

Contact for MICAA: Jack Slosky at jack.slosky@lantheus.com

Contact for CORAR: Michael Guastella at michael.guastella@corar.org

Medical Imaging Contrast Agent Association (MICAA) Joins Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals (CORAR) to Expand Medical Imaging Agent (Drug) Industry Footprint

Washington, DC (May 8, 2012) - Effective immediately MICAA (Medical Imaging Contrast Agent Association) is transferring its interests/activities in the U.S. regulatory and reimbursement advocacy for medical imaging contrast agents (drugs) to CORAR (Council on Radiopharmaceuticals and Radionuclides).

The reason for this change is the need for even more effective leveraging of resources (and synergies) for regulatory and reimbursement advocacy across all medical imaging agents (including **both** contrast agents and radiopharmaceuticals/radionuclides).

For the past 12+ years MICAA has been a national non-profit association composed of manufacturers and developers of contrast agents used in the fields of medicine and life sciences. MICAA members have had dedicated significant resources to the research, development and clinical use of contrast agents, including products which significantly improve the diagnostic quality of magnetic resonance angiography ("MRA"), magnetic resonance imaging ("MRI"), computerized axial tomography ("CAT"), x-ray, and ultrasound procedures. Over 90% of the contrast-enhanced medical imaging procedures performed in the United States have been done with products developed by MICAA members.

Goals of MICAA have been:

- To educate Congress, federal regulatory agencies, medical specialty societies, the public, and other medical trade groups on the medical and economic benefits of medical imaging contrast agents;
- To encourage a policy of appropriate and adequate reimbursement/payment for costs of using medical imaging contrast agents under Medicare, managed care and other systems for health care insurance;
- To monitor and participate in the legislative and regulatory process at the federal, state, and international levels to ensure the appropriate treatment of medical imaging and contrast agents; and
- To provide a forum for interests of the medical imaging contrast agents industry.

Since its inception in 1999, MICAA was very successful in pursuing these goals with CMS, FDA and other appropriate agencies and in collaborating with appropriate medical societies.

The most recent examples are MICAA's successful advocacy with FDA (together with CORAR and with appropriate medical societies) to re-establish in 2012 MIDAC (Medical Imaging Drugs Advisory Committee) and MICAA's presentation at the February 2012 CMS APC Advisory Panel meeting to improve APC groupings (and to promote appropriate Medicare payments for contrast-enhanced echocardiography procedures).

Jay Schaffer (MICAA's President and representing Bayer Healthcare in MICA) commented that "Going forward within CORAR contrast agent companies can expect equally strong advocacy for contrast agents while benefiting from synergies and savings resulting by combining such reimbursement and regulatory advocacy efforts previously pursued separately by MICA and CORAR". Jack Slosky (representing Lantheus Medical Imaging in MICA) added that "Including MICA's interests within CORAR is a truly win-win situation when 1+1 in advocacy becomes 2+ and 1+1 in expenses will be much less than 2".

Michael Guastella, CORAR Executive Director, commented that "this expansion demonstrates CORAR's commitment to the medical imaging industry by allowing us to work more closely with contrast agent manufacturers to continue the valuable work of MICA. Contrast agents play an important role in diagnostic imaging and this combination of CORAR and MICA will ensure that the interests of contrast manufacturers will continue to be served."

Also Jack Coffey, CORAR President, is very excited about CORAR expanding its focus to include all medical imaging drug products and concluded that "expanding CORAR's mission to include contrast agents demonstrates our commitment to medical imaging and will allow us to work more closely with contrast agent manufacturers. These imaging agents play an important role in diagnostic imaging and leveraging our resources will ensure that the interests of contrast manufacturers will continue to be served."

The Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals (CORAR) is an association comprised of companies in the United States and Canada who manufacture and distribute radiopharmaceuticals, sealed sources, radionuclides, and contrast agents primarily used in medicine and life science research. CORAR advocates for regulations and legislation that facilitate the growth and viability of its member companies. Specifically, CORAR focuses on manufacturing, transportation, safety, security, reimbursement, and regulatory issues that can impact the radiopharmaceutical, radionuclide, sealed source, and contrast agent industries. CORAR pursues a proactive agenda which includes education of the Congress and regulatory bodies on the benefits of radiopharmaceuticals, radionuclides, and contrast agents to medical and life sciences.