

# SIOP-ASIA NEWS



**Vol.4 No.3**      **“Childhood Cancer is Curable”, Let's build on our past**      **Feb 2006**

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## From the Editor

Asia is a huge continent with the largest population in the world. In the last issue, there was introduction of pediatric oncology development in south China and Malaysia. There are many smaller countries in Asia that we heard about their names but with little knowledge about the medical system. Most parts of Asia are developing rapidly at variable speed. However the pediatricians working in those smaller countries also try their best to improve the service to cancer children. The level of service may not be up to standard of the resource rich countries, the dedication of the pediatric oncologists is just the same as all over the world. In this issue, we will have report from Nepal and Jordan about the development of pediatric oncology in these two countries. Nepal is famous for her picturesque mountains and attracts a lot of tourists every year. There is no exception that cancer happens in children living in this very high altitude. We will be interested to know how the cancer treatment is delivered in Nepal. On the far western part of Asia, Jordan is among one of the many Arabic countries in middle-east. News from middle-east is always covered by conflicts and instability. The development of cancer center for children in Jordan is encouraging and children from Jordan and nearby countries benefit from the multidisciplinary service provided within one center.

The 35th annual Meeting of International Pediatric Oncology Society was held on September 21-24, 2005 at Vancouver, Canada. The SIOP newsletter has already covered some of the important events happening in the meeting. In this issue, we bring some pictures of the Asia SIOP General Meeting and some of our members. The 4th SIOP-Asia Congress will be held in Shanghai April this year. For those who have not registered, they may still make the registration now or on-site. Don't miss this congress as there will be a number of eminent speakers presenting the recent progress in childhood cancer.

## How to retrieve the past issues of Newsletter of SIOP-Asia

Have you visited the website of international SIOP? The SIOP-Asia newsletters are now uploaded onto the SIOP website ([www.siop.nl](http://www.siop.nl)). Please go the home page and click on Continents, and then enter Asia, you will then find the past issues of newsletter. If you like some of the pictures, you may download to your computer!

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# Message from the President

**Prof. Yao-ping Wang, 18 Jan 2006**

President of the SIOP-Asia

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Dear all SIOP-Asia members and friends:

On the eve of the Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, on behalf of all the SIOP-Asia Board members, let us express our warm seasonal greeting to you all. The year of 2005 was the year of great turbulences, such as tsunami, Earthquake and terrorism. Lots of people lost their property, lives or got severe injured. But with the great collaboration and efforts made by the people and their government in different countries, we have overcome these great difficulties; peace still is the predominant factor. So the great challenges facing us are how to try our best to help the children with cancer especially those in the developing countries, and make early diagnosis and appropriate treatment to improve the quality of life and the cure rate. In order to achieve these targets, different measures could be taken. One of them is to hold the international experts meeting to promote the exchange of their experience and views as well as the friendship in different countries. This is the right objective of the our SIOP-Asia 2006 Shanghai meeting as this is the first time for SIOP and SIOP-Asia to hold this meeting in Shanghai, China since it has been established in early 1960's in Europe. We do wish every SIOP-Asia members try your best and raise suggestions to make this meeting crowned with success. Shanghai is one of metropolitan in China mixed with the characteristic of the oriental and western culture and lots of beautiful sightseeing places. The weather in April will be fine with the temperature between 20 and 24 degree of centigrade. Besides we have 3 big children's hospitals with lots of well-known experts in different fields and sophisticated equipments. So you will meet not only the well-known professors from western countries and Japan, but also those from India, China, South Korea; listening to their lectures on recent advances in the treatment of childhood cancer and exchanging experience and views with them. So this meeting not only provides you the good chance to see what happened in China today, but also a good chance to learn from each other. Through this meeting it will promote the development in the fight against childhood cancer in your home country, please mark your calendar and make final decision to join our meeting. We are looking forward to meeting you in Shanghai soon!

Wish the best wishes.

# Did you miss the 37th SIOP Congress held in Vancouver in September 2005?

With the wonderful weather and comfortable congress hall in Vancouver, those who attended the congress will certainly keep the magnificent memories of the week. Some colleagues could not attend the meeting, let's share the beautiful pictures including members of SIOP Asia.

