

# MAKING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS







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## FROM THE EDITORS

Happy International Childhood Cancer Day!

Today, as we celebrate International Childhood Cancer Day, and continue to acknowledge 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, we want to recognize the valuable contributions pediatric oncology nurses make to improve the care of children with cancer and their families.

In our first Global Connection Newsletter of the decade, we would like to highlight several key milestones over the last decade, and the contributions of the SIOF PODC Nursing Group. The following lists just a few of these accomplishments:

- First meeting of the PODC Nursing Group (2010)
- Conception of the Baseline Nursing Standards (2014)
- First Sanofi-Esprit My Child Matters Award for Nursing (2015)
- Joint Nursing and Palliative Care Educational Day (2015)
- Initiation of PODC Nursing Recognition Awards (2016)
- First issue of the Making Global Connections Newsletter (2018)
- Launch of the Baseline Nursing Standards Website (2018)
- The WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (2018)
- Nursing Keynote at SIOF Congress (2019)

SIOF 2019 in Lyon was a fantastic conference with many memorable experiences. We hope you enjoy hearing from some of our colleagues who presented their work during the meeting.

Cheers to 2020!

**Linda Abramovitz, Liz Sniderman, and Elianeth Kiteni**  
Co-editors, Making Global Connections



## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

2020 marks the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and we can't think of a better way to celebrate than to thank all of you for the incredible work you do everyday. Whether you work at the bedside providing direct care, educating other nurses, or in administration, you are all making a difference in the lives of our patients and families. We hope that through the SIOF PODC Nursing group and the larger PODC community, you are able to make connections and gain opportunities that enhance your nursing practice.

We can't wait to see how everyone celebrates throughout the year!

**Liz Sniderman and Yuliana Hanaratri**  
Co-chairs, SIOF PODC Nursing







# 2020

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE AND THE MIDWIFE

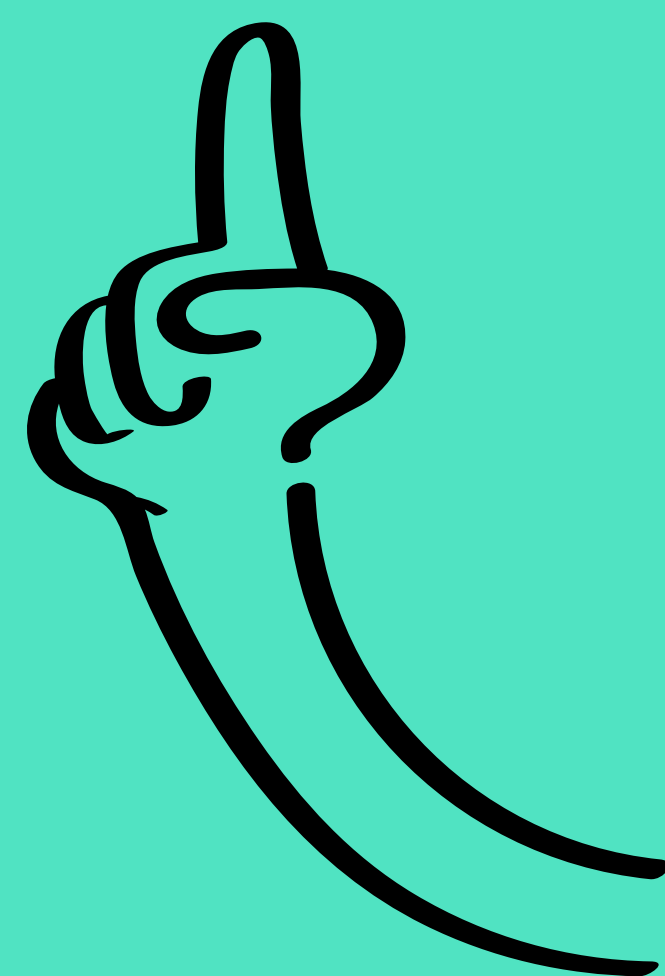
Nurses and midwives play a vital role in providing health services. These are the people who devote their lives to caring for mothers and children; giving lifesaving immunizations and health advice; looking after older people and generally meeting everyday essential health needs. They are often, the first and only point of care in their communities. The world needs 9 million more nurses and midwives if it is to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

**That's why the World Health Assembly has designated 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.**

Join WHO and partners including, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), International Council of Nurses (ICN), Nursing Now and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in a year-long effort to celebrate the work of nurses and midwives, highlight the challenging conditions they often face, and advocate for increased investments in the nursing and midwifery workforce.

(From: <https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife-2020>).

“Nurses and midwives are the backbone of every health system: in 2020 we’re calling on all countries to invest in nurses and midwives as part of their commitment to health for all.”



