The Advanced Technology Consortium (ATC) for Clinical Trials Quality Assurance (QA)

This brochure is intended to inform the AAPM Annual Meeting registrants of the latest developments by the ATC and the status of advanced technology clinical trials supported by the ATC. More information can be found at the ATC web site http://atc.wustl.edu.

The Advanced Technology Consortium (ATC) for Clinical Trials Quality Assurance (QA) is supported by a National Cancer Institute (NCI) U24 grant to Washington University. It functions as a “virtual entity” made up of the following clinical trials QA Centers: (1) Image-Guided Therapy QA Center (ITC – Washington Univ. in St. Louis and UC Davis); (2) Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) Headquarters Dosimetry Group, (3) Radiological Physics Center (RPC, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center), and (4) Quality Assurance Review Center (QARC). It capitalizes on the existing infrastructure and strengths of national QA programs. The overall mission of the ATC is to facilitate and support NCI sponsored advanced technology clinical trials, particularly those requiring digital data submission. This effort includes radiation therapy QA, image and radiation therapy digital data management, and clinical research and developmental efforts. Efforts are made to utilize each group’s strengths and avoid duplication of existing efforts. We strongly believe that advanced medical informatics can create an environment in which clinical investigators can receive, share, and analyze volumetric, multimodality treatment planning and verification (TPV) digital data. Our ultimate goal is to improve the standards of care in the management of cancer by improving the quality of clinical trials medicine.

J.A. Purdy, Ph.D.
ATC Principal Investigator
July 22, 2008

ATC NIH U24 GRANT RENEWAL

The Advanced Technology QA Consortium (consisting of ITC, RPC, QARC, and RTOG) administered through Washington University (P.I., J.A. Purdy, Ph.D.) completed the first year of the new grant on June 30, 2008. The funding period for the new grant is July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2012. The following ATC goals will be accomplished through coordination, service, and developmental objectives:

1. Eliminate duplication of infrastructure developmental efforts and facilitate sharing of QA resources among cooperative groups.
2. Help to insure that appropriate and uniform QA procedures and criteria for advanced technology trials are developed across all cooperative groups.
3. Facilitate/help manage the uniform credentialing of institutions for advanced radiotherapy trial protocols.
4. Facilitate/manage digital data protocol submission.
5. Facilitate/manage the QA review of submitted data.
6. Further the development of methods for rapid analysis of volumetric treatment planning data.
7. Assist clinical trial cooperative groups in the development of clinical trials protocols including: (a) credentialing requirements; (b) target volume definitions; (c) quality assurance procedures; and (d) data submission instructions.
8. Develop, implement, and maintain innovative methods for electronic exchange of digital planning data between institutions participating in clinical trials and between QA Centers.
9. Develop, implement, and maintain innovative web-based software tools to facilitate protocol digital data reviews by Cooperative Group study chairs and, QA Groups, RPC, and QARC.
10. Develop, implement, and maintain archival treatment planning and QA databases that can be linked with the cooperative groups’ clinical outcomes databases.
11. Demonstrate understanding of and ability to achieve compatibility with existing software and electronic health record standards, including the Cancer Bioinformatics Grid (caBIG) and DICOM RT.

QuASA²R (Quality Assurance, Submission, Archive, Analysis, and Review) Clinical Trials QA System

The QuASA²R system developed by the ITC has been extremely successful for support of clinical trials QA and encompasses mechanisms and software developed and maintained by the ITC for the submission, analysis, and review of clinical trials volumetric treatment planning data. (Update of system presented: 3:00PM SU-GG-T-385).

- QuASA²R developed by the ITC through the ATC
- National / International QA resource for RT cooperative protocol groups
- In active production at ITC and QARC
- Supports collection, QA review and analysis of volumetric images and dosimetry
- 13 active protocols, 10 closed protocols (7 cooperative groups/sponsors)

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Data Submission Software

- ATC(ITU) maintains a list of commercial ATC Compliant Treatment Planning Systems (TPS) on the ATC website. These TPS can produce data in a format suitable for submission on ATC-supported protocols.
- ATC(ITU) continues to assist TPS manufacturers in developing ATC compliant data exchange proposals for use in the development of the DICOM standard as well as IHE-RO profiles for improving the interoperable use of RT data.