*Prof. T Eden (President of SIOP) was addressing the SIOP-Asia members, and Prof. Wang Yao-ping (President of SIOP-Asia) and Dr. B Agarwal (SIOP Secretary General) sitting on the stage.*



*How many Board members of SIO-Asia you know?  
Make a guest. (4 from India, 2 from China, one from Japan and one from Korea)*



*Some members are listening to the President's report during the General Meeting of SIOP-Asia in Vancouver.*



*The Congress Hall was just situated next to the cruise terminal.*



*The beautiful garden in Vancouver.*

# Paediatric Oncology in Kanti Children's Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal - challenges ahead

**Dr Kailash Pd. sah**

Consultant paediatric oncologist, Kanti Childrens Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Kanti Children's Hospital [KCH] is the only multidisciplinary paediatric hospital in the Kingdom which had started offering its services in the field of oncology since more than two decades. At its inception, the service was offered through a few beds in the medical ward but with the passage of time and increasing magnitude of childhood cancer through the Kingdom, the need for separate oncology unit was felt and hence was established in the year 2054 B.S. [1997 A.D.] with 8 beds. After its establishment as the separate unit in KCH we have been providing the treatment to the wider range of childhood cancers from different parts of the country. The treatment pattern includes providing chemotherapy which is one of the most commonly used therapeutic modes, other being radiotherapy and bone marrow transplantation.

## Patient load

From 2054 B.S. so far we have come across 323 cases who were diagnosed or suspected as cancer by the referring institute or the practitioner. The year-wise and type-wise distribution of the patients are as shown below:

Year	No. of cases	Percentage
2054[1997]	20	6.19
2055[1998]	23	7.12
2056[1999]	49	15.17
2057[2000]	8	2.47
2058[2001]	14	4.33
2059[2002]	47	14.55
2060[2003]	68	21.05
2061[2004]	94	29.10
Total	323	100

**Table 1: year-wise distribution of the patients**

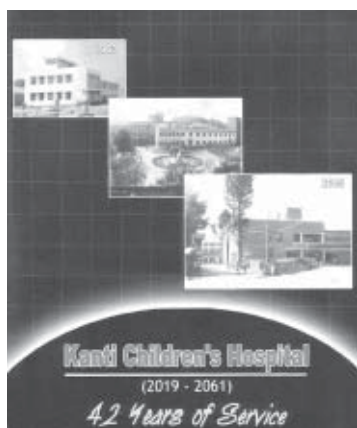
S.N.	Diseas	No. of Paitent	Percentage
1	All	129	39.93
2	Wilms	36	11.14
3	NHL	32	9.9
4	Retinoblastoma	26	8.04
5	AML	25	7.73
6	Hodgkin's sdiseas	22	6.81
7	Teratoma	19	5.88
8	Rhabdomyosarcoma	16	4.95
9	Neuroblastoma	9	2.78
10	CML	6	1.85
11	Histiocytosis	3	0.92
Total	323	100	

**Table 2 : Distribution of the patient according to the type.**

ALL : Acute Lymphoblastic Lymphoma  
AML : Acute Myeloblastic Lymphoma  
CML : Chronic Myeloblastic Lymphoma  
NHL : Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma



*The changes of the hospital  
over past 4 decades.*



## Outcome

In our experience in KCH, despite our limitation, we have an encouraging result with us. Among different types of childhood cancers, Wilms' tumour has higher cure rate in our hospital ranging 50 to 70 %, followed by ALL of almost 30 to 40% and the rest of the 25 to 30% are lost to follow -up.

As has been mentioned earlier, our services include providing chemotherapy which is based on the recent standard protocols from England and India with some individualized modifications depending upon the socioeconomic status of the patient, availability of the medicine in the market & compliance from the patients and family members. Despite being able to provide the treatment to the children suffering from different types of childhood cancers for more than two decades, we must accept the fact that our oncology unit is still having its services being supported by different medical institutes and hospitals like Bharatpur Cancer Hospital, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital [TUTH], Bir Hospital, Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital, some other private hospitals and a palliative care center in the private sector.



*The oncology team.*

Accompanied by their pain and grief in the long and arduous journey with the cancer, the children and their family members remain attached to the hospital for a longer period, which has a direct impact on their expenditure. Considering this fact, in association with costly medicine, poor socioeconomic status and psychological burden to the patient and family members, a fund has been raised with the help from some national and international donors and agencies to support the service of the unit. Carmell Dersch, from Liverpool (U.K) first initiated the concept of raising fund in oncology, which is still continued with the help of international medical students, coming for their elective course in KCH. Hashimoto fund in the hospital is another support for the unit.

