

MINUTES

The MASCC Nutrition Study Group met mid-day on June 28th for an hour.

Please see attached for a list of the attendees.

The following points came up during the meeting:

- 1) The Study Group felt strongly that there should be more nutrition representation at the next MASCC meeting. The absence of such a session during the MASCC 2008 meeting and sparse data on nutrition and cancer during ASCO 2008 prompted this request. In response, it was decided that the Group Chairs contact the 2009 MASCC meeting organizers to ask for a specific session in nutrition. Aminah Jatoi will therefore be contacting the meeting organizers over the next few days.
- 2) An update on current projects was presented. The 2 ongoing projects include a survey of nutrition-based guidelines for cancer patients and a survey of the MASCC membership on why and when they utilize parenteral nutrition in cancer patients. The latter is intended to identify factors, other than nationality, that may effect the decision to offer parenteral nutrition to a cancer patient. These 2 projects are ongoing.
- 3) The Group discussed a variety of other projects that might be undertaken during 2008-2009. These included defining cachexia and defining reliable endpoints in cachexia therapeutic trials, gaining prevalence data for cachexia by surveying cancer patients, and assessing what providers are doing -- or not doing -- from the standpoint of nutritional assessment. After discussing options, prioritizing them, and discussing what might be most feasible, a consensus was reached to pursue the latter. Neil MacDonald has graciously agreed to put together a first-draft of a survey to assess what providers are doing from the standpoint of nutritional assessment among cancer patients. He will submit this draft to the group chair by September 1st, 2008.