**World Health  
Organization**

DR. JULIA CHALLINOR

# 2019 SIOP NURSING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Julia is a constant and unmissable presence at any SIOP Congress. Always there to challenge, engage, debate and listen. She is a passionate advocate for nursing, and for nurses.

Through SIOP she has offered friendship, mentoring and support to nurses from across the globe, and especially those from Low and Middle Income countries. Those who have been lucky enough to work with Julia know that she brings to any initiative both a clear-sighted vision and a forensic attention to detail, alongside seemingly endless energy and persistence.

Julia is active 'behind the scenes' at SIOP and in her role as Advocacy Officer she played a critical role in bringing SIOP into formal relations with the WHO. She continues to lead the nursing contribution to the WHO Global Initiative in Childhood Cancer, ensuring that the nursing voice is heard and that the nursing contribution is maximised.





# 2019 PODC NURSING APPRECIATION AWARDS

Nurse in a high-income country:



**Rachel Hollis (UK)**

In appreciation for her work with  
POINTE and to develop the Sub-  
Saharan Nursing Network

Nurse in a low/middle-  
income country:

**Glenn Mbah (Cameroon)**

In appreciation for his work  
to create the International  
Pediatric Oncology Nurses  
Day posters



Friend of Nursing:

**Neil Ranasinghe (UK)**

In appreciation for his work  
to develop and launch the  
nursing page on POINTE





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e d u c a t i o n a l  
m e e t i n g s

SIOP PODC NURSING

20 FEBRUARY    19 MARCH    16 APRIL    21 MAY    18 JUNE

8:00 am Central US Time	8:00 PM Singapore Time	8:00 am Central US Time	time TBD	8:00 am Central US Time
Abstract Tips & Tricks Dr. Lauri Linder	Meeting hosted by Asia/Oceania hosts: YY Lim and Michele Casey	JOINT NURSING & PALLIATIVE CARE GROUP MEETING	Meeting hosted by Africa host: Elianeth Kiteni	JOINT NURSING & SUPPORTIVE CARE GROUP MEETING

16 JULY    20 AUGUST    17 SEPTEMBER    14-17 OCTOBER

8:00 PM Singapore Time	8:00 am Central US Time	time TBD	SIOP CONGRESS 2020	
Meeting hosted by Asia/Oceania hosts: YY Lim and Michele Casey	JOINT NURSING & NUTRITION GROUP MEETING	Meeting hosted by Africa host: Elianeth Kiteni	OTTAWA, CANADA	



# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Scholarships for nurses to attend the SIOP Annual Congress – Ottawa 2020



For each annual meeting, SIOP provides scholarships to paediatric oncology nurses who have insufficient resources to participate and to travel to the meeting. Successful candidates will receive financial support towards their travel and accommodation costs up to **EUR 1500** and **free registration** to the annual meeting.

