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## Primary Care Special Interest Section

June 27, 2008

Boston, MA

### Minutes

**Present:** Nathan Bennett, MD, chair; Scott Litin, MD; Michael D. Ready, MD; Barbara Rosenthal, MD; Angela O'Neil, MD; Robert Sheeler, MD; Philip Bain, MD; Robert Nicholson, PhD; James W. Banks, III, MD; Kenneth Peters, MD

I. **Review of AHS Strategic Plan** – The six goals of the American Headache Society strategic plan were reviewed. The sections were requested to concentrate on education, advocacy, and research.

A. **Education** – symposia, website, newsletter, publications

B. **Advocacy – Develop guidelines & position papers**

C. **Research** – publications

D. Practice Management

E. Patient Education Resources

F. Organization and Member strategies.

II. **Structure & Communications**

A. The appointment of Robert Sheeler, MD as co-chair of the section was approved.

B. Dr. Bennett emphasized that he wants to maintain an open dialogue within the section via email and teleconferences.

III. **Education**

A. Brainstorm was reviewed and discussed by Scott Litin, MD. We would like to continue to utilize this program to disseminate headache education to primary care providers. We will consider working on national and state levels to get speakers into programs. Dr. Litin urged members to send contacts for potential regional Brainstorm venues to Molly Tritt at AHSHQ.

IV. **Advocacy**

A. **Academic Affairs Special Interest Section:** It was discussed that we should collaborate with the Academic Affairs Section to produce and initiate introduction of core competency guidelines for headache management in primary care graduate education programs.

*ADDENDUM:* Dr. Bennett attended the Academic Affairs Section and was asked to have the Primary Care Section assist in the development of the Core Competencies in Headache

Medicine for Primary Care Residencies. The project has been discussed with Dr. Bob Sheeler, Dr. Vince Martin, and Dr. Morris Maizels who along with Dr. Nate Bennett will act as the steering committee. We will work closely with Dr. Bill Young who is in charge of the overall core competency project from the Academic Affairs Section.

- B. Guidelines and Position Papers:** It was discussed that the current guidelines for management of headache patients are aimed more toward the headache specialist. There is a need for development/adaption of the current guidelines to fit the role and workflow for primary care providers. It was decided that our section would begin work on this position paper to establish Guidelines or “best practices” for the AAFP and ACP in 2009.
- i. Nate Bennett will collect guidelines that have been developed by the American Headache Society and other members of the group. This repository will be distributed to the section members for review.
  - ii. There will be monthly emails and teleconferences (frequency to be determined) to work on these.
  - iii. After completion of the paper, we will work towards implementation. We will apply for a grant from the American Headache Society to assist in these efforts.
    1. Approach AAFP, ACP, etc
    2. Develop SAMS &/or METRICS

*ADDENDUM:* This project will be tied into the Core Competencies Project as continued educational plan. By development of the training core competencies, we will set the baseline to develop “Best Practices for the Primary Care Approach to the Headache Patient.”

- C. There was discussion of continuing efforts to develop good relationships with AAFP and ACP. It was decided that we should have booths at the next AAFP and ACP national conferences. This may be covered under the above mentioned grant application or may be applied to for a second grant from the American Headache Society.
- D. We discussed the general failure of current efforts to educate physicians in headaches. We will explore avenues to reach out and educate the general public over the next several years.
- V. Collaborative Project with the Behavioral Issues Section (Advocacy, Part II)**
- A. There is an ongoing collaborative project with Behavioral Issues Section: “Behavioral Best Practices for Physicians Working with Migraine”. The chairman of the Behavioral Issues Section, Rob Nicholson, was present to review the project. At this time there are only a few section members involved in this process. Nate Bennett will attend the Behavioral Issues section meeting to express the desire of our section to be more involved in this project.
- i. Overview: \$15K grant awarded. Steering team Jim Banks MD, Fred Taylor MD, Morris Maizels, MD (all members of Primary Care Section & Behavioral Issues Section), Chair Don Penzien PhD, Doug McCrory MD, Al Lake PhD, Rob Nicholson PhD, Jeanetta Rains PhD, Tim Houle PhD, Todd Smitherman PhD

- ii. The award provides the support to develop evidence-based guidelines by utilizing both evidence and “expert consensus.” Doug McCrory at Duke who is as an expert in evidence-based ratings will assist in the project.
- iii. Dr. Bain noted the group could attain credibility if it did translational research about what works.

*ADDENDUM:* Nate Bennett had discussion with the Behavioral Section and directly with Don Penzien, PhD. An overview and the current workgroups will be provided to all Primary Care Section Members and participation will be highly encouraged.

**VI. Practice Management**

- A. UCNS Headache Medicine certification was briefly discussed. There is still an issue with DO’s being able to sit for the exam. There is also no light at this certification being accepted under ABFM as a full-fledged subspecialty. Therefore, it remains nearly impossible for primary care physicians doing headache to be accepted as specialists within third-party payer networks. Don’t hold your breath.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Tritt



Nathan L. Bennett, MD