

Brain Imaging Outreach Working Group

Oct. 15, 2018

Minutes

Attendees: Phillip Kuo, MD, PhD; David Russell, MD, PhD; John Seibyl, MD; Yvette Sheline, MD; Peter Herscovitch, MD; Jonathan McConathy, MD, PhD; Dean Wong, MD, PhD; Jim Hendrix; Caitlin Kubler; Linda Budzinski; Karin Brough

1) Commencement—P. Kuo called the meeting to order. Quorum was established later in the call with the participation of J. Hendrix. The minutes from the Sept. 4, 2018 meeting were approved.

2) Legislative Update—C. Kubler reported that a bi-partisan bill addressing appropriate reimbursement of diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals used in an out-patient setting was recently introduced in the House. HR 6948, the Medicare Diagnostic Radiopharmaceutical Payment Equity Act of 2018, was co-sponsored by Reps. Holding (R-NC) and Moulton (D-MA) and was drafted by a coalition made up of SNMMI, CORAR and MITA.

C. Kubler stated Coalition staff have been making Hill visits to key legislators in support of the bill. She stated that the Coalition is also looking for champions to introduce companion legislation in the Senate, as well additional sponsors of the House bill. C. Kubler stated that members of the House Ways & Means and Energy and Commerce Committees are being targeted. She asked that members whose legislators are on those committees contact them in support of the bill. She also indicated that any specific anecdotal evidence of the impact that reduced reimbursement has on the path of patient care and investment in research that members can supply would be helpful.

The Coalition has drafted a patient advocacy letter in support of the legislation and is working with SNMMI's Patient Advocacy Advisory Board to encourage member groups to sign the letter. L. Budzinski will forward the following to the Working Group: the link to the bill, the one-sheet that SNMMI developed along with CORAR and MITA, the list of legislators the Coalition has visited, and a copy of the letter that was sent to the patient groups. If members have any further questions regarding the legislation, they can contact Caitlin directly at ckubler@snmmi.org.

3) Ideas Study Update—L. Budzinski noted that Jim Hendrix will be leaving his position at the Alzheimer's Association and that April Ross, PhD, from the AA will be replacing him on the Working Group. J. Hendrix provided an update on the IDEAS study, reporting that Gil Rabinovici, MD, UCSF, and the Principal Investigator of the study will be presenting AIM 1 data at CTAD (Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease) next week. J. Hendrix will inquire about getting copies of the slides used in the presentation for the Working Group. The Alzheimer's Association is also trying to get a second IDEAS study approved.

4) GE Roadshow Proposal Update—P. Kuo explained that GE is considering a proposal from SNMMI to do four roadshows in the next year addressing DaT SPECT. The locations have not been selected. There has been some discussion regarding including more rural areas where the scan might be underutilized.

The plan for the program would be to bring together nuclear medicine physicians/techs and referring physicians to discuss how to improve DaT SPECT utilization to best manage patient care. P. Kuo noted that sometimes communications problems occur when physicians do not have access to all the scan information or understand the recommendations provided. A mix of normal cases and more difficult cases will be included.

P. Herscovitch asked about the impact the roadshows might have on referring physicians' desire to order the DaT SPECT and what this might mean for nuclear medicine departments that suffer a financial loss on each scan. P. Kuo noted that the financial viability of DaT imaging in a region should be taken into account for the roadshows and discussed in conjunction with GE. He noted that this may have a positive impact on patient care in the long run.

J. Seibyl stated that having clinical and technical components in the program is very powerful. He also suggested the session be more interactive with presenters sharing cases and analyzing the scans.

P. Kuo indicated that GE would be getting back to SNMMI regarding target cities by the end of the month. Once the cities are identified, BIO Working Group members may be called upon to participate in the program or offer input on possible speakers.

5) What to Expect Video for FDG/Amyloid Project -The Working Group discussed its next project, to develop patient-focused videos for FDG-PET and Amyloid scans similar to the DaT SPECT videos. P. Kuo noted that the technologists' versions that were circulated to the Working Group were very well done and that portions can be used in the new version with new footage added. P. Kuo noted the updated version would likely be a 5-6 minute video, including a 2-3 minute portion showing a typical scan and explaining how they are read. L. Budzinski will contact the SNMMI staff that worked on the previous videos and work with P. Kuo on and developing the script.

P. Kuo indicated the video will be circulated to the Working Group for review before the final version is posted on the website.

6) New Business-P. Kuo noted that he will not be able to attend Mid-Winter in January but encouraged Working Group members to participate. L. Budzinski noted that the SNMMI Midwinter Meeting in 2020 will include a focus on neurology.

J. McConathy reported that Blue Earth Diagnostics is investigating using fluciclovine as glioma imaging agent. P. Kuo and J. McConathy will discuss what role the BIO Working Group might have in training or development with their contacts at Blue Earth and report back to the group.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46pm

Action Items

- She asked that members whose legislators are on those committees contact them in support of the bill. She also indicated that any specific anecdotal evidence of the impact that reduced reimbursement has on the path of patient care and investment in research that members can supply would be helpful.
- L. Budzinski will forward the following to the Working Group: the link to the bill, the one-sheet that SNMMI developed along with CORAR and MITA, the list of legislators the Coalition has visited, and a copy of the letter that was sent to the patient groups.
- J. Hendrix will inquire about getting copies of the slides used in the presentation for the Working Group.
- Once the cities are identified, BIO Working group members may be called upon to participate in the program or offer input on possible speakers.
- L. Budzinski will contact the SNMMI staff that worked on the previous videos and work with P. Kuo on editing and developing the script.
- P. Kuo and J. McConathy will discuss what role the BIO Working Group might have in training or development with their contacts at Blue Earth and report back to the group.