December, 2012

This is the ISOO Newsletter of December 2012. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy and successful 2013.

A special welcome to the new members of our organization. Please participate in the activities of the study groups and we hope to meet you in person at the upcoming MASCC/ISOO symposium in Berlin. Allan Hovan and Tanya Rouleau are now the new ISOO Newsletter Editors. Interim Editors Inger von Bültzingslöwen and Judith Raber-Durlacher will step down after this issue. We all want to thank Beth Hollen for her assistance.

Please meet the new Editors:

My name is Allan Hovan and I have been asked to serve as co-editor of the ISOO newsletter with my colleague, Tanya Rouleau. I work in Vancouver, Canada in the Program in Oral Oncology at the British Columbia Cancer Agency. I have been an active member of MASCC/ISOO for over 10 years and look forward to creating a newsletter that is informative and fun. Any and all contributions from ISOO members will be appreciated.

My name is Tanya Rouleau and I work in Charlotte, NC, USA at Carolinas Medical Center as the director of the General Practice Residency program. I have been active in MASCC/ISOO since 2011. My interests include oral mucositis and bone complications. I enjoy playing ice hockey and travelling. I look forward to serving as co-editor of the ISOO newsletter with Allan Hovan.

The purpose of ISOO is to promote scientific exchange among health care professionals in oncology related to cytotoxic therapy and its impact on the oral environment.
Dysphagia and Supportive Care in Cancer Patients

Functional outcomes in the domain of speech and swallowing have long been of interest to head and neck cancer (HNC) clinicians and investigators. The standard of care for advanced stage disease in this patient population has been chemo-radiotherapy, with or without surgical intervention; thus, the relative impact of functional outcomes (e.g. laryngo-esophageal dysfunction-free survival as a new endpoint), has become increasingly important.

A second review article has been performed and published by the members of the MASCC/ISOO Dysphagia Study Group (Russi et al. Cancer Treatment Reviews, April 2012), with the purpose of describing: 1) the pathophysiological process of dysphagia in HNC patients; 2) review assessment tools; 3) quantify dysphagia-related outcomes associated with chemoradiation, and 4) provide management recommendations based on best available data. This review highlighted the fact that dysphagia in HNC patients remains a field in its infancy, with many unanswered questions and unmet patient needs.

Current prevention and treatment for cancer therapy-induced dysphagia consists mostly of palliative measures and use of alternative feeding methods. Speech and swallowing exercises have been used in some centers but remain largely unproven. Within this relatively bleak background, the Dysphagia Study Section has developed a survey meant to help us determine current standards of care and available infrastructure for dysphagia therapy among clinical entities represented at MASCC/ISOO as well as other organizations. With help from membership, we hope to present our preliminary results at the meeting in Berlin. This is a small but important step toward developing study protocols that may lead to new strategies for improving duration and quality of life in HNC populations.

Please follow the link and complete the survey and invite all colleagues involved in taking care of patients with advanced head and neck tumors to participate.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MASCC-dysphagia

On behalf of the Dysphagia Section of the Oral Care Study Group, Andrei Barasch, Chair

Updates from THE MUCOSITIS Study Group

Publications from the MASCC/ISOO Mucositis Guidelines Update

A large number of Mucositis Study Group (MSG) members worked very hard on the recent Mucositis Guidelines Update. The first set of 7 papers (and 1 editorial) has been published online. These 8 publications will appear in print in a special section in the journal Supportive Care in Cancer in the January 2013 issue. We have received information from the publisher that these papers are being downloaded very frequently. This speaks to the significance of our work. The second batch of papers is being submitted and will be published shortly.

6th MASCC/ISOO Mucositis Research Workshop

The MSG proposal for the 6th MASCC/ISOO Mucositis Research Workshop has been approved by the MASCC Executive Board as part of the formal workshop program at the Berlin meeting. The workshop will be held on Thursday morning 27 June 2013 (tentatively from 8 am to 12 noon). The workshop will be held at the same location as the main MASCC/ISOO symposium, which will start after 12 noon that day. Additional details, including registration information and a call for abstracts for the workshop, will be forthcoming.

We look forward to seeing you all in Berlin!

Auf Wiederschen!

Raj Lalla, Chair
Joanne Bowen and Sharon Elad, Co-Chairs
(Mucositis Study Group, MASCC/ISOO)
Updates from THE MUCOSITIS Study Group

The Oral Care Study Group (OCSG) of the International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO) has undergone a shift. This summer 2012, Dr. Mike T. Brennan (USA), president of the ISOO, stepped down as the OCSG chair. We deeply thank Mike who has been an essential driving force for the achievements of previous and ongoing OCSG projects. Just to mention, the mammoth efforts of the systematic reviews of oral complications of cancer therapies. The chairing group now consists of Chair, Dr. Siri Beier Jensen (Denmark), and Co-chairs, Dr. Deborah P. Saunders (Canada), and Prof. Tuomas Waltimo (Switzerland).

