

# Telesynergy in Wheeling

Schiffler Cancer Center  
Wheeling Hospital



# Topics

- Initial perspectives
- Getting out the word
- Applications
- Future plans



# Initial perspectives

- Linkage to a world-class academic center
- Sharing of innovative protocol ideas
- Establishment of data collection and evaluation
- Tumor boards, grand rounds
- Patient presentations
- True and ultimate combined modality

# Linkage to a world-class academic center

- Community hospitals and professional respect
- Protocol development opportunities
- Academics produces focus on evidence-based medicine
- First step to determine feasibility of alliance and potential to expand to other medical fields

# Sharing of innovative protocol ideas

- Should protocols be fit for academic or community setting?
- Schiffler Cancer Center-unique protocols address NHL, ovary, H/N, lung, mesothelioma, autoimmune arthritis, peripheral vascular disease
- Should two centers (and not NCI) share protocol ideas?

# Establishment of data collection and evaluation

- Sharing of data offers potential for rapid trial accrual, statistical power, and meaningful literature contributions
- Should data analysis be performed at “home” institution or centrally at NCI?
- Who pays for statistical analysis?
- How is this presented to the collective IRBs?

# Tumor boards and grand rounds

- Spirit of sharing
- The wiring is in place in Wheeling/Florida
- Florida site is succeeding
- Some issues with scheduling
- Necessary to incorporate other fields

# Patient presentations

- 3 basic scenarios; unusual tumors, comorbid illness, recurrent disease for salvage
- BCC in 13 year old
- Fibrosis after 30 Gy for MF
- Scheduling is a problem
- Is it worthwhile?
- A very successful marketing tool

# Multi-modality

- Only works if studies incorporate multiple fields
- Who/which site initiates studies?
- Should toxicity reporting be centralized?
- Are we forming our own cooperative group; the NCI-CCG (NCI cancer cooperative group)?

# Getting out the word

- Advertising is a challenge; billboards, television, radio, newspapers, web sites
- Expensive, misleading
- Who controls the medium, the content, the cost?
- What are the most effective “buzz words”

# Applications

- Wheeling Hospital is wired
- One tumor board observed
- 2 patient presentations
- 0 protocols discussed, shared
- Potential is profound

# Future plans

- Form the NCI-CCG, without a formal charter (the MOU should suffice)
- Concentrate on protocol development; invite all ideas and critically evaluate them
- Majority of patients are treated in community; don't discriminate on molecular-poor studies

# Future plans

- More patient presentations; this is what brings patients in from a distance
- Wire auditoriums at NIH for grand rounds
- One hour symposium weekly to discuss upcoming events, ideas via Telesynergy (all participants should “attend”)
- Allow beta sites to comment on how new sites would impact/improve their capabilities (ie Pittsburgh)