**Update from the SIOP Nursing Steering Committee**

The plans for the nursing programme at the[**50th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)**](https://siop.kenes.com/2018) are progressing and we are looking forward to see you in Kyoto, Japan in November 16-19, 2018. For this congress, the SIOP scientific committee have announced some changes important for you to know. First, there will be no extension of the deadline for abstract submission this year so please make sure that you [submit your abstract](https://siop.kenes.com/2018/scientific-information/abstract-information/submit-an-abstract#.WrLEwmrOXIW) no later than 10 April 2018. Second, when you plan your travel to Kyoto please note that the 3rd day of this year’s congress, unlike previous years, is a whole day and that the closing of the congress will be at 5 PM on Monday, November 19.

This year’s congress is the **20th meeting for the SIOP nursing group** and there are so many reasons to celebrate and be proud. However, we have higher ambitions with our continuous work to promote a standard of excellence in pediatric oncology nursing throughout the world. To do this you are important! We would like to encourage you to become an active member, not only to get the reduced registration fees for the SIOP Annual Congress but to be involved in our common dedication. Together we need to find ways to foster collaborative relationships and to exchange knowledge and experiences with each other throughout the year. One group that can serve as a model and that we all need to learn from, is the [**Pediatric Oncology in Developing Countries (PODC) Nursing Working Group**](https://siop-online.org/nursing-working-group/) that organizes monthly conference calls focusing on education and networking. Furthermore, to foster inter-professional collaboration, nurses need to be active in different networks and working groups. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage young nurse researchers to join the [**SIOP Young Investigator NETwork (SIOP-YINET)**](https://siop-online.org/young-investigators/), which is a multidisciplinary group of young researchers.

The SIOP Nursing Steering Committee is grateful and excited about the **My Child Matters (MCM) Nursing Awards 2018**, sponsored by Sanofi Espoir. The aim is to reward and stimulate nurses’ initiatives for projects that improve the care of children with cancer in low- or lower-middle-income countries. This year was the third time that the awards programme was offered and once again a large number of applications (>50) have been submitted and are presently under review.

Finally, the nursing steering committee is inviting **nominations of individuals** who have significantly contributed to the goals of SIOP nursing. The goal is to officially honour these individuals and to acknowledge their efforts and also to highlight the good examples and role models. If you would like to nominate someone for this recognition, please send a short motivation via e-mail (pernilla.pergert@ki.se) before the end of June, 2018.

On behalf of the SIOP Nursing Steering Committee,

Pernilla Pergert (Chair)