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**Shared Decision Making Between Patients and Physicians Found as Desirable, Although Improvements Perceived as Needed**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA** (Dec. 4, 2016) — Shared decision making (SDM) between patients and their physicians is recognized as a desirable goal in the treatment of lung cancer. However, both patients and clinicians agree SDM may be improved upon with the use of Patient Decision Aids (PDAs). Researchers from the University of Colorado, the Swedish Cancer Institute, and the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation shared their conclusion today as part of a patient support and advocacy theme at the **IASLC 17th World Conference on Lung Cancer in Vienna, Austria**.

When one treatment option is not clearly superior to another, PDAs can help present risks and benefits in a simple, visual format. To test the perceived usefulness of PDAs, researchers sent a survey to lung cancer patients (was the survey sent to patients and caregivers or just patient caregivers?) caregivers, and significant others who had signed up for email communication from the Bonnie Addario Lung Cancer Foundation (ALCF), Global Resource for Advancing Cancer Education (GRACE), or the University of Colorado. The survey collected information regarding demographics, categorization of the difficult problem, and the sources of problems encountered during decision making. A PDA regarding prophylactic cranial irradiation (PCI) for limited small cell cancer was made available, and opinions were sought regarding the usefulness of this format.

Survey respondents reported that decisions regarding systemic therapy were the most commonly perceived difficult decision (58 percent) and/or tests that were done or not done (34 percent). Sources of difficulty were identified as insufficient information (44 percent), or conflicting information or recommendations from their physicians (34 percent).

Most of the 190 patients who responded said desired SDM with only nine percent expressing the desire to make the decision alone. Of 90 respondents who viewed the PCI PDA, 61 percent felt that his type of decision aid would have been helpful.

**About the WCLC:**

The WCLC is the world's largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, attracting more than 6,000 researchers, physicians, and specialists from more than 100 countries. The goal is to increase awareness, collaboration, and understanding of lung cancer, and to help participants implement the latest developments across the globe. Organized under the theme of "Together Against Lung Cancer," the



conference will cover a wide range of disciplines and unveil several research studies and clinical trial results. For more information, visit <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/>.

**About the IASLC:**

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) is the only global organization dedicated to the study of lung cancer. Founded in 1974, the association's membership includes more than 5,000 lung cancer specialists in over 100 countries. Visit [www.iaslc.org](http://www.iaslc.org) for more information.

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