<https://siop-online.org/nurse-scholarships/>

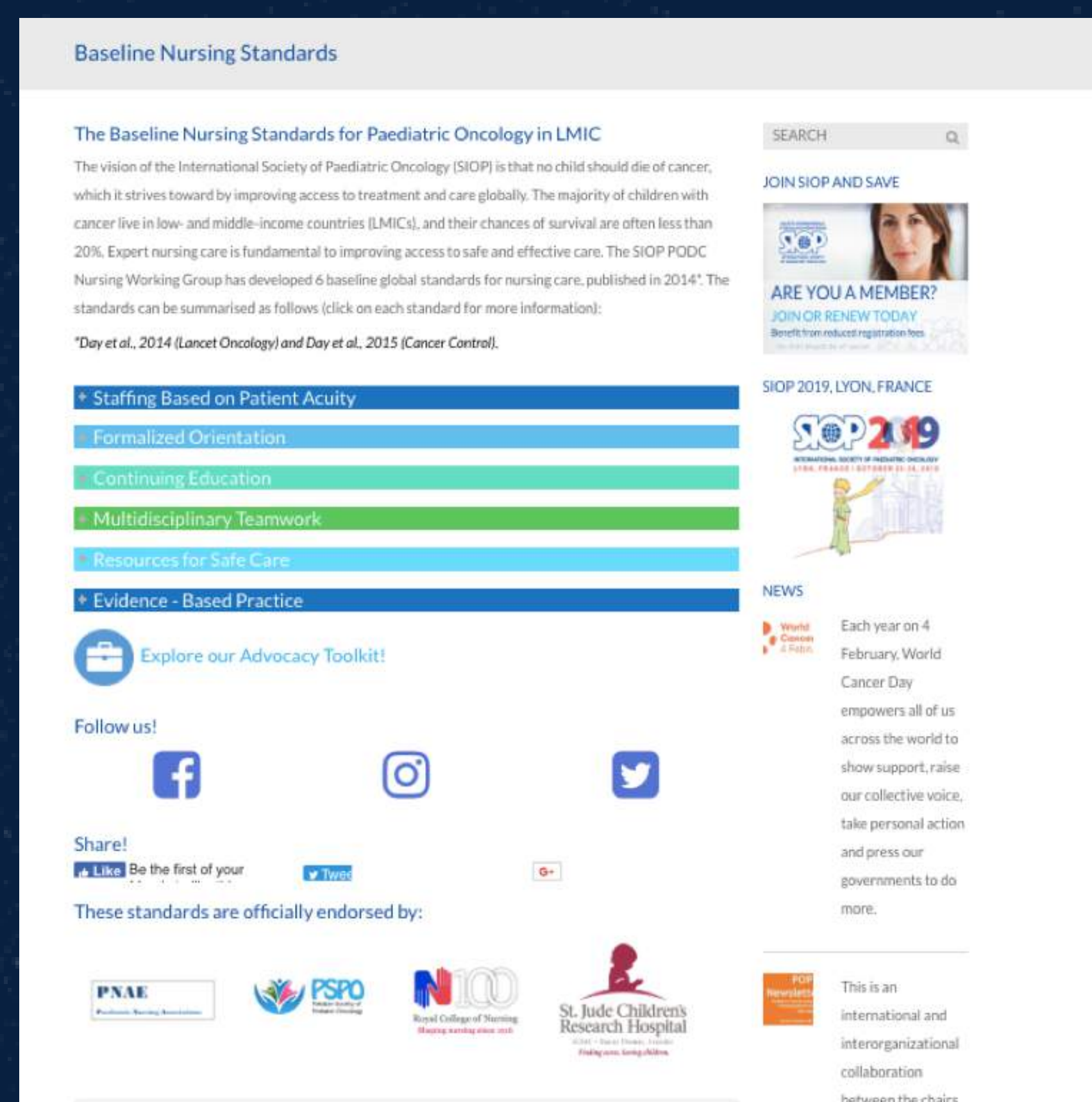
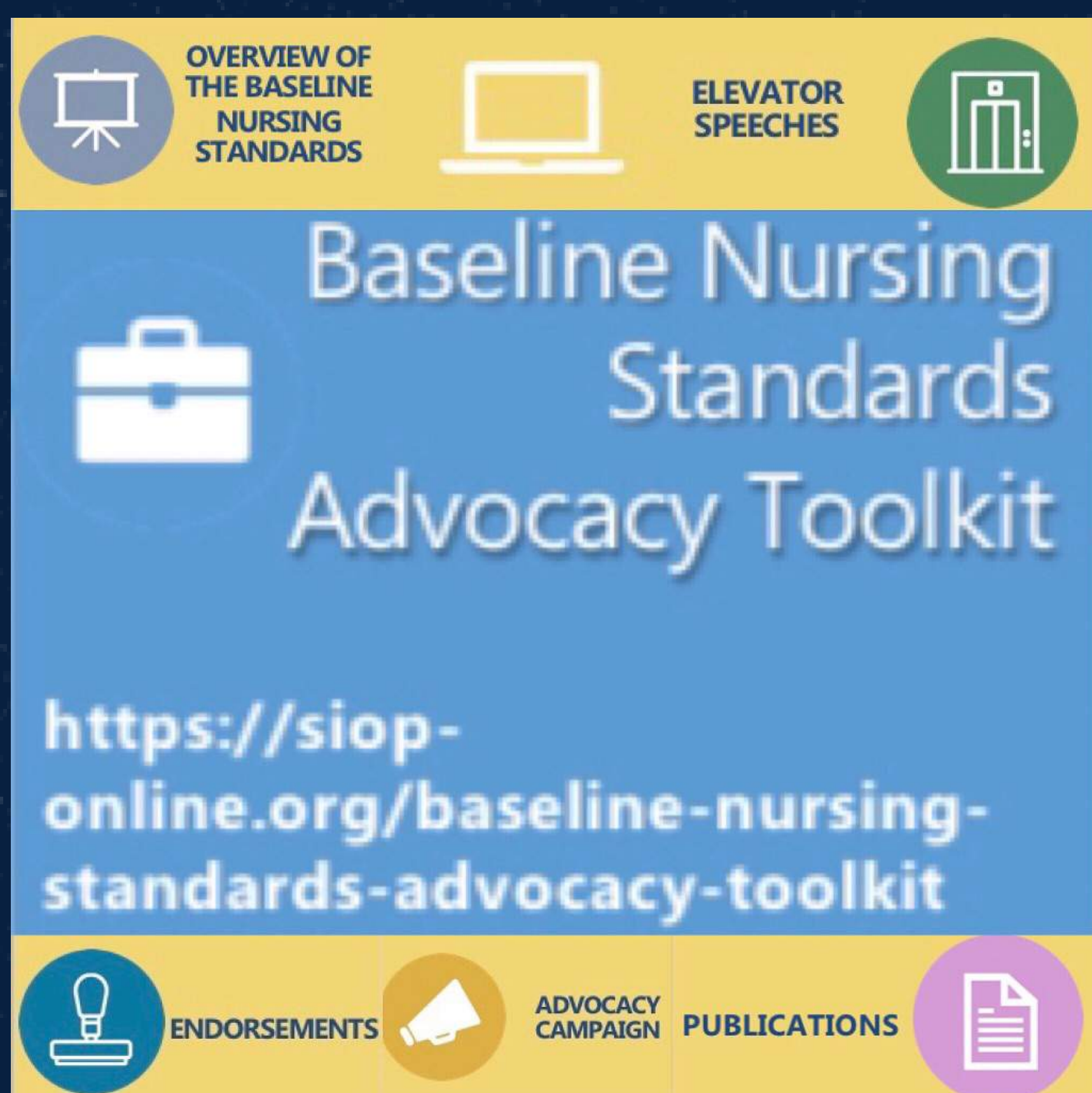
## APHON International Nurse Scholarship

