Minutes

Participants:
Gabriele Calaminus – SIOP President
Giorgio Perilongo – SIOP President-Elect
Gregory Reaman – SIOP Treasurer
Rob Pieters – Chair of the SIOP Scientific Committee
Chi-Kong Li – Chair of the SIOP 2013 Local Organising Committee
Eric Bouffet – Chair of the SIOP 2014 Local Organising Committee
Alan Davidson – Chair of the SIOP 2015 Local Organising Committee
Robert Arceci – Editor in Chief of PBC
Laura Kennedy – SIOP Secretariat
JJ Divino – SIOP Secretariat
71 SIOP members

1. Welcome and Apologies for non-attendance

Giorgio Perilongo welcomed the participants and thanked them for joining the meeting.

Apologies were received from Gabriele Calaminus who was unable to join the meeting until point 6.

2. Silence for those no longer with us

All participants observed a minute of silence for those who are no longer with us.

3. Minutes of the 44th Meeting of SIOP

The minutes of the 44th meeting of SIOP held in London, UK on 7 October 2012 were unanimously approved.

4. Report from the Scientific Committee Chairman

SIOP Hong Kong 2013
Rob Pieters noted that there were 1,500 registrations from 86 countries for SIOP 2013.

Rob Pieters gave a presentation on the process for abstract acceptance or rejection. He noted that there were always three independent reviewers for each abstract, every year approximately 10% are
selected for oral presentation, 40-50% for poster presentation and about 30% are accepted for publication only. Each year is likely to be the same.

SIOP awards
Rob Pieters presented the SIOP awards winners:

- **SIOP AWARD CLINICAL RESEARCH**
  *CHILDREN'S HEPATIC TUMOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION (CHIC): NEW HEPATOBLASTOMA INTERNATIONAL RISK GROUPS (HB-IRG)*
  Rebecka Meyers

- **SIOP AWARD BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**
  *GENOME SEQUENCING OF SHH MEDULLOBLASTOMA PREDICTS AGE-DEPENDENT RESPONSE TO SMOOTHENED-INHIBITION AND RATIONAL THERAPEUTIC COMBINATIONS*
  Marcel Kool

- **SIOP AWARD PODC**
  *ABANDONMENT HAZARD IS DEPENDENT ON TIME, AGE AND TUMOR TYPE IN CHILDREN WITH CANCER: A REPORT OF VIGICANCER PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FROM CALI, COLOMBIA*
  Oscar Ramirez

5. Report from the Treasurer

*Income and expenses*
Gregory Reaman presented the income and expenses statement of SIOP for the year 2012-2013 (1st August 2012 to 31 July 2013). He noted that the total income for the year was €292,925 and the total expenditure was €287,626, leaving a small surplus of €5,299. Membership dues were lower in 2013 than in 2012 and overall expenses somewhat higher. The higher expenses are in part due to the necessity to pay tax on expenses, so obtaining tax exempt status would be a priority for the coming year.

Gregory Reaman reported that the accounts had been audited by a professional auditor who found no issues. Gregory Reaman proposed that the audited financial statement for 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013 be accepted and requested that the Board and staff of the centralised office be discharged for their duties to the society.

**Decisions:**
- The Meeting voted to approve the (audited) financial statements as at 31 July 2013.
- The Meeting voted to discharge the Board and the staff of the centralised office for their duties to the society.

*Balance sheet*
Gregory Reaman noted that the unrestricted general reserves of the society were €494,464. Overall, he confirmed that the society was about where it would like to be financially, particularly as it is no longer financially liable for the congress.
Budget 2013-2014
Gregory Reaman presented the 2013-2014 budget which anticipates a surplus of €143,250. He noted that income of €120,000 was still outstanding from SIOP 2012 in London. Gregory Reaman proposed that the budget for 2012 be accepted.

Gregory Reaman reported that the Board was working to develop a more formalised procedure for funding projects. This process will be announced to members when it is complete.

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<td>• The budget 2012-2013 was approved.</td>
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6. Report from the Secretary-General
Paul Rogers acknowledged his predecessor, Jillian Birch, for her assistance.

SIOP upcoming conferences: 2014-2016
The next SIOP meetings will be held as shown below:

2014: Toronto
2015: Cape Town
2016: Europe – to be decided.

Paul Rogers noted that the call for bids for SIOP 2016 would be extended.

Membership
Paul Rogers reported that SIOP had 1,053 members compared with 946 in 2012.

Committee Structure
Paul Rogers reported that he had been reviewing the SIOP committee structure and the terms of reference for those committees. His objective was to be as inclusive as possible and to allow interest groups to form as required. A good example of how this can work well is the PODC, which has a clear structure and terms of reference.

Paul Rogers reported that two committees would be established in order to meet a need for SIOP as follows:

- The Publications Committee would be established in order to review manuscripts prior to submission if they use the SIOP logo, use SIOP data or emanate from the SIOP Board, committees, working or ad hoc groups. The Publications Committee will assess whether it is appropriate for a paper to use the SIOP name, review the content for accuracy and appropriate conclusion. The Publications Committee will be chaired by the Scientific Committee Chair who will report to the Board.

- The Website and Communications Committee will be responsible for the management and update of website content, SIOP’s communications and marketing strategy, SIOP social media.
It will consist of at least one Board member, one Nurse Member, one Scientific Committee member.

7. Report from the President

Gabriele Calaminus presented the SIOP strategic goals that were developed by the Board during a strategy meeting in 2011.

