



## **Interagency Working Group on Medical Imaging National Science and Technology Council**

Summary IWGMI Listening Session: September 1, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Diplomatic Reception Room

### **Patient Advocacy**

Invited Presenters:

- [Mr. Eric Sokol, Senior Vice President  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America](#)
- [Ms. Sheila Ross, Special Counsel  
Lung Cancer Alliance](#)
- [Ms. Monica Mallampalli, PhD, Vice President  
Society for Women's Health Research - Transforming Science](#)

Lung Cancer Alliance reinforced the points made by Dr. Seltzer in his presentation before the Working Group in June that “transformational leaps” in quality and cost effectiveness could be made if the imaging expertise of the various federal agencies in the Working Group could be coordinated into one collaborative effort to integrate imaging into all aspects of healthcare: early detection, precision diagnosis and image-guided intervention.

As an example, LCA showed a slide to demonstrate that one chest CT can already screen for lung cancer, COPD, and coronary artery calcification simultaneously: A single preventive service addressing the top three leading causes of all deaths in the United States. Protocols for adding breast density, bone density, and interstitial disease to the screening power of that single scan are underway.

Realization of the full power of imaging in the field of healthcare through collaboration would also have a ripple effect on other fields of importance to the non-medical agencies on the Working Group, such as the FBI and NASA. LCA pointed to the Biennes Project, a collaborative effort by imaging experts, conservators, historians and even bookbinders to read inside unopened letters from the mid-17th century. Go here and let your imagination run wild:  
<http://brienne.org/debrienneimaging/>

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) presented on how imaging impacts Alzheimer's diagnosis and its use in clinical trials. Tools, like PET imaging, can lead to an early and more accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Early diagnosis will allow individuals living with dementia and their family caregivers to have better outcomes, delay nursing home placement and save direct care costs. Imaging will also be vital in identifying persons in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. It is this early stage population that will be most responsive to drug therapy and will be valuable to researchers as they seek to discover a cure or modifying treatment of this insidious brain disorder that currently impacts more than five million Americans and costs our society over \$200 billion a year in care costs.

*"The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) was honored to present before such a prestigious body as the IWGMI. As a voice for persons living with dementia, AFA is hopeful that that agencies across government will adopt policy to increase access to imaging tools that help accurately diagnosis persons with Alzheimer's disease as well as identify persons early in the disease progression who are most valuable in vital clinical drug trials that hold the key to a cure." Eric Sokol, Alzheimer's Foundation of America*

The Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) illustrated the impact of medical imaging on women's health with examples such as breast cancer, osteoporosis and spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD). Although, women have benefited from quality imaging due to advances in screening and treatment, challenges and gaps still exist with regard to current technologies. Incorporating medical imaging into all aspects of medical care for women, providing timely access to advanced medical imaging with the right imaging at the right time has the potential to provide high value preventive care, allow for early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, allows for better risk stratification and will improve quality of life for women of all ages, race and ethnicity. Understanding sex differences in medical imaging in all phases of research is crucial to furthering our knowledge of underlying biological mechanisms in both women and men and will have the potential to provide personalized treatment and care for both genders. The SWHR supports the idea of ensuring that medical imaging is incorporated into all aspects of medical care for women through cross-collaboration across various federal agencies.

*"It was an opportunity and an honor for the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) to share our perspectives with the IWGMI on the impact of medical imaging on women's health. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and interest shown by the members of the IWGMI on this topic. We are hopeful that IWGMI considers medical imaging as an essential and integral component of advancing and transforming women's health when it comes to diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases and conditions that disproportionately or predominately affect women." Dr. Monica Mallampalli, Society for Women's Health Research*