The APHON International Nurse Scholarship provides an opportunity for two pediatric hematology/oncology nurses from low- or middle-income countries to attend the APHON Annual Conference & Exhibit each year. The scholarship covers airfare, taxi, hotel, meals, and the conference registration fee, up to a maximum of **\$3,000 USD**.

The 44th Annual Conference will be held September 3-5, 2020 at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York, New York.

<https://aphon.org/about-us/scholarships/intl-nurse-scholarship>





# BASLINE NURSING STANDARDS

Summary document now available in:

- English
- French
- Spanish
- Arabic
- Bahasa Indonesia
- Russian
- Portuguese

<https://siop-online.org/baseline-nursing-standards-advocacy-toolkit/baseline-standards-translations/>





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[https://cancerpointe.com  
/nursing/](https://cancerpointe.com/nursing/)

PODC Nursing has partnered with POINTE to help nurses find education and training resources and connect with other pediatric oncology nursing colleagues around the globe. Check out the website for regularly added opportunities, announcements, and updates.

**POINTE Social media:**

**Twitter** – <https://twitter.com/cancerpointe>

**Facebook** – <https://www.facebook.com/cancerPOINTE>

**Instagram** – <https://www.instagram.com/cancerpointe/>

**POINTE Nursing Contacts**

If you have any questions about any of the content on this page, or want to get involved please email Rachael or Rachel:

- **Rachael Kunkel** BSN, RN, CPN, CPHON –

[KunkelRA@archildrens.org](mailto:KunkelRA@archildrens.org)

- **Rachel Hollis** RN (Child), BA Hons, MHSc, FRCN –

[rachel.hollis59@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.hollis59@gmail.com)

- **Elianeth A. Kiteni**, RN, BScN, PGD M&E (Co - chair)

[elianeth.kiteni@gmail.com](mailto:elianeth.kiteni@gmail.com)



