NEWS FROM SIOP ASIA

In the new year 2019, we have a change of guard on the SIOP Asia committee; best wishes to all from Past President Dr Chi-kong Li and Dr Rashmi Dalvi, for an exciting and enlightening academic year ahead.

The Asian continental meeting was skipped in 2018, as the SIOP 2018 Kyoto Congress, being held in Asia. Congratulations Dr Akira Nakagawara & team and the SIOP Board, for a very successful meeting with a record attendance, one of the highlights being the participation of two Nobel Prize awardees: Prof. Yoshori Ohsumi (Autophagy) and Prof Tasuku Honjo (PD-1, PD-L1)). During the conference a smaller meeting was held on Genetic Predispositions to Childhood cancers in Asia; where presentations were made from various Asian countries with respect to incidence, screening, access to diagnostic facilities, and management in Asia. There was also an opportunity to engage with the Young Investigators Initiative to discuss on expanding to continental activities

The Annual General meeting of SIOP Asia was held on 17th November at Kyoto during the SIOP 2018 congress, over 40 members attending. There was also representation from the SIOP board, Dr S Howard & Dr Eric Bouffet, Mr Benson Pau & colleagues from Childhood Cancer International. Dr Saghir Khan gave an update on the progress of the upcoming SIOP Asia 2019 meeting at Abu Dhabi, UAE. A bid was presented on behalf of the PHO society in India, for Mumbai as the host city for the next SIOP Asia 2020 congress. This was accepted and confirmed by the members present.

SIOP Asia jointly with the ESMO/SIOPE-AYA (Adolescent and Young Adult) conducted an Asian AYA Cancer Care survey in early 2018. The results of this were presented at the ESMO-Asia 2018 meeting in Singapore, at a Symposium and as an oral paper by Dr Chi-kong Li and Dr Rashmi Dalvi. At the same conference, SIOP Asia was represented at a brain-storming session on Rare Cancers Asia led by Dr P G Casali, ESMO.

The SIOP 2019 Abu Dhabi meeting will be held from 4-6th April 2019, preceded by precongress workshops on Research Methodology and Solid tumors. As is usual, the CCI-Asia and Nursing Group will also hold their meetings in parallel sessions at Abu Dhabi. Preparations have also begun for the SIOP Asia 2020 Mumbai meeting to be held from 2-5th April 2020 to be held at Mumbai, India. We look forward to seeing you soon at Abu Dhabi and the next year in Mumbai. As per the endorsed bidding guidelines, members interested in hosting the SIOP 2021 conference are invited to submit a bidding proposal earlier by email to rashmidalvi5@gmail.com by 31st August 2019. They will have the opportunity to make a presentation at the next Annual General meeting (AGM) of SIOP Asia during SIOP 2019 Lyon congress in October 2019. The conference bid will be decided and accepted by members at the AGM.

The International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) instituted through the Childhood Cancer International on February 15th, has been widely celebrated by CCI-Asia member organisations and pediatric oncology centres; bringing hope and encouragement to patients around the world.

SIOP Asia is also engaged with the SIOP-PODC Nutrition group (Drs Ladas, R Barr, A Trehan) in developing a module for nutrition assessment and intervention in LMICs, beginning with India and expanding applicability across other Asian countries

As we all know, a Global initiative in Childhood Cancer has been launched through the WHO in partnership with St Jude Children’s Research Hospital and other partners; with SIOP being one of the important stake-holders. The initial intervention will focus on six diseases that represent 50-60% widely prevalent childhood cancers; viz. ALL, Burkitt lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, retinoblastoma, Wilms tumor and low-grade glioma. Asia which is home to a large proportion of afflicted children from LMICs will likely be a significant beneficiary.

Dr Maya Prasad, India, continues as Editor of the SIOP-Asia Newsletter, the spring issue of which will soon be uploaded

Looking forward to your participation in SIOP Asia activities

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