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**SIOP Advocacy Annual General Meeting Report 2020**  
March 2020 - present

DRAFT

**COVID-19**

The reporting period was marked by global mobilization around the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus focused international health policy around rapid response and mitigation and was an important factor in shaping the context of SIOP advocacy work.

SIOP has produced important statements and rapid response guidance to the community.

* **March 2020:** 
  + Statement of solidarity on SIOP website
  + Bouffet, Eric, et al. "**Early advice on managing children with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic and a call for sharing experiences**." *Pediatric Blood Cancer* 2 (2020): e28327.
* **April 2020:** 
  + Sullivan, Michael, et al. **"The COVID‐19 pandemic: a rapid global response for children with cancer from SIOP, COG, SIOP‐E, SIOP‐PODC, IPSO, PROS, CCI, and St Jude Global.**"*Pediatric Blood & Cancer* 67.7 (2020): e28409.

Further engagement with global health actors on childhood cancer and COVID was an important part of overarching partnerships and policy efforts as described below.

**Cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO)**

* **SIOP is official WHO Non-State Actor (NSA)**, currently in the 3rd year of implementing the triannual work plan governing this status
* In June 2020, SIOP submitted a renewed application and work plan as WHO NSA for the next 3 years period 2021 – 2023, with gratitude for the efforts of Gabriele Calaminus and Julia Challinor

Collaborative action on the following requested by WHO Regional Offices

* + Access to medicines
  + Nursing
  + Workforce issues
  + Advocacy
* SIOP is partner in **WHO Global Initiative on Childhood Cancer** (2018 – ongoing)as part of its NSA mandate *(see also below)*
* Monthly virtual meetings take place between the SIOP Advocacy Group and **Dr** **Andre Ilbawi**, WHO Technical Officer
  + Important focus on the GICC
  + Recent discussion on possibility of SIOP, CCI, St Jude, UICC, and ESMO multi-stakeholder Steering Committee for WHO and childhood cancer issues.
* **Dr Bente Mikkelsen**, formerly head of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism, became WHO new Director General for NCDs
  + Dr Mikkelsen has interest in childhood cancer and receiving regular updates on this topic from Dr Ilbawi
  + In June 2020, SIOP virtually met with Dr Mikkelsen to present SIOP and exchange on overarching cooperation framework for childhood cancer
* In August 2020, SIOP contributed to the WHO Consultation as part of the mid-point evaluation of the WHO NCD-GAP and the final evaluation of the GCM/NCD   
  *(GAP: Global Action Plan / GCM: Global Coordination Mechanism)*

**- Focus: WHO Global initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC)**

* **GICC Working Groups (WGs) Phase 2:**

1. **Advocacy** (Developing a brand for Global Initiative with spin-off products)
2. **Economics** (Consolidating global and national investment cases for childhood cancer in cooperation with IARC, IAEA)
3. **NEW: Normative** (Orientated to clinical decision-making guide & routine update of WHO EMLc & EDL)
4. **NEW: Assessment tool** (Developing national, facility and patient-level assessment tools for national planning)

* **WHO Technical Package for Childhood Cancer** comprises two documents:
  + Overview document describing the initiative: nearing finalization & will be sent for SIOP’s feedback
  + Actual Technical Package

WHO GICC working on Wilms Tumor Guidelines according to the AGREE2 methodology

Dr. Ilbawi will be providing updated on the Technical Package at the SIOP 2020 Congress (14-17 Oct 2020) as well as London World Cancer Week (15-20 Nov 2020), the latter is worth exploring for SIOP

* **GICC Country workshops**

COVID-19 resulted in WHO staff redeployment and delaying some of the GICC initiatives, including country workshops.

* In May 2020, **Sandra Luna-Fineman (US) and Roberta Ortiz (Nicaragua)** (both SIOP members) were hired part-time by WHO GICC

**- Focus: COVID-19 advocacy**

* In April 2020, SIOP commented on a zero draft of UICC Covid-19 Response to the 73rd World Health Assembly Resolution
* In September 2020, SIOP and World Child Cancer drafted a letter to Dr. Tedros, WHO Director-General, to highlight importance of integrating childhood cancer perspectives in Covid-19 response. The letter was most recently shared for endorsement with CCI, UICC, St Jude Global, SIOP Paediatric Psycho-Oncology Group, and the Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA)
* Kathy Pritchard-Jones and Julia Challinor attended the WHO NCD Child Webinar Discussion with Director General “CSO - WHO DG dialogue on youth, their wellbeing and engagement during COVID-19”, 2 October 2020  
  + Organized by NCD Child, this dialogue forms one of the dialogues in the series of Civil society - WHO Director General dialogues selected by CSOs to be organized on different topics of interest for the civil society related to COVID-19 response.
  + Session focused on the importance of youth participation in the global COVID-19 response, as a group that is highly affected by the pandemic and the subsequent restrictive measures.
* The SIOP delegation submitted a statement on inclusion of childhood cancers across Covid-19 response strategies to the Special Session of the WHO Executive Board on the implementation of resolution WHA73.1 COVID-19 response, 5-6 October 2020

**Annual campaign: September Go GOLD**

* **SIOP-St Jude Global Special Gold September webinar:** “*Priorities, Achievements, and Orientations in Childhood Cancer Advocacy*”, 23 September 2020   
  + Content was centred around the CureAll framework
  + Each SIOP Continental President took one pillar and presented it in the context of their region
  + CCI presented the key role of parent groups
  + Dr Ilbawi spoke about the WHO GICC role
* **Gold September-themed images**

Tina Bouffet produced a SIOP series of Gold September – themed images for each of the 6 GICC index cancers. A special effort was made to mark the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife with an additional image of a childhood cancer survivor becoming a nurse. These images were widely disseminated by SIOP.

* **Online mobilization with Twitter hashtag #TurnGoldSIOP**

Including 2 dedicated Gold September posts on the SIOP website for campaign start and finish.

* **Landmarks worldwide lighting up in Gold**

Achievement made possible thanks to the efforts coordinated by Eric Bouffet and arranged by other SIOP members and partners.

**Annual campaign: International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day (15 February)**

* Planning of the campaign has started with a discussion between SIOP and CCI to coordinate mutual efforts

**Other highlights & areas of engagement**

* **Abtimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**

Since April 2020, Lillian Sung and Scott Howard are representing SIOP at UICC AMR WG.

* **Global events**

Following the explosion in Lebanon in August 2020, SIOP issued a statement of support to Lebanese partners on its website and social media.

* **SIOP Strategy Renewal: Goal 2 - Advocacy**

The new Strategy includes Gola 2: Advocacy and will aim to mobilise the community further to shape the global health agenda for childhood cancers.

* **New staff**

Since February 2020, Olga Kozhaeva, SIOP Europe Sr Policy Coordinator, joined to support the SIOP global advocacy effort in a part-time role