# SIOP 2019: stories from presenters

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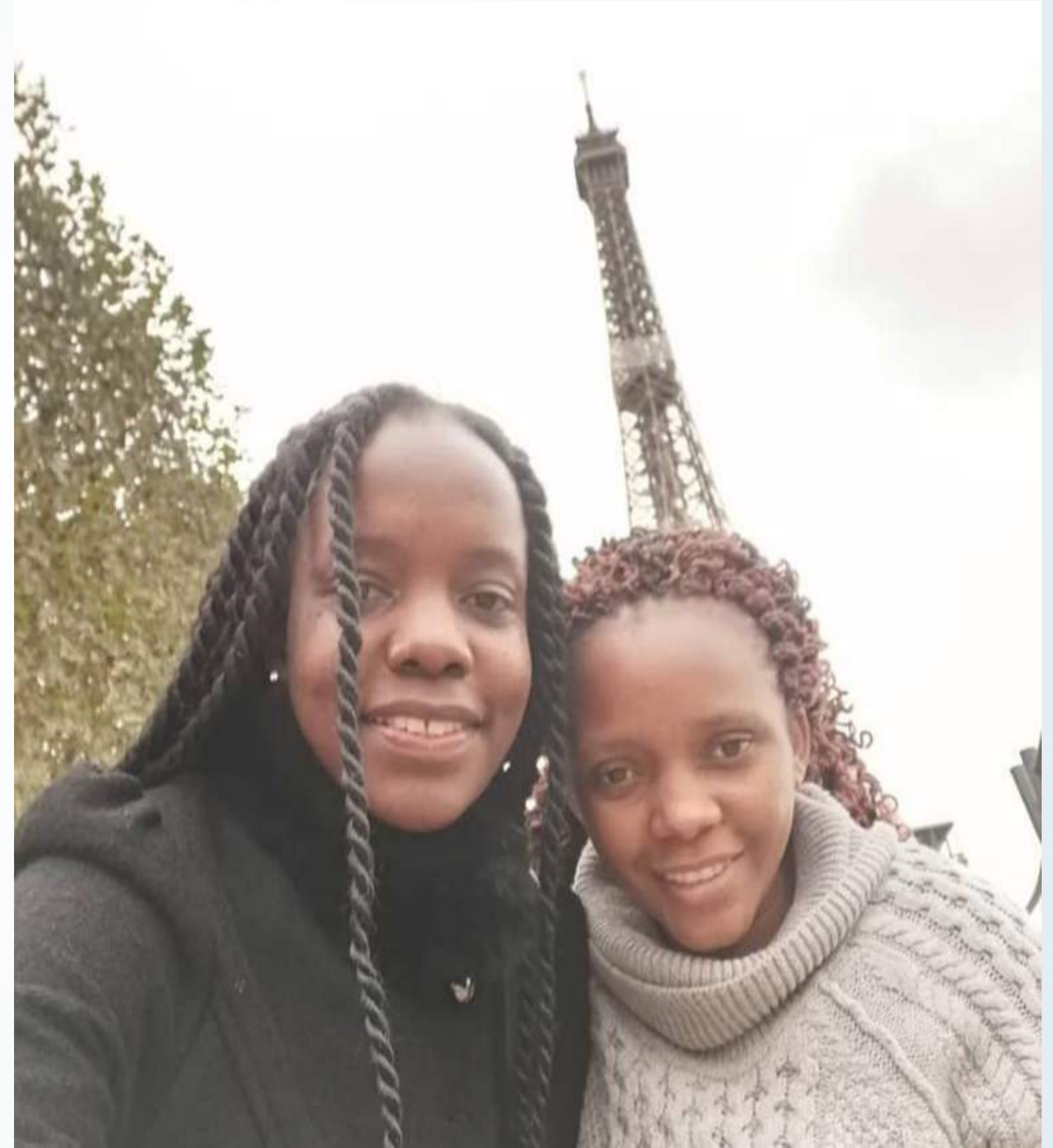
## **Edna Lema and Irene Mdee**

Muhimbili National Hospital, Tanzania

Working with pediatric oncology has been an exciting journey with challenges too but the thought of getting to save a child's life or see a child smile everyday has always given us a reason and new strength to go to work every morning. We have been anxious throughout our working journey to get to get new ideas in person and share what we had from different scopes of the world and we looked so forward to getting an opportunity to attend SIOP conference in Lyon. This was made possible through our mentor who guided us through the abstract writing- can't thank her enough! Our dream was met and we had an opportunity to present an oral and poster presentation at the 2019 SIOP conference. We were so excited as it was our first international conference and of course first time to attend SIOP conference.

*"Thanks to SIOP Scholarship that made me travel abroad and attend this important event which has enlightened my knowledge and increased my connection with other nurses and colleagues caring children with cancer across the world" (Irene).*

We gained so much new knowledge from different specialists in different fields and we are forever grateful for that opportunity.



*"We met a friend from Botswana (Marang) that had got a SIOP scholarship as well together with Elianeth who got My Child Matters Scholarship and shared the living costs throughout the conference duration which made my stay in Lyon easier since I did not get the scholarship. Thanks to Ms. Linda Abramovitz, all nurses and friends for their support" (Edna).*

The one week stay in Lyon was one in a million experience that we would wish to have it again. We are so looking forward to attend future SIOP conferences.



# SIOP 2019: stories from presenters

**Bernard W. Njodzeka**  
CBC Health Services, Cameroon

It was an opportunity for me to join a team from Cameroon (2 oncologists and 2 nurses) who attended the 51st Congress of the Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) in Lyon. I was privileged to give an oral presentation on “HIV Prevalence and Disease Outcome among Patients with Childhood Cancer in (3 CBC Hospitals) Cameroon”. This was the first SIOP international conference I attended. I was awarded the PODC scholarship for best poster after attending the SIOP Africa continental meeting in Egypt.

I started practices with one of CBC Health Services Hospitals in Mutengene in 2014 after my undergraduate program in nursing at the University of Buea, Cameroon. In 2016, I was assigned to the pediatric ward where I learned on the job and attended symposium and basic oncology training to better care for children with cancer.