The OCSG is indeed full of activity, many projects are ongoing and new ones are in the pipeline just ready to begin in the very near future:

The Dysphagia Section of the OCSG has a new Section Head, Dr. Andrei Barasch (USA) taking over from Dr. Judith Raber-Durlacher (The Netherlands). The Dysphagia Section is following up on the narrative review on swallowing dysfunction published in Journal of Supportive Care in Cancer in March 2012 by an online survey addressing clinical standards of care on diagnosis, prevention and treatment of (chemo-) radiation-induced dysphagia in head and neck cancer patients. Please see Dr. Andrei Barasch’s post on this important initiative elsewhere in the Newsletter, - and please provide your invaluable expert input to make the data sample representative and valid!

The multi-center, clinical, prospective study assessing oral complications in hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients (ORASTEM) led by Dr. Inger von Bültzingslöwen (Sweden) and Dr. Mike T. Brennan now has centers running. In addition, the descriptive study of oral complications in pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients (PedsORASTEM) is under its way in Singapore, led by Dr. Catherine H. Hong (Singapore).

The results of the online survey on common practices in the diagnosis and treatment of oral chronic graft-versus-host disease initiated last year was presented by Dr. Sharon Elad (USA) at the OCSG Business Meeting in New York this June. The project is now in the phase of preparing a manuscript for publication.

The position paper intended as a guide to care for medical/c clinical staff providing basic oral care for patients treated with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is also in manuscript preparation. Again, admirably headed by Dr. Sharon Elad.

This has now become a joint project between the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation with representatives Drs. Barry Quinn (England) and Arno Mank (The Netherlands) and the Oral Care Study Group, MASCC/ISOO.

A project on Assessment of Outcomes Measures for Oral Complications of Cancer Therapies for use in the clinical and the research setting is underway. The chairing group has been working on optimizing the data collection sheet and the Section Heads/working groups are currently being established for initiation of data collection.

An update of the systematic reviews of oral complications of cancer therapies has started as the most recent publication date is 2010. The goal of the OCSG is to maintain updates to the systematic reviews every 3 years. A recommendation was brought forth at the June OCSG meeting to begin the update with bone complications, partnering with the Bone Complications Study Group, and thereafter work through the other oral complications based on reports from the Section Heads as it pertains to new achievements in research.

Finally, a sincere thanks to all members, - your interest and expert contributions are the foundation of the high quality outcomes of the Oral Care Study Group projects - we are looking forward to working with you in the coming year!

Best wishes,

Siri Beier Jensen, Deborah Saunders and Tuomas Waltimo
Chairing group, Oral Care Study Group, MASCC/ISOO

MASCC/ISOO Represented at Dental Conference in Sweden

The Annual Conference of The Swedish Dental Association took place in mid November this year. At this meeting, Dr Bo Pettersson, gave an update of the revised MASCC/ISOO mucositis clinical practice guidelines to this group. Bo is an hospital dentist and joined MASCC/ISOO a few years ago. He became actively involved in the Mucositis Study Group and participated in reviewing papers in the cytokines and growth factors section. His presentation focussed in particular on the outcomes of the systematic review of studies on these agents assisted by Inger von Bültzingslöwen, cochair of the MSG cytokines and growth factors section.

Bo Pettersson
MASCC/ISOO Representation in Greece

The scientific event “Days of Oral Oncology: Day 1” organized by the Hellenic Association of Supportive Care of the Oral Cavity in Cancer-HASCOCC and the Oral Oncology Unit, Clinic of Hospital Dentistry, Dental School, University of Athens, met great success. About 85 dentists, hematologists, radiation, medical oncologists and nurses attended. The President of the Dental School Professor Aikaterini Karagianni, the President of the Medical School Professor Meletios-Athanasios Dimopoulos, the President of the Hellenic Association of Radiation Oncology and the Secretary of the Mediterranean Multidisciplinary Oncology Forum welcomed the audience. The attendants expressed their particular interest in early recognition of oral cancer recurrence, mTOR inhibitor-related stomatitis and the latest insights in drug-related jaw osteonecrosis. We wish to thank Amgen, Novartis, Colgate and Galenica for their generous support.

- Ourania Nicolatou-Galitis

Collaboration between MASCC/ISOO and the Israeli Society of Oral Medicine

On October 18-19, Drs Noam Yarom, Sivina Friedlander Barenboim, Sharon Elad, and Yehuda Zadik organized the 4th International Conference of Israel Society of Oral Medicine (ISOM), which continues a long standing tradition on meetings focused on oral oncology. This conference was also supported by the Israel Cancer Society. The meeting “A Team Approach to Oral Oncology; The Key to Success” took place in Tel Aviv in collaboration with MASCC/ISOO was aimed at clinicians and researchers. Topics discussed by national and international speakers included oral cancer, and oral complications related to cancer and its therapy. ISOO President Mike Brennan gave a nice overview of the systematic reviews performed by the MASCC/ISOO Oral Care Study Group.

Prior to and during the conference the international speakers experienced the warm Israeli hospitality and made an unforgettable tour to several historic sites in this beautiful country.

Upcoming Meetings!

4th WORLD CONGRESS of the INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ORAL ONCLOGY (IAOO) 15-18 May 2013 Sheraton Rhodes Resort Rhodes Island Greece

MASCC/ISOO 2013 International Symposium on Supportive Care in Cancer Berlin, Germany • June 27-29, 2013 Supportive Care Makes Excellent Cancer Care Possible