Abstracts at AAPM 2008 Supported By ATC Grant

3:00PM SU-GG-T-158: Has IMRT Delivery Improved in the Last 5 Years? - A. Molineu*, J. Lowenstein, N. Hernandez, P. Alvarez, D. Followill, G. Ibott
3:00PM SU-GG-T-213: Quality Audits of the Calibration for TG-51 Non-Compliant Beams by the Radiological Physics Center - D. Followill*, A. Molineu, J. Lowenstein, P. Alvarez, J. Aguirre, G. Ibott
3:00PM SU-GG-T-345: Verification of a Monte Carlo-Based Source Model for a Varian 10 MV Photon Beam - S. Davidson*, J. Cui, J. Deasy, G. Ibott, D. Followill
8:30AM TU-B-350-1: The RPC’s Evaluation of Advanced Technology Radiation Therapy - G. Ibott**

Radiation Oncology (See http://atc.wustl.edu)
ATC is working with caBIG and NCIA

- ATC is one of the funded participants in the caBIG In Vivo Imaging Workspace.
  - ATC members (ITC, RTOG, QARC) and ACRIN are actively participating in the In Vivo Imaging Workspace.
  - Continuing to explore caBIG IVI projects with Ohio State Univ. (Dr. Joel Salz) and QARC

- PET/CT Fusion for RTOG 0522
  - PET data submitted to ACRIN Core Lab.
  - ACRIN checks PET images and uploads image data to CIP database.
  - ITC receives CT images, RT Structure sets, 3D Dose (DICOM, RTOG formats).
  - ITC-RTOG checks DICOM RT objects data integrity and uploads data to National Cancer Imaging Archive

ITC provides RTOG 0522 Treatment Planning data (in DICOM and CERR formats) to the National Cancer Imaging Archive (NCIA)

ATC Supports NSABP B39/RTOG 0413

The Partial Breast Irradiation (PBI) protocol B39/0413 has demonstrated the value of ATC's digital approach and the close collaboration needed in a demanding protocol. Complete QA details are available at the ATC website http://atc.wustl.edu or the RPC website http://rpc.mdanderson.org.

- High volume, Multiple study groups, Multiple treatment modalities
- Credentialing involves both ITC and RPC and involves Benchmark tests (Downloadable CTs and structure sets)
- Multi-faceted review process including PIs from protocol and their designates, Dosimetrists from RTOG and RPC, and ITC personnel.

ATC Supports JCOG 0403: Ph II Study of SBRT In Patients with T1N0M0 Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

- Institutions participating in protocol JCOG 0403 submit digital data representing CT images, structure sets, treatment plans, 3D dose distributions, and DVHs to Dr. Satoshi Ishikura, Director of the Radiotherapy Support Center, Tokyo, JAPAN, who then uses the QuASA2R system to submit these data to ITC in St. Louis for processing.
- Data are reviewed by Dr. Ishikura or his delegate using the QuASA2R Remote Review Tool.
- Currently, 14 institutions are eligible to enroll patients and capable of digital data submission on JCOG 0403; 126 patients are registered to study.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- ATC is a "virtual entity" made up of the nation's major clinical trials QA centers, including the ITC, RTOG, RPC, and QARC. It capitalizes on the individual strengths of these QA programs, and plays a key role in achieving institutional credentialing and protocol compliance for advanced technology clinical trials requiring digital data submission.
- The ATC/ITC developed QuASA/R system provides the most advanced medical information infrastructure currently in use in the world to support radiation therapy clinical trials digital data quality assurance.
- QuASA/R...
  ... is based on practical experience in support of clinical trials QA,
  ... provides secure data submission, analysis, and review of radiation therapy and imaging data,
  ... has enabled the collection, review, and analysis of >5800 protocol case data sets, and
  ... will continue to evolve using appropriate information technology to meet the QA needs of RT clinical trials.
- 11 treatment planning system vendors (20 different planning systems) have released ATC-compliant RTOG/DICOM export software.
- The ATC web site (http://atc.wustl.edu) links to each of the ATC member web sites and provides information and resources for participating institutions and reviewers regarding credentialing and QA processes for ATC supported protocols utilizing 3DCRT, IMRT, SBRT, HDR, and prostate brachytherapy.
- Volumetric 3D treatment planning digital data are collected, reviewed, analyzed, and stored in a database that can be linked to clinical outcomes; (over 5500 datasets thus far).
- Credentialing and QA processes for 3DCRT, IMRT, SBRT, HDR, and prostate brachytherapy multi-institutional clinical trials have been established to improve the consistency of treatment planning and delivery for these trials.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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NCI: James A. Daye, Ph.D. (Project Officer)


QARC: Thomas J. FitzGerald, M.D., Marcia M. Urle, Ph.D., Kenneth Ulin, Ph.D.

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RTOG: Walter J. Curran, M.D., Jim Galvin, Ph.D., Elizabeth Martin, CCRP, Lorraine Quaries

For more information, please visit http://atc.wustl.edu