Highlights from SIOP include:

- The feedback from participants was encouraging as I could better appreciate the little work we do for children with cancer in Cameroon combined with the works by other professionals provides totality of knowledge on pediatric oncology globally.
- The life time achievement award for Professor Hesseling for his contribution to Pediatric Oncology in Africa over decades of practice was an exciting moment on how a humble and gradual beginning can yield remarkable results.
- The round table nursing session was an opportunity to share ideas and experiences on ethical issues nurses encounter in caring for children diagnosed with cancer and their families. Pediatric oncology nurses in LMICs shared similar experiences and challenges caring for these children. The collective efforts of nurses through research and knowledge sharing could mitigate some of these challenges.
- Global distribution of childhood cancer, along with the large impact in LMICs drew my attention, and raised my interest as to how we could integrate the few Hospital-Base-Cancer Registry into a Population Cancer Registry for Cameroon.
- It continues to echo in me how on the job training through workshops, well structured introductory courses, and multidisciplinary team meetings could equip new nurses on the ward with the basic knowledge to care for childhood cancer patients.
- I was able to meet with professionals from all walks of life whose primary goal is providing better care to childhood cancer patients and their families.
- The My Child Matter (MCM) nursing award is a potential opportunity which nurses in LMICs could obtain grants to attain already existing or prospective projects.

I am grateful to SIOP PODC, World Child Cancer, and the CBCHS, who made my stay in Lyon memorable.





# SIOP 2019: stories from presenters

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## Sara Day

University of Tennessee School of Health Sciences, USA

I had the honor of presenting a keynote address at SIOP 2019, in Lyon France. The audience included over 400 pediatric oncology experts representing multiple disciplines. This was a critical aspect since disciplines outside of nursing often don't fully comprehend the impact of quality nursing care on clinical outcomes. My presentation focused on two main points: the key to closing the survival gap is implementation of quality care using a team approach, and the delivery of quality care is directly linked with the SIOP Baseline Standards for Pediatric Oncology Nursing which are based on scientific evidence.

In high income countries the survival rate of children with cancer is 83% compared to 25% in low- and middle-income countries. Of the 374,000 children diagnosed with cancer every year in LMIC, 280,000 will die. Without resources, education and support for those who implement care, this survival gap will not improve. The WHO Global Initiative on Childhood Cancer has established a goal of 60% survival by 2030; obtaining this goal will require strong support for those who implement care, the majority of whom are nurses. Additional costs of support for quality implementation can be offset by monetary and nonmonetary benefits of reducing adverse clinical outcomes, length of stay and saving lives.

Siegel, R. L., Miller, K. D., & Jemal, A. (2018). *Cancer Statistics, 2018*. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 68(1), 7-30.



# SIOP 2019: stories from presenters

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## **Shenila Anwarali**

Indus Cancer Hospital, Pakistan

I am currently working as an Assistant Manager, Clinical Nurse Instructor for Pediatric Nursing Education Department at The Indus Hospital, Karachi Pakistan. I started my nursing education from obtaining a Diploma from Aga Khan University Karachi, Pakistan. Post diploma I worked as a bedside nurse for two year before applying for Post RN BScN, which I completed in 2013 from Aga Khan University Karachi, Pakistan. I started my journey with Pediatric Oncology in 2016 from the Children Cancer Hospital which has now been adopted by The Indus Hospital. During the initial days I learned a lot about the significance of effective nursing care and its direct relation to quality of patient care being provided to Pediatric Oncology patients and their families.

I have been a part of SIOP Since 2016 when I got a scholarship to attend the conference at Washington DC but unfortunately I could not make it there and my Scholarship was carried forward where I got a chance to attend the 50th SIOP conference in Kyoto Japan.

This year the conference was held in Lyon France. Where I was supported by The Aslan Project. It was an enlightening experience. I got a chance to present two oral presentations of mine and one oral presentation of my colleague who could not accompany us to the conference. Attending the conference has always been motivational and educational. It provides us with ideas that we can apply in our own hospital setting with modification in regards to culture and resources. It also provides us opportunities of learning new things and aiming for higher goals for improving nursing care delivery. This platform encourages nurse form developing countries to come forward and share their experience and motivates them, provides them with positive reinforcements that even with limited resources there is always a possibility to bring out the change for the betterment of patients and their families.

I always look forward for the long term mentorship provided by the facilitators and members of SIOP PODC nursing group.





# SIOP 2019: stories from presenters

**Ndagire Mariam,**  
Uganda Cancer Institute, Uganda

I work at the Uganda cancer Institute (UCI) as a registered nurse. I have been a nurse for 10 years. Currently I work in the outpatient clinic. I also co-chair our weekly Continuous Nursing Education sessions that have now evolved into clinical seminars. I am also a Steering committee member for SIOP Africa sub Saharan pediatric oncology nursing network.

