

Minutes of the Meeting of the PTCOG BNCT Subcommittee

PTCOG 63, Buenos Aires, June 6, 2025 (9:30–10:15, Room Atlántico C)

Co-Chairs: Kei Nakai (KN), Hanna Koivunoro (HK), Huan Giap (HG)

Founding Co-chair: Wolfgang Sauerwein (WS)

Attendees: *In person: Agustina Portu (Argentina), Sara Gonzalez (Argentina), Gustavo Santa Cruz (Argentina), Andrea Monti Hughes (Argentina), Debora Frydryk (Argentina), Sol Espain (Argentina), Barbara Marcaccio (Italy), James W Snider (US), Lindsay Pruett (US), Richard Amos (UK).

*Online: Stuart Green (UK), Jacek Capala (US), Andrzej Kacperek (UK), Dave Greenwald (US), Hiroaki Kumada (Japan), Naonori Hu (Japan), Reinhard Schulte (US)

1. Welcome and Agenda Approval

The meeting was opened by Dr. Kei Nakai, followed by Dr. Wolfgang Sauerwein. The agenda and the minutes of the 2024 Singapore meeting were approved without comment.

2. Co-chair Rotation

Following PTCOG bylaws (3-year term, staggered replacement), Dr. Hanna Koivunoro's term ended as scheduled. A recommendation was made to appoint Dr. Andrea Monti Hughes (CNEA, Argentina) as the new co-chair. Her nomination and exceptional credentials were shared with the group. The subcommittee unanimously supported her candidacy.

As a supplement, Dr. Sauerwein elaborated on the procedural steps at the society headquarters.

3. Report on Subcommittee Activities (2024–2025)

Dr. Kei Nakai (Asia Region):

- Japan: National Health Insurance coverage continues for recurrent/inoperable head and neck cancer since 2020. Ongoing clinical trials include:

- Recurrent GBM (Phase I/IIa)
- Newly diagnosed GBM (jRCT2032230554, Phase I)
- Malignant skin tumors (Phase I/II, enrollment completed)
- Thoracic tumors (jRCT2031240246)

- China: 13 BNCT centers (11 under construction), 50 patients enrolled in investigator-

initiated trials.

- Taiwan: Multiple trials (H&N, brain tumors)

Dr. Hanna Koivunoro:

- Summary of international collaborations and European engagement.

Dr. Huan Giap:

- Updates on BNCT visibility at ASTRO/ESTRO and broader clinical integration efforts.

4. ICRU Report on BNCT (WS)

Dr. Wolfgang Sauerwein introduced the ICRU RC39 initiative to develop a formal ICRU Report on BNCT, similar to ICRU Reports 50/62/83. This aligns BNCT with global radiotherapy standards. Members are encouraged to contact ICRU RC39 members for input.

5. Overview of the ISNCT (Dr. Agustina Portu)

Dr. Agustina Portu is the leader of the Communication task force of the International Society for Neutron Capture Therapy (ISNCT). She has shared a presentation regarding the actual status of the Society, activities, its technical groups (clinical, biology, chemistry, and physics), and communication through the CTF to the community and beyond. Collaborations with PTCOG are ongoing.

6. Subcommittee Activities at ASTRO/ESTRO (HG)

Efforts continue to secure dedicated BNCT sessions. Despite challenges in prior proposals, plans for future engagement are underway. A survey will be proposed to better align with community needs.

7. Strategic Discussion

Topics:

- Webinars: Participants appreciated past webinars (Oct 2024, March 2025). Suggested future topics include new boron drugs and technology updates.
- Awareness: Strong agreement on the need to increase BNCT visibility among radiation oncologists.
- Survey Initiative: Proposal to assess clinical BNCT practices (treatment planning, dose reporting, etc.) to inform guideline development.
- BNCT at PTCOG: Encouragement to submit abstracts and maintain a strong presence at PTCOG meetings.
- Virtual Meetings: Agreement to continue online meetings throughout the year for specific topics.

8. Any Other Issues

- BNCT newsletter updates via PTCOG are planned.
- Ongoing discussions regarding ISNCT/PTCOG collaboration.
- A BNCT-focused symposium was suggested but not decided; discussion to continue at the next virtual chairs' meeting.

Buenos Aires, June 10, 2025

Submitted by:

Kei Nakai, Hanna Koivunoro, Huan Giap, Wolfgang Sauerwein