We are facing the problem of lack of adequate number of trained manpower such as doctors, nurses, pathologist, radiotherapists and palliative caretakers. There is also frequent shortage of medicine in the market. Unavailability of CT scan, proper laboratory facilities, radiotherapy unit and bone marrow transplant facilities in KCH are some of the main problems which have direct negative impact



*The happy occasion in the hospital for Nepal cancer children.*

on our service. From the side of the patients, not having proper follow-up is the main culprit for poor outcome. Despite the limitation of proper infrastructure and financial burden, our goal for offering the services to the needy children and their parents is still intact and no doubt will remain intact in the days to come. But with the increasing public awareness of the gravity of disease and possibility of cure, the number of cases we are getting is increasing gradually almost at the rate of 5 cases each month.

### **The resources for management of childhood cancer in Nepal are summarized as below:**

1. Availability of children cancer unit - 3 in country.
2. Availability of full time staffs:
 

Paediatric oncologist	- 1(one)
Paediatric oncologist	- 1(one)
Radiation oncologist	- 7
Oncology nurse	- 1-5.
3. Number of new cases per year:100-150.  
New patient received treatment: 75 %
4. Medical expenses -
 

Self	- 75 %
Government	- 25 %
5. Cost for 3 years treatment for ALL - US \$6000- 7000
6. Availability of fund raising organization. - Yes

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# Pediatric Oncology in Jordan

Ibrahim Qaddoumi, MD, MS

King Hussein Cancer Center,

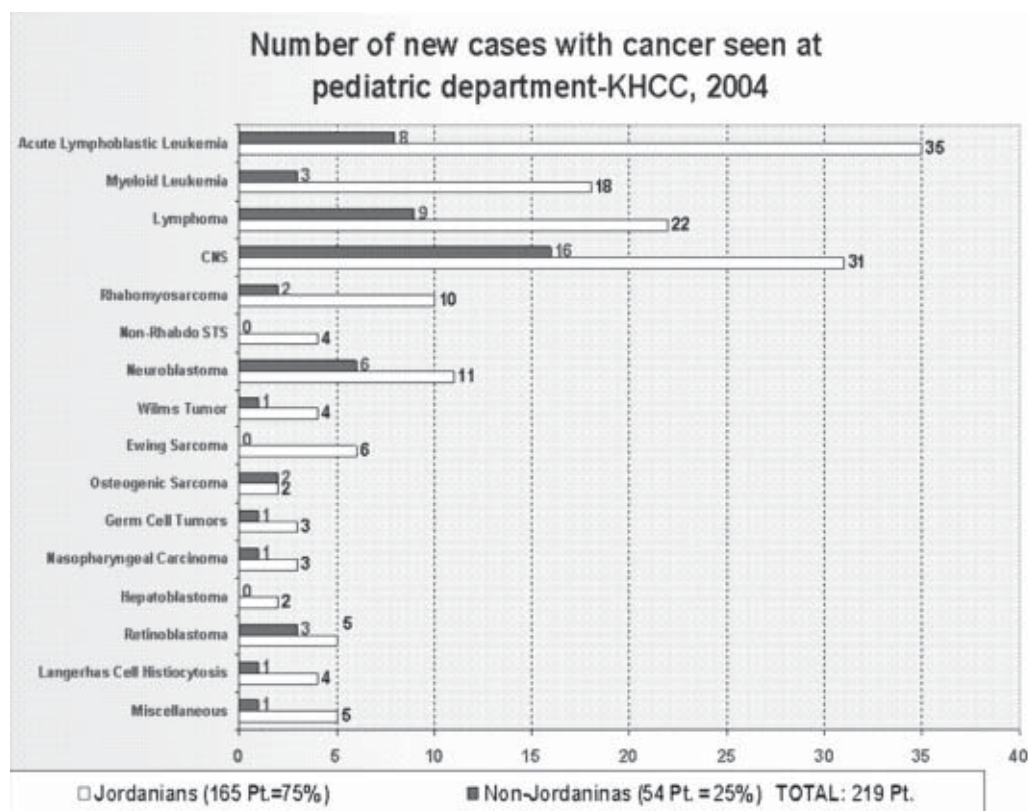
Head, Pediatric Neuro-oncology, and Head, Pediatric Ocular-oncology.

Greetings from Jordan, and best wishes for a peaceful and productive new year. Pediatric oncology in Jordan witnessed two major endorsements in the recent years. The first being the establishment of the King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) in 2002, followed by the creation of the Jordanian Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology (JSPO) in 2005.



*Aerial view of KHCC.*

The establishment of **KHCC** introduced new concepts in the management of pediatric oncology in Jordan. At KHCC we now have one of the largest groups of pediatric oