**Minutes for Third SIOP Africa Business Meeting - 13th October 2017, Wardman Park Hotel, Washington**

**Meeting start time: 1.10pm**

Chair: Lorna Renner

Assisted by: Alan Davidson

Proceedings recorded by: Jeannette Parkes

**1. Previous minutes**:

Correction to New business - “newsletter”.

All pages were then accepted

Corrections to statutes accepted

Acceptance: Proposed by Kenneth Dollman

Seconded by Jennifer Geel

**2. President report by Lorna R:**

* The SIOP Africa President informed the meeting that the Statutes had been submitted to SIOP Executive board.
* Reps from various regions of Africa are as follows and are members of the SIOP Africa executive:

North Africa: Prof Elhamy Rifky

Southern Africa: Jennifer Geel

East Africa: Sara Ibrahim and Dr Diriba Fufa will assist.

Francophone Africa: Mme Alaoui and Laila Hessissen

Parents rep: Kenneth Dollman

Nursing: Glen Mbah

West Africa: Lorna Renner and John Ahenkorah

* Marrakech meeting in April

The Continental President then gave a summary of the last SIOP Africa meeting in Marrakech. There were 318 delegates from 50 countries. The content was relevant for a broad range of centres from LIC through to more advanced settings as pertains in Africa. Eric Bouffet, SIOP President was in attendance. The issue of inadequate scholarships was mentioned.

* Collaborations:

Wilms T collaboration continues with support from SIOP and World Child Cancer. Trijn Israels is lead. GFAOP: this Francophone Africa collaboration continues strongly. There are other twinning programs in Africa.

* Advocacy:

Lorna R and Alan D appointed as reps. Steps taken so far: 1st lady of Ghana has been contacted and Lorna R will follow up to get her to bring advocacy for childhood cancer to forum for first ladies. Ideally advocacy for childhood cancer should be taken to the African union meeting.

Julia Challinor: Ethiopian 1st lady is keen to help and AU meeting is taking place in Ethiopia. She hopes the Ethiopian team will help facilitate this.

**3. New SIOP Africa President-elect:**

Members were informed about the appointment of Laila Hessissen as the new SIOP Africa Continental President-elect. She will take over fully at the SIOP Congress in 2018.

Laila H**:** Introduced herself and stated that she looks forward to following Lorna R’s steps. She informed the meeting that “Together we will be stronger”.

Lorna R and Leila H to work together in the upcoming year till she formally takes over in Kyoto.

**4. SIOP Africa 2019 in Egypt**

Update: Prof Elhamy congratulated Laila H on her election and for a very successful SIOP Africa in Marrakech. He also thanked Lorna R for her achievements as SIOP Africa President.

13th SIOP Africa 2019:

Date is: 6th - 9th March 2019 in Cairo

Weather should be good! There are no other big meetings scheduled around that date. It will be the 2nd Africa continental meeting in Cairo, the last one was held there 23 years ago. The venue is the Nile Ritz-Carlton, a 5\* hotel close to Egyptian museum (**Update is venue will be JW Marriott Hotel**). There are many less expensive hotels in close proximity. It is also near to the Children’s Cancer Hospital, Egypt (CCHE) 57357, where some sessions will take place. CCHE will contribute to organising the meeting. CCHE is one of the biggest children’s cancer hospitals in the world. Everyone present is being encouraged to attend. Faculty will include national and international experts. The meeting will promote young scientists. In addition to the physicians there will be parents and nurses in parallel sessions with oral and poster presentations. Elhamy R extended warm greetings and an invitation to attend. He also suggested that participants should spend time in Egypt after the meeting for tourism

CEO of CCH:

Sherif Abou El Naga, the CEO of CCHE thanked Lorna R for giving him the opportunity to talk. The CCHE has 320 beds for Paediatric Oncology and are expanding it to add another 300 beds. Treats children from the whole region. Patients are not paying for the services there and the hospital relies on donations. The hospital treats many patients from other African countries. They intend attracting good health workers, maintaining high standards and transferring knowledge. The challenge is keeping up with recent trends in medical education. The Egyptian President is very supportive and the hospital also receives a lot of support from the USA. Management is keen on collaborations. Scholarships will be made available.

Lorna R thanked the Egyptian delegation.

**5. Update on POINTE- Jennifer Geel (www. Cancerpointe.com)**

Mission: Increase access to training opportunities for LIC and LMIC countries with those in HIC. Keen also to help with research proposals, writing etc. Most opportunities taken up as mentors have been by N American colleagues. Jennifer G encouraged others from the region who are willing to help as mentors to also contact POINTE.

Jennifer G appealed to the meeting that more people should use POINTE. She asked for ideas on how to spread the word on resources available. Branded pens were handed out. Members were informed that there were over 7000 page views in the last 3 months, but mostly by non-Africans, She emphasized that POINTE exists to serve the community.

