Personal Statement

I am the Chief of the Division of Oncology and Director of the Center for Childhood Cancer Research at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and a Professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. I also serve as Associate Director for Pediatric Research of the University of Pennsylvania's Abramson Cancer Center.

My research and clinical efforts focus on children, adolescents and young adults with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). I was the Vice-Chairman (2002-2007) and Chairman (2008-2015) of the Children's Oncology Group (COG) ALL Disease Committee. In these roles I worked with others to design and conduct clinical trials and linked translational research studies that enrolled over 2000 children with ALL each year. For the last decade I have led the COG ALL TARGET Project that has conducted comprehensive studies of the genetic features of childhood ALL and revolutionized understanding of the genomic landscape of pediatric ALL. These findings are now being translated to clinical trials of targeted therapy in Philadelphia chromosome-like ALL. I also have a major interest in global oncology, with a focus on improving cure rates for children with ALL in low and middle income countries.

I have been a member of SIOP for many years, have served on the Scientific Committee for the past five years, and currently have the privilege to chair that committee through the fall of 2019. As Scientific Committee Chair, I have worked hard to increase the scientific strength of the annual Congress, and to expand the Scientific Program Advisory Committee to include more members from low and middle income countries, and more from higher income countries outside North America and Western Europe. I also helped to establish and foster development of the SIOP young investigator committee, whose members are the future of the Society. As a member of the SIOP Board for the past three years I have seen the great opportunities presented by new global oncology initiatives with the WHO. However, more resources are needed to fully realize those opportunities. As Treasurer, I would work to optimize revenue streams and also expand existing and establish new partnerships with philanthropic organizations and industry partners to have the resources to achieve our goal that No Child Should Die of Cancer.

Stephen Hunger, MD