very large multicenter multinational study that has recruited MSG members to participate. Another project organized by MSG member, M. Brennan, centers around an R-21 grant application focusing on micro-array analysis that will involve several other MSG members.

Discussion was carried out to determine the enthusiasm about having a special “research discussion session” prior to the official start of the 2007 MASCC annual meeting. This program would be open to MSG members and afford them the opportunity to give a short 10 minute presentation detailing their ongoing mucositis research activities that could be in any phase (conceptualization to completion). Details for this potential program will be developed and disseminated to all MSG group members (see below).

### **Newsletter and Web Site:**

R. Lalla presented an overview of the MSG website activities. The MSG’s resource center at [mascc.org](http://mascc.org) has clearly generated a considerable number of hits, with the updated MSG’s Mucositis Guidelines table clearly being frequently accessed. It was clear that Dr. Lalla, working in conjunction with MASCC’s web master, Beth Hollen, have built an excellent resource site. Discussion ensued regarding other things to potentially include within the MSG resource center.

It was noted that at the Study Group Chair’s meeting, it was reported by Judi Johnson and Beth Hollen, that there will soon be broadcast email links on the MSG web page so all members of the MSG can reach the group.

### **Education and Promulgation:**

The next major undertaking for the MSG will be the development and execution of strategies for the promulgation of MSG’s evidence-based guidelines. In fact the strategic plan for the next 5 years will be significantly focused on this task.

*Year 1:*

Educational Tools

1. Next step for guidelines will be to make the guidelines accessible and easy to interpret so they can be more widely used. A series of

- laminated cards will be developed that can be distributed to oncologists (adult and pediatric), nurses, dentists, and hygienists
2. Additionally, the guidelines will be continually up-dated as noted above. We will also pursue developing the process to catalogue all of the references used to develop the mucositis guidelines.
  3. Funding will be sought for these educational tools projects.
  4. Mini-updated Standard operating procedures for guidelines.

**Year 2:**

1. We will pursue fund raising for guidelines updating and organization of a consensus conference.
2. We will look to translate the educational tools into other languages
3. The MSG will look to develop a MSG Annual Meeting Award (??Young Investigators). We will seek funding for this but do not look to have this be named for an industry funding supporter, but make this a “MSG Award”

**Year 5:**

1. Organize and promote a Mucositis Guidelines Consensus Conference between MASCC and other groups who have developed mucositis guidelines

**Future meeting plans:**

Historically there has been a lack of coordination between local program organizers for annual MASCC meetings and the study groups regarding what is presented during sessions. Efforts will be made to communicate early with the St. Gallen meeting planners and provide input and direction for the mucositis plenary session.

For the St. Gallen meeting, the MSG leadership group discussed the possibility of planning a “pre-meeting” research discussion day. MSG members would be invited to present their research and discuss project ideas with the ultimate goal to share intellectual resources relative to directions in mucositis research. The need to specifically focus on pediatrics was discussed.

Houston Meeting (2008): Dr. Keefe discussed that at this meeting, the MSG would like to have a Mucositis Group proffered paper session with discussion and offer a prize for the best paper.

*The importance of involving more MSG members was discussed. MSG group members were encouraged to contact the MSG Chair or co-chair with ideas for projects and other MSG activities.*

The meeting was adjourned.