

SIOP PODC PROS LMIC working group

Report Nov 2019

The SIOP PODC PROS LMIC working group was established in 2016 to co-ordinate Paediatric radiotherapy LMIC goals, and serve as a conduit for activities important to both SIOP PODC and PROS(Paediatric Radiation Oncology Society). Currently there are 46 members of this group registered on Cure4kids, with an executive committee composed of 7 members. This report is focused on activities from January to December 2019.

Strategic plan

At SIOP Kyoto 2018, it was recommended that activities within this group be streamlined and divided, and formalised within a strategic plan for the group. This was presented at SIOP Lyon 2019 by Dr C. Hess.¹ The key focus areas of clinical care, education and research were identified with the following primary aims:

Aim 1: To better understand current needs in networking, education and training by mapping global pediatric radiation oncology practices.

Aim 2: To increase access and quality of radiotherapy for children and adolescents.

Aim 3: To enumerate, engage, and educate a global community of providers of childhood and adolescent radiotherapy;

Aim 4. To create evidence establishing the outcomes of care using adaptive therapy guidelines according to the available drugs, resources, and technology in LMIC countries.

Over the past year, the following projects have worked towards those aims:

PROS LMIC has been involved in the radiotherapy aspects of WHO working groups 2 and 3 looking at procurement of radiotherapy services, as well as capacity and quality of radiotherapy for children in LMIC.

Regarding regional SIOP meetings, we were involved in radiotherapy co-ordination of sessions at both SIOP Africa(Cairo) and SIOP Asia(Abu Dhabi).

We held a very successful LMIC session during PROS Bangkok in June 2019, and a Paediatric contouring workshop was hosted prior to the main conference. A large outreach effort in Bangkok has boosted numbers of our group from SE Asia particularly. A neuro-oncology contouring workshop was also held in Cape Town in August 2019, as part of SNOSSA(Society of neuro-oncology in Sub-Saharan Africa).

We have been involved in several adapted treatment guidelines, with input from several members in the Craniopharyngioma working group and the Intra-cranial Germ cell tumour working group, which is expected to be published in the next ATR supplement of |paediatric blood and cancer(PBC). We have also become involved with the PODC working group Wilms tumour project in Africa , which will include radiotherapy in the updated guideline.

We have begun a research collaboration with MD Anderson to look at artificial intelligence in remote contouring and planning for treatment of Paediatric brain tumours in LMIC.

Going forward in 2020, we have confirmed with PROS, that we will support a Paediatric radiotherapy workshop as part of SIOP Africa in Uganda 2021 and will co-ordinate a symposium as part of PROS SIOP Ottawa 2020.

We have planned involvement in 3 papers going forward: Global radiotherapy service tracking, palliative care RT guideline, and a CNS radiotherapy LMIC guideline.

We would welcome any additional members who are involved with paediatric radiotherapy in LMIC. Membership can be attained by registering on [Cure4kids.org](https://cure4kids.org) and joining the “SIOP PODC Pediatric radiation oncology in low and middle income countries group.”

References

ⁱ The Pediatric Radiation Oncology Society Working Group on Low- and Middle-Income Countries (PROS-LMIC) Strategic Plan to Advance Care, Education, and Research. [C.B.Hess](#)^{1,2}, [J. Parkes](#)³, [B.M. Qureshi](#)⁴, [M. Ghalibafian](#)⁵, [A.N. Abbasi](#)⁶, [Y. Anacak](#)⁷, [S.M. Hiniker](#)⁸, [K.I. Hopkins](#)⁹

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