

# NP Core Leaders Meeting

## October 5, 2007

Eileen Bigio, MD

Chair, NP Core Leaders Steering Committee

Northwestern ADC NP Core leader

# Quality Assurance / Standards Subcommittee

- QA Program—never developed
  - Circulate cases among members--“self check” and learning opportunity
- Standardization—postponed / stalled
  - “Mini”-Standardization study similar to BrainNet Europe
  - Methods manual—develop consensus on uniform staining methods

# Standardization Study Update

- Set of cases representing Braak & Braak stages
- Stained with tau and Bielschowsky
- Plan: members of subcommittee to semi-quantitate, do inter-rater reliability study
- This was put “on hold” pending BrainNet Europe results
- BNE published descriptive study in JNEN August 2006
  - Tau IHC more consistent & reproducible than silver & thioflavine stains for evaluation of NFTs in AD
    - Will they address “prescriptive” issues regarding NFT eval?
    - What about plaque evaluation?
  - Not yet published findings regard the use of alpha-synuclein IHC for LBs (i.e., alpha-synuclein erratic – not reliable or reproducible).

# Goals—re-examination

- What are the goals of the subcommittee?
  - QA
    - Do we need this type of “self-check” on our techniques & methods?
    - Do we want it?
  - Standards
    - Is there a need to standardize?
    - Do we want to standardize?
    - What do we standardize?
    - Is it reasonable to expect standard methods?

# Last Members of Subcommittee

- Last members of subcommittee
  - Bob Mrak, chair
    - Now chairman of pathology, Univ Toledo / Medical College of Ohio
  - Tessa Hedley-Whyte
  - Tom Wisniewski
  - Bill Ellis
- All remaining would rotate off now (2007)

# QA Standards Subcommittee

Steering Committee will make re-formation of subcommittee and re-evaluation of its goals an agenda item for the coming year

Regroup  
Reorganize  
Redirect

Coming in 2009

