

**OPTN/UNOS Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**July 15, 2014**  
**O'Hare Hilton, Chicago, IL**

**Sue McDiarmid, M.D., M.B.A., Chair**  
**L. Scott Levin, M.D., FACS, Vice-Chair**  
**Richard Luskin, M.P.A., Vice-Chair**

*Discussions of the full committee on July 15, 2014 are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.*

## **Committee Projects**

### **1. VCA Database**

The VCA Committee (Committee) discussed VCA candidate and recipient-level data collection at length. UNOS staff updated the committee on the need for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of data collection forms for VCA transplant recipients and the time lines involved in the OMB review. UNOS staff also described the general framework of the VCA database in concept. The Chair asked the Committee to author a memo to the OPTN/UNOS Executive Committee and Board of Directors (Board) describing the rationale behind the approach to VCA data collection.

The Committee requested the Data Subcommittee meet as soon as possible to identify data elements to collect on VCA recipients at transplant, and at six month and one year follow-up intervals. UNOS staff will develop the additional materials to support the data collection forms for the OMB review process.

### **2. Donor Authorization**

The Committee discussed the VCA Donor Authorization Resource Document that was provided to the Board at the June meeting, and the transplant community prior to the regulatory change in July. The consensus of the Committee was to make this a formal Guidance Document. The Committee will request collaboration by the following OPTN committees prior to the November 2014 Board meeting:

- Organ Procurement Organization
- Transplant Coordinators
- Ethics
- Pediatrics
- Minority Affairs
- Patient Affairs

### **3. VCA Membership Requirements**

The Committee discussed the need to refine the VCA Membership Requirements as they are currently written. The Membership Subcommittee will work on the surgical and medical requirements of a VCA transplant program as well as additional specialties areas that may not be available at a solid organ transplant hospital. These priorities included:

- Recommendations for requirements of VCA procurement surgeons
- Recommendations for requirements of VCA reconstructive surgeons
- Recommendations for requirements of VCA transplant physicians
- Recommendations for institutional infrastructure

The Chair asked UNOS staff to facilitate a conference call of the VCA Membership Subcommittee in the next three weeks.

#### **4. VCA Organ Definition**

The Board meeting in June generated questions regarding the use of abdominal wall grafts in transplant surgeries, whether in tandem with a solid organ transplant or as a stand-alone procedure. The Chair asked the Committee to discuss the use of abdominal wall grafts from deceased donors. A lengthy discussion was held on the subject and the Chair asked that a clarifying memo be drafted for the transplant community on abdominal wall grafts that meet the criteria for VCAs.

### **Other Significant Items**

#### **5. Public Comment Solicitation**

A procedural vote was made to send the recent OPTN policy and bylaw changes out for the fall 2014 public comment period.

The committee approved the motion (14 - support, 0 - oppose, 0 - abstentions).

#### **6. Adoption of OPTN Principles of Data Collection**

A procedural vote was made by the Committee to adopt the OPTN Principles of Data Collection.

The committee approved the motion (15 - support, 0 - oppose, 0 - abstentions).

#### **7. Education and Outreach**

The Committee discussed educational efforts that the group wanted to consider. The Chair asked the Committee to work with UNOS staff to identify those materials to share at the regional meetings in the fall of 2014.

#### **8. New VCA Initiatives**

- Dr. L. S. Levin shared a presentation with the Committee on Pediatric Allotransplantation
- Dr. M. Carty shared a presentation with the Committee on Lower Extremity Transplantation

### **Upcoming Meeting(s)**

- July 18, 2014 (Data Subcommittee Conference Call)
- August 5, 2014 (Membership Subcommittee Conference Call)
- August 25, 2014 (Conference Call)