Gabriele Calaminus noted that a lot of work had been carried out on the society structure and the roles and responsibilities of officers of the society. Paul Rogers would be continuing this process and Gabriele Calaminus thanked Jillian Birch for her work in starting the progress. SIOP 2013 was the first congress to be managed by Kenes International, so the Board will evaluate how it has worked.

Gabriele Calaminus noted that membership numbers have increased, although there are still some areas to work on. In 2013, SIOP is now more financially stable with a balanced budget. Gabriele Calaminus remarked that Rob Pieters had done a good job in restructuring the format of the annual congress and in broadening the meeting. The next steps are to work on the scientific input for the congress, perhaps in collaboration with other societies.

Gabriele Calaminus said that advocacy and lobbying were new activities for the society over the last three years. SIOP now has a professional advocacy consultant at Kenes, JJ Divino, but it was important for all officers of the society also be advocates. It is also important that all Continental Presidents, parents’ groups and nurses be included in advocacy work.

Gabriele Calaminus said that SIOP needs to gather evidence in order to support its arguments. There are now SIOP papers describing the situations on different continents as well as a global paper on SIOP’s role as a platform for communication in the global response to childhood cancer.

Gabriele Calaminus reported that SIOP’s achievements in advocacy have included successfully developing a relationship with the WHO. This has resulted in the attendance at SIOP 2013 of Dr Oleg Chestnov, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health. This has allowed SIOP to provide him with content for inclusion in the world health agenda. Dr Chestnov also co-wrote an introduction to the SIOP global paper.

Gabriele Calaminus reported that SIOP involvement with UICC has increased. There will be a joint symposium at SIOP 2013. SIOP will also run a symposium at the World Cancer Leaders’ Summit in Cape Town, South Africa in November 2013. This is a high profile event involving prominent international health care provide and ministers of health.

Gabriele Calaminus reported that relationships with other societies are also being formalised. A formal Memorandum of Understanding would be signed between SIOP and ICCCP during SIOP 2013. Relationships are also being built and formalised with other societies and with foundations.

Giorgio Perilongo expressed the thanks of the Board and all SIOP members for the work carried out by Gabriele Calaminus during her Presidency.
8. Changes to the Board

The following changes to the SIOP Executive Board were confirmed:

- Giorgio Perilongo will replace Gabriele Calaminus as President.
- Gregory Reaman will replace Max Coppes as Treasurer.
- François Doz will replace Rob Pieters as Scientific Committee Chair.
- Following the resignation of Jillian Birch, Paul Rogers formally took over the position of Secretary-General following the Board of Directors meeting on 27 April 2013.
- Due to the mid-term resignation of Jillian Birch, Gabriele Calaminus will continue to serve as an officer of the Board as Immediate Past President for an additional year, so SIOP will have four officers, as required by the bylaws.

9. Report from the Editor in Chief of “Pediatric Blood and Cancer”

Robert Arceci presented a report on Pediatric Blood and Cancer (PBC). He reported that a special series of articles were in progress, some of which have been published. In addition all articles are now online.

Robert Arceci reported that the number of submissions of brief reports is declining and research articles increasing. The largest number of submissions came from North America. The acceptance rate of papers from North America and Europe is the highest. However, he noted the work of Chi-Kong Li in improving the quality of submissions for Asia and hence the number of articles accepted.

The membership of the Editorial Board has been widened to include more members from outside Europe and North America. However, Robert Arceci would still like to increase involvement from Russia and the surrounding region.

Robert Arceci reported that the journal’s impact factor had increased to 2.353 and is second among paediatric journals. He would like this to increase further to be in the 3s as this would encourage more good quality submissions.

Robert Arceci noted that from 2014 the journal would be online only. The publishers are working to make the online version more user friendly, including the development of a journal app allowing access to the journal.

Robert Arceci reported that Peter E. Newburger has been appointed as Deputy Editor. Robert Arceci will stay in position during the next couple of years to train Dr Newburger.

A member commented that it would be good to receive the abstracts in advance and to be able to review them before attending the meeting. Robert Arceci noted that the journal has been working with Kenes and with the Scientific Committee to streamline the process. In 2013 there was a hitch that caused the process to take longer than it should. This should be fixed for 2014 so the abstracts should be available a month or so ahead of time.

10. Presentation from the President-elect
Giorgio Perilongo presented himself as the new President of SIOP. He noted his commitment to helping SIOP address its six development goals as follows:

1. To advocate and to lobby for children with cancer and their families
2. To continue to spread science and knowledge (e.g. quality of meetings and educational events)
3. To increase membership
4. To increase professionalism
5. To increase financial revenues
6. To improve SIOP visibility and internal communications

Giorgio Perilongo noted the importance of SIOP’s advocacy work and reported that Gabriele Calaminus had agreed to continue to lead these efforts.

11. SIOP 2014 – announcement of meeting

Eric Bouffet announced that SIOP 2014 would take place from 22 to 25 October 2014 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto, Canada. He looked forward to welcoming everyone there.

12. SIOP 2015 – Preliminary Announcement of Meeting

Alan Davidson announced that SIOP 2015 would take place in Cape Town from 8 to 11 October 2015.

13. SIOP 2016 – European Venue

No additional update.

14. Any Other Business

Gabriele Calaminus thanked Chi-Kong Li and the Local Organising Committee for their work on SIOP 2013.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place during SIOP 2014 in Toronto.

16. Closure of Meeting

The meeting was closed at 14:25

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

18. Closure of meeting

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 19:30.