**6. SIOP Africa 2021**

Lorna R called for nominations to host SIOP Africa 2021

Carlos Quiero and Gita Naidoo: SACCSG and CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa have nominated SA **Johannesburg**

One bid received by email: **Uganda- Kampala** (Joyce Balagedde-Kambugu) - have support from Uganda Cancer Institute, Ministry of Health and collaborating partners in USA

Joseph (?) Directs Paediatric Oncology program in East Africa. East Africa is going to try to centralise cancer care. Uganda Cancer Institute is a centre of excellence.

Gita N stated that SA hosted a very successful recent international SIOP. Good infrastructure and travel hub. Multi-disciplinary input is readily available. These are strong points for SA hosting the Africa meeting in 2021.

Carlos Q emphasized that organisational infra-structure is available in SA.

Alan D suggested that by rotation, the event should take place in West Africa. No nominations received from West Africa so far. He mentioned that if we then follow rotation, then the next should be in Southern Africa as East Africa hosted in 2014 i.e. just prior to the last meeting in Marrakesh.

It was decided to vote by show of hands on the two nominations.

Vote: Uganda: 26, Johannesburg: 16

Consensus: 26:16 to Uganda

Lawrence Osei-Tutu suggested that the conference is offered to Uganda but if they decline, then Jo’burg should be asked to host it. Otherwise the next meeting in 2023 should go to Jo’burg.

Lorna R stated that SIOP Africa would give Kampala up to October 2018 to confirm finally on their ability to host the meeting, if not then it will be given to Jo’burg. She informed the meeting that SIOP gives only $5000 support to the local hosts.

Glen Mbah suggested that the voting should also be open on web-site but Lorna R said the decision had to be made now. Notice of this had been given in Marrakech and members had been reminded by email of the nomination and decision-making.

Laila H suggested that the final decision is not made but that each team should present a proposal. She also mentioned that there should be criteria for the choice of the venue.

Lorna R stated that the decision is that Kampala has 1st option until October 2018. If unable to take it up, then will go to Jo’burg.

**7. Nutrition workshop (Mariana Kruger)**

Mariana Kruger wanted the meeting to be informed that there will be a nutrition workshop in Stellenbosch, South Africa in April 2018. Further information will be sent out to members.

**8. Traditional Medicine Research**

The principal investigators are Glen M and Stacey Marjerisson. There are few publications from Africa on traditional medicine use. A study is being rolled out. The first three sites in Cameroon will be starting soon. It is hoping to recruit 120 participants. Further information will be made available at nurses/parents session the following day 14th Oct 2017 at SIOP. Anyone interested should approach Stacey or Glenn. A site champion is required and each site will be piloted.

**9. Paediatric Oncology in Developing Countries**

Alan D thanked participants for attending the PODC business meeting. He mentioned that the PODC group was trying to improve quality of work. He informed the meeting that SIOP scholarships were linked to quality of abstracts. Steve Hunger offers support to anyone who requires help with posters/presentations etc.

He noted the challenges researchers face in designing good research. For help upfront, members were informed that PODC had decided that members should approach continental presidents or Alan D or Sara Luna Fineman and they will try to help with planning/protocol/writing.

Improving access to meetings: Visa assistance and accommodation issues will be raised with SIOP executive board. Alan D will ask secretariat to also provide affordable accommodation options on website.

Alan D asked people to speak up if there were any issues.

The strategic plan for PODC will shortly be available: Access, Engagement.

He also stated that numbers are power if we want to make our voices heard. Alan D asked all to join SIOP and he mentioned the good news that membership registration rates for LIC and LMICs are about to drop significantly. All were also encouraged to join SIOP PODC working group on Cure4kids.

**10. AOB**

Lorna R enquired from the meeting if anyone had any other business to bring up.

Prof Elhamy R announced that there are 10 scholarships for training nurses, clinical pharmacists in paediatric oncology, radiation oncologists, managers - fully funded. Members were advised to Contact Egypt cancer network at the exhibition area.

He also made mention of scholarships for Paediatric Oncology training for physicians that includes 24 months at CCHE and 6 months at Dana Farber in Boston lasting 30 months in total.

Uganda: It was mentioned that Uganda has also starting training for paediatric oncologists and scholarships will be available.

**11. Nursing group activities**

Glen M. gave an update on activities of the nursing group in Africa. He thanked the organizers of the Marrakech meeting. The nurses had a good meeting. PODC nursing activities are focusing on specialist nurse opportunities. Quality standards among nurses is a priority. He asked all the nurses to join the PODC nursing group.

**12. Clinical Trials Network**

Farhat Khanem from Birmingham, UK, informed the meeting about a grant application to build capacity for a clinical trials network in some African countries starting with Ghana, Malawi, Cameroon and Tanzania. It is hoped that if this is successful then more African countries would be included.

Proposal for the meeting to come to a close was made by Janet Poole

Seconded by Monica Vaithilingum

Lorna R. thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting.

The meeting ended at 2.15pm.