

Greetings from SIOP's Continental Division of Asia !

Since our last communication, we have been to another highly successful SIOP 2019 meeting at Lyon, again breaking all records of attendance! Asia was well represented in attendance and presentations. The Annual General business meeting was held on the 24th October 2019 at Lyon, being presided by myself and Dr Chi Kong Li. Bids were presented for the SIOP Asia 2021 meeting, member representatives from Yerevan, Armenia and Guangzhou, China. Plans were discussed to expand a working committee for the continent with regional Asian representatives as well as working groups in focused areas. Earlier at Lyon, a smaller meeting was held by the steering committee of the Asian Pediatric Hematology Oncology group to develop and fund collaborative projects across Asia. Dr Akira Nakagawara & Dr Godfrey Chan presented plans for the same.

This year our SIOP Asia colleague, Dr M Saghir Khan from Abu Dhabi, has taken up position as Co-Chair for SIOP-PODC. The SIOP Asia 2021 bid was put to an online voting process, and the team from Guangzhou represented by Dr Y Zhang won the bid. Congratulations to them as we look forward to a vibrant meeting in that region.

SIOP Asia as a stakeholder was invited to participate at the Rare Cancers ESMO-Asia meeting at Singapore in November 2019; any members interested in participating may please write to us. Their present focus is on registry building and nasopharyngeal carcinoma. The WHO-SIOP-St Jude Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC) held a workshop in the Philippines and earlier on at Myanmar. We hope other Asian countries in need will also become focus countries for the same to make access to cancer care available to all and improve survival to 60%. World Cancer Day February 4th, and the International Childhood Cancer day, February 15th, were celebrated across Asia advocating our cause.

The year has begun on a concerning note, with the challenge of the novel coronavirus; we express solidarity with colleagues in affected nations and hope for the best. Even as we prepare this for the press, COVID 19 has turned into a pandemic, challenging nations across socioeconomic strata and bringing new and serious concerns to the pediatric oncology fraternity and the children they care for.

Hectic preparations that were underway for SIOP Asia 2020 at Mumbai, in March this year, have been paused. In view of the viral pandemic and restrictions on global mobility, we have rescheduled the conference; it will be transplanted 'as is' to 4-6th September 2020. Do join in. An exciting scientific and social program awaits the 400+ attendees, with over 200 abstracts up for presentation and deliberation. Practical and useful preconference workshops are planned on 3rd September. The Lancet Oncology Commission will be discussing and releasing its document on Sustainable Care for Children with Cancer during the Presidential Symposium; however, given its importance and the current situation, the publication is already available [online](#).

The 1st Asian Multi-stakeholders WHO-GICC Workshop will take place on the 3rd September. Members are invited to visit the conference website at www.siopasia2020.com. Do pack your running gear; there will also be a Childhood Cancer Champions Run to be flagged off by an Indian Sports legend. Do catch us on Twitter [@SiopAsia2020](#)!

Likewise, a Special issue of the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Journal, “The Asian Age of Collaborations in Pediatric Oncology: A Call for Action” was planned for release during SIOP Asia 2020. While we wait for the September meeting, it will be released in two parts. Do read Hany Ariffin’s editorial and the Part 1 issue [here](#).

On a practical note, we hope the situation eases in the near future and we can safely convene in September as per plan.

May you and yours, stay safe during these difficult times, as we all redefine a new normal. Wish you all an academically different, but fruitful year ahead through 2020.

Dr Rashmi Dalvi
Continental President SIOP Asia (2018-2021)