

MASCC/ISOO International Symposium- Toronto, Canada  
**Minutes of Meeting - Psychosocial**  
**June, 2006**

Present: Eoin Tiernan (Chair), Tammy Weitzman (Co-Chair), Jackie Brames (Co-Chair) John Robinson, Martin Tattersall

Summary:

1. Welcome, Introduction and overview of aims and objectives of the Study Group (Eoin Tiernan). The main challenge is to provide a resource that is of benefit to members of MASCC.

2. MASCC Web Site: The website content is growing. It was agreed that, despite the existence of an extensive curriculum resource on, for example, the APOS website, the MASCC psychosocial oncology website should include a number of resources in relation to the common psychosocial topics, e.g. anxiety, depression, bereavement. Though it would be reasonable to create links to other sites, e.g. APOS, many people visit the MASCC website expecting direct access to information, and it was agreed that a minimum amount of such material should be available. Action: Eoin Tiernan will approach appropriate MASCC members to contribute to this project.

3. Study Group Project: The plan is to undertake a survey of MASCC members on the topic of “screening for psychological distress in cancer patients”, looking at current practice. It was suggested that the power of the study could be augmented by surveying outside the membership, perhaps through other oncology organisations.

As part of this survey of members, the opportunity would also be taken to ask members for what they would expect of the study group and web site, and what they consider to be the most important topics currently in psychosocial oncology. Action: Tammy Weitzman coordinating the development of an appropriate survey instrument.

4. Links with IPOS - update: A joint MASCC/IPOS symposium will be held at the 8th World PsychoOncology Congress in October 2006. It will be co-chaired by Matti Aapro, and Tiernan has been invited to contribute.

5. General Discussion: There were many useful contributions to the discussion.

The potential to explore issues relating to cross-cultural diversity was highlighted, given the structure of MASCC and it’s membership.

6. MASCC St. Gallen 2007: Dr Agnes Glaus and Professor Senn have indicated that they will be seeking input from the Study Group Chairs in developing the programme for MASCC 2007. It was agreed that we would suggest a session on screening and diagnosis of psychological distress in cancer patients, at which the results of our survey might also be presented. Action: Eoin Tiernan will communicate with Agnes Glaus.

Eoin Tiernan Study Group Chair  
Tammy Weitzman Co-Chair  
Jackie Brames Co-Chair