My journey in pediatric oncology nursing started in my second semester of nursing school. where I was placed in the children's ward at the cancer institute. This was my first encounter with patients with life threatening illness. Listening, watching and learning from the nurses on the ward gave birth to my love for pediatric oncology. It was then that I knew that I wanted to work with kids, specifically with children suffering from cancer. It's no wonder that I joined UCI as a volunteer nurse in December 2009 when I completed my training.

I first attended a SIOP conference in 2017- I wrote my first ever abstract and it was accepted for oral presentation. To be honest, I don't think I learned so much then. I think I was too excited. I was in complete awe of everything. There were so many experienced nurses, so much to learn, and so little time. Navigating the sessions was not easy. I had challenges deciding which sessions to attend. I remember running out of an interesting presentation in the PODC session because I was worried about missing out on the nursing session.

Last year, thanks to a scholarship from SIOP and the My Child Matters award, I was able to attend both SIOP Africa in March and SIOP in Lyon in October, where my abstract was accepted for an oral presentation. This time round, my experience was amazing. I had an opportunity to meet and learn from many experienced and international experts in pediatric oncology nursing. The SIOP family is not only willing to share their knowledge and skills, but their friendship as well.

I have found mentors at SIOP. I have made friends at SIOP. I have learned and continue to learn every day.

I hope and pray for the day when children with cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa will have a good fighting chance. For a day when no child will die from CANCER.





# SIOP 2019: stories from presenters

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**Tadala Mulemba**  
Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi

I am a nurse manager working at the pediatric cancer department at Kamuzu Central Hospital. I have worked in the department for 2 years. I hold a Bachelor of Science in nursing and midwifery.

I got a nursing scholarship to attend the conference in Lyon as my first time to attend the SIOP conference. I had the opportunity to present two oral presentations.

My greatest experience with the conference was that it brought together people from all walks of life who have a common goal to care for children with cancer. It is a great platform for sharing best practices and knowledge for continuity of care. My greatest experience was meeting and interacting with great nursing leaders who have contributed greatly to nursing, and learning from their experience.

One challenge I encountered was that some presentations which I was interested to attend were running concurrently which made it difficult for me to get a chance to listen to all the presentations .

I was happy and I am looking forward to attending more SIOP conferences in the future.





# SIOP 2019: stories from presenters

## Marang Orapeleng

Gantsi Primary Hospital, Botswana

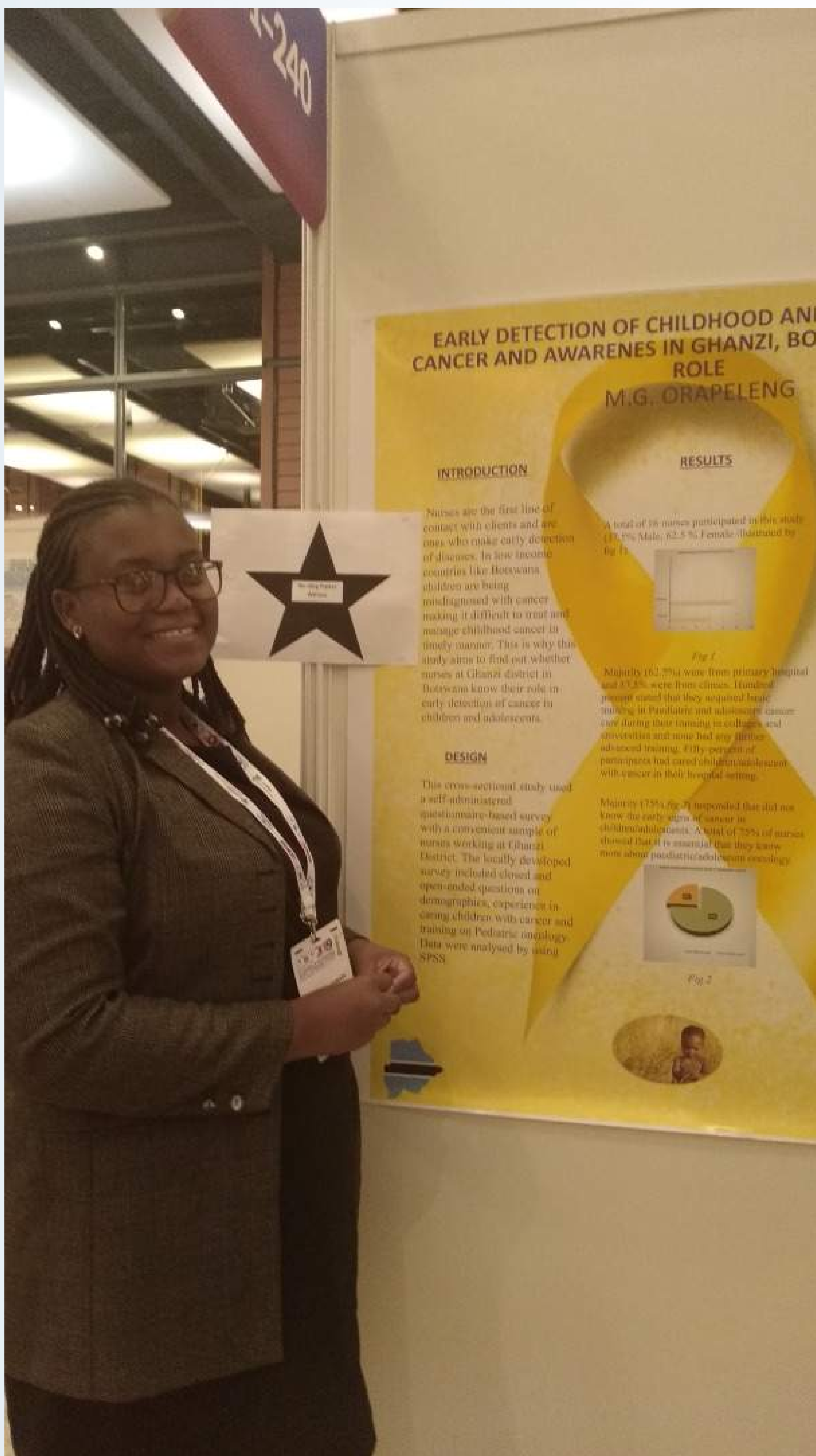
My journey to SIOP 2019 was exciting and eye opening. It started when my friend from Tanzania sent me a link for the abstract competition.

I had never heard of SIOP before this point. I took it as a challenge and adventure to write the abstract and submit it. This friend from Tanzania knew the interest I had for oncology so she motivates me by getting involved in pediatric oncology activities.

My abstract was accepted for a poster presentation. It was a surreal moment to even win the PODC scholarship which meant that my trip for Lyon was happening. I prepared for the trip with so much excitement with three other ladies whom we planned the trip together to be able to save costs. It worked well for us as being together help in sharing ideas and I got to share the Lyon experience together.

It was an adventure I had never envisioned in my life. To have to be with other healthcare workers who are engaged in different fields that work together to fight cancer in children around the world has been a dream that I had and to also present my poster during the conference was an amazing experience.

My poster won the best nursing poster for 2019, which motivated me to want to be more engaged in pediatric oncology activities. I am looking forward to more of the conferences and to also engage my colleagues from Botswana.





# TIPS FOR WRITING A SUCCESSFUL ABSTRACT

**Lauri A. Linder**, PhD, APRN, CPON  
University of Utah and Primary Children's Hospital

Presenting the results of research or clinical projects at professional meetings is an important way to advance nursing science and practice. Whether you present your work through a poster or oral presentation, the first step is to summarize your work in an abstract.

An abstract is a short summary of your study or project that is submitted for peer review. The review process determines which abstracts will be selected for presentation. Although the length of the abstract may vary based on the organization (typically 300-500 words), the format is usually similar. The following provides guidance in writing an abstract using the word limit and headings for the annual SIOP congress. The due date for these abstracts is April 1, 2020.

Review the call for abstracts. The call for abstracts for the 2020 SIOP congress can be found at: <https://siop-congress.org/submission/>

Among the instructions for these abstracts are:

- Abstracts must be written in English
- Word limit for the title is 25 words
- Word limit for the abstract is 300 words
- Section headings are: Background and aims, Methods, Results, and Conclusions



# TIPS FOR WRITING A SUCCESSFUL ABSTRACT

Here are some tips for each of the sections of the abstract:

**Title:** The title provides the first impression of the abstract and should let the reviewer know what the abstract is about. A well-written title should include 1) the target population, 2) important variables in the study or project, and 3) the context for the study or project

**Background and aims:** This part of the abstract should explain the importance of the problem and the reason for doing the study or project. It should end with a statement explaining the purpose of the study or project such as, “The purpose of this project was to ...” Try to limit this section to about 3 sentences.



**Methods:** This is the most important part of the abstract. This section explains how you carried out your study or project. Use this section to explain the study or project design, the sample and setting, the data that were collected, how the data were collected, and the plan for analyzing the data.

**Results:** This part of the abstract should summarize the completed analyses and emphasize the major results. If the study or project is still in progress, describe the current status of the project and any preliminary analyses that are available.

**Conclusion:** This section should only be 1-2 sentences long. Use this section to provide an overall summary of the importance of the study or project. Briefly describe the implications for practice or future research as a result of the study or project.



Contact us!

- Linda Abramovitz: bmtskier@comcast.net
- Liz Sniderman: liz.sniderman@gmail.com
- Elianeth Kiteni: elianeth.kiteni@gmail.com



<https://siop-online.org/nursing-working-group/>