

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – OCTOBER 22, 2026

Name: PPO Network/ Working Group/ Continental Branch

Chair/Co-Chair/Continental President: Lisa Kahalley and Valerie Crabtree (Co-Chairs)

Strategy Goal 1: Advocating globally for children and adolescents with cancer

In 2026, the PPO advanced global advocacy for the psychosocial well-being of children and adolescents with cancer, survivors, and their families through targeted educational programming. The network hosted three educational webinars addressing critical psychosocial needs across the disease trajectory. These included *From Challenges to Change: Identifying and Addressing Mental Health Needs in Childhood Cancer Survivors*, presented by Jordan Gilleland Marchak (USA); *From Decision to Adaptation: Supporting Children and Families Through Cancer-Related Amputation*, presented by Lori Wiener (USA), Brian Pennarola (USA), and Kara Skrubis (USA); and *Coping with Grief and Hospital Avoidance in a Child During Rhabdomyosarcoma Treatment*, presented by Aida Nkhoma (Malawi). Together, these sessions elevated diverse clinical and international perspectives on complex psychosocial challenges and reinforced the importance of integrating psychosocial care into pediatric oncology. The inclusion of perspectives from different countries and across the cancer trajectory further supported the PPO's commitment to globally responsive child and family centered psychosocial care.

We are committed to advocating for childhood cancer and psychosocial care through our social media platforms. Over the past year, our LinkedIn followers has grown by 235%. In April, PPO collaborated with the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) to launch a social media campaign promoting the first World Psycho-Oncology Day (WPOD). We were honored to have around 15 PPO providers and patient partners from hospitals and non-governmental organizations contribute to the campaign. This effort significantly increased engagement within the PPO community, with the most-viewed post reaching 3,169 views. We remain committed to sharing PPO research on our social media platforms by posting at least one publication each month.

Strategy Goal 2: Promoting research to improve outcomes for patients

The PPO Network continued to support early-career psycho-oncology research through the Dr. Tori Willard Early Career Award, a \$25,000 USD pilot grant funded by The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation and sponsored by SIOP. The 2025 award recipient, Dr. Valerie Yap (Murdoch Children's Research Institute/Royal Children's Hospital, Australia), presented her study, *BT-PEERS: A Pilot Study Examining the Feasibility of a Telehealth-Delivered Social Skills Intervention in Adolescent Survivors of Paediatric Brain Tumours*, during the SIOP 2026 PPO Education Day. Dr. Brooke Russell (University of Ottawa, Canada) was selected as the 2026 award recipient for her project entitled: *Adapting Fear of Recurrence Therapy for Adolescent and Early Young Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer (FORT-AeYA): A Pilot Feasibility Study*. The PPO Network also secured a commitment from the B+ Foundation to continue funding the award in 2027.

Strategy Goal 3: Providing education and training

The PPO Network hosted its 2026 PPO Education Day in conjunction with the SIOP Congress, providing education on a range of clinically relevant topics in pediatric psycho-oncology. Programming addressed neurodiversity in pediatric cancer care, delivering difficult news, psychosocial challenges and interventions for adolescents and young adults, and emerging research through presentations of highly rated abstracts. The program also included an interactive PPO panel and opportunities for networking and discussion among attendees.

Strategy Goal 4: Increasing membership engagement and retention

The PPO Network provided multiple opportunities for members to engage with colleagues internationally through case-based discussions, Education Day programming, networking, and social media. The PPO case discussion series included *Psychosocial Challenges of Non-Disclosure Across the Cancer Trajectory*, with cases presented by Aayushi Khaneja (India) and Lori Wiener (USA) in February 2026, and *Grief and Hospital Avoidance in a Child with Rhabdomyosarcoma*, presented by Aida Nkhoma (Malawi) in June 2026. These interactive sessions provided opportunities for members from different countries and disciplines to discuss challenging clinical situations and share perspectives and approaches to psychosocial care. The Network also continued to use its social media platforms to share educational opportunities, Network activities, and opportunities for member participation.

Strategy Goal 5: Strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships

The PPO Network expanded and strengthened strategic partnerships with other SIOP Networks and international organizations through joint educational programming, conference activities, and shared initiatives. Key collaborations included two joint webinars: *From Challenges to Change: Identifying and Addressing Mental Health Needs in Childhood Cancer Survivors* with the SIOP Survivorship Network, and *From Decision to Adaptation: Supporting Children and Families Through Cancer-Related Amputation* with the GHN Palliative Care Working Group. Additional collaborations included joint programming with the SIOP Nursing Network during Education Day and the SIOP Congress, including (1) *Delivering Difficult News in Pediatric Oncology: Communication Strategies*, and (2) *Cultural Considerations, and Beyond the Symptom: Integrating Nursing and Psycho-Oncology Perspectives in Pediatric Cancer Care*. PPO also participated in Childhood Cancer International programming addressing survivorship and adolescent and young adult concerns and continued collaborative efforts with the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS). Finally, the Psychosocial Wellbeing Working Group, formerly housed within the Global Health Network, has been integrated into the PPO Network, and its membership will now be incorporated into the PPO Network. These partnerships broadened opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthened connections across SIOP, and positioned the PPO Network to advance psychosocial care through shared expertise, research, advocacy and research.

