**SIOP Nutrition Network**

**Terms of Reference**

**BACKGROUND**

Malnutrition in its broadest sense poses serious challenges in the management of children and adolescents throughout their cancer journey, from prior to diagnosis into long-term survivorship. Education and research are being conducted to improve understanding of the impact of cancer and its treatment on short- and long-term nutritional health, but there is a need for an international collaborative approach to address the optimal, achievable nutritional care of these patients. It is proposed to establish a SIOP Nutrition Network to help close the gaps in education, research and clinical practice.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES** The Network’s main objective is to facilitate the incorporation of evidence-based nutritional practice into the care of children and adolescents with cancer in order to improve clinical outcomes e.g. reduced therapy-related toxicities, prolonged survival and enhanced quality of life. In particular, the network will:

1. Develop and disseminate educational materials and support to health care professionals.

2. Establish guidelines for the nutritional support of young people with cancer.

3. Encourage the translation of knowledge about nutrition into clinical pediatric oncology practice.

4. Facilitate networking and the exchange of research data on relevant issues in nutrition.

5. Provide opportunity, including funding, for research projects related to nutrition in children and adolescents with cancer.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SIOP NUTRITION NETWORK**

It is envisaged that there will be two complementary components of the Network; one focusing on high income countries (HICs) and the other on low and middle income countries (LMICs), as defined by the World Bank. The former may target obesity, including sarcopenic obesity, while the latter focuses on under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiency. Opportunities exist for close collaboration between these two components of the Network.

Specific responsibilities of the Network involve, but are not limited to:

1. Organizing the annual SIOP-Nutrition pre-meeting or post meeting day, if approved by the Board.

2. Reviewing the abstracts related to nutrition for the main conference if requested by the Scientific Committee. Propose symposiums to the Scientific committee relevant to nutrition or Integrative Therapies

3. Co-ordinating regular communication between group members via email and teleconferencing, using Cure 4 Kids.

4. Responding to requests for information/assistance from the Board with respect to matters on nutrition.

5. Interacting with other SIOP committees such as PODC and Supportive Care.

6. Fostering collaboration with external organizations approved by the Board.

**LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE**

It is proposed that each of the two components of the Network will have a Chair and a Co-Chair; the former a registered dietician/nutritionist elected for 3 years and the latter a physician elected for 3 years, both being non-renewable. There should be one year overlap of newly elected chairs with current chairs. The positons for LMIC working group will be appointed in consultation with the leaders of PODC. The activities of the Network will be co-ordinated by a convenor, who has knowledge of and interest in nutrition in young people with cancer. All leadership positions must be members in good standing of SIOP

**Network Membership:** Any member of SIOP or attendee of a SIOP congress with an interest in nutrition

SIOP Nutrition Network

Convenors

Ronnie Barr & Paul Rogers

Nutrition – LMICs (PODC)

Amita Trehan , Karina Viani

Elena Ladas (Past chair)

Nutrition – HICs

Terezie Mosby &

Paul Rogers (Interim)