



## **Terms of Reference (TOR)**

### **Pediatric Psycho-Oncology Committee of SIOP (SIOP-PPO)**

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#### **Background**

In January 2007 The Scientific Board of the SIOP approved for the installation of a sub-committee, dedicated to Pediatric Psycho-Oncology research: SIOP PPO.

In health and medical settings as well as in pediatric oncology settings, pediatric psychosocial clinicians (e.g. psychologists, social workers) have become vital members of multidisciplinary clinical and research teams, adding specialist knowledge to treatment and research of children with chronic or life threatening diseases. In pediatric oncology, active research is being conducted to improve understanding of the impact of childhood cancer on the patients' well being as well as on that of their family members, within a developmental perspective. In order to incorporate the findings of pediatric psycho-oncology into clinical practice, it is important to make psycho-oncology an active component of cancer treatment, counseling and rehabilitation.

#### **Goals & objectives**

SIOP PPO's main objective is to incorporate psychological scientific knowledge into clinical pediatric oncology practice and thereby improve care for children with cancer.

1. To facilitate the exchange of research data on pediatric psycho-oncology issues among psycho-oncology and medical colleagues.
2. To support the integration of these data with current psychological research, theory, and practice, and
3. To encourage the active incorporation of this psychological knowledge into clinical pediatric oncology practice with the overall aim of improving the care for children with cancer and their families.
4. To provide psycho-education and support to survivors and parents interested in updates on psychological issues in pediatric psycho-oncology.

#### **Responsibilities of the PPO Committee**

The Committee is an integral part of SIOP. The Committee has a Chair, Co-chair, Secretary and members with defined competences and responsibilities.

Specific responsibilities of the PPO Core Committee involve, but are not limited to:

1. Organizing the yearly SIOP PPO pre-meeting day
2. Reviewing the psychosocial abstracts submitted to the SIOP main conference.
3. Coordinating regular communication between group members via e-mail communications and updates, spreading PPO newsletters, and teleconferencing.
4. Responding to requests for information/assistance from the SIOP board with respect to psycho-oncology matters.
5. As Needed, interacting with other SIOP committees, such as PODC.
6. Fostering collaborations with relevant external organizations e.g. APOS, IPOS, ASPHO.

#### **PPO committee members**

Prof dr Martha Grootenhuis, head of Psychosocial Department, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Dr. Andrea Farkas Patenaude, psychologist/associate professor, Boston, USA

Dr. Maria McCarthy, Psychologist/Psycho-oncology Director, Melbourne, Australia

Dr. Stephen Sands, Neuropsychologist/Associate Professor, New York, USA

Gabi Calaminus, Pediatric oncologist (MD)/former president SIOP, Dusseldorf, Germany

In addition Every year: A Psychologist from the Local Organising Country

#### **Secretary**

Sasja Schepers, psychologist and PhD student, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Simone Sint Nicolaas, psychologist and PhD student, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

#### **General Members**

Over 700 people are included in the updated SIOP PPO mailing list of 2014.

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