Progress on Facility Questionnaire harmonization

This document represents work in progress within the Advanced Technology QA Consortium (ATC). Comments are welcome and should be directed to Marcia Urie, PhD or David Followill, PhD, co-chairs of the ATC Credentialing and QA Committee.

The credentialing and QA committee of the ATC has been implementing the harmonization of facility questionnaires for NCI funded cooperative groups. It is the consensus of this committee that a single web based form is possible for all cooperative groups. It is also the consensus of this committee that this form should be database driven, easily accessible by all QA centers and easily updated by all institutions participating in NCI funded cooperative groups.   The remainder of this report describes a progress in the development and implementation of this questionnaire

The IT personnel at the Radiological Physics Center headed by Huy Duong have developed a web based database driven facility questionnaire form. This form collects demographic, contact, and technological data from institutions and the information on this form will be collected in a relational database. Each cooperative group can also add additional forms if needed for that particular group. There is still editing to be done to parts of these fields, however, we believe this is excellent progress. Another point to make about this form is that for many fields are already filled in of the data already collected by the RPC from institutions. Each radiation therapy facility (as defined by the RPC) will be required to input data into this form on a regular basis.

The next step for this implementation is to work out the logistics of data transfer to and from the individual QA centers. Huy Duong (RPC) has been working with IT personnel at QARC and RTOG: Richard Hanucik (QARC) and Hank Brasteter (RTOG). They are currently discussing the method by which data will be transferred from or to the RPC database to databases housed at these QA centers. The ITC will conform to which ever method is decided between these QA centers. The technology definitely exists and whether the data is pushed or pulled to the QA centers is being decided currently.

We believe that there is excellent progress towards our goal of implementing a unified facility questionnaire and so far all QA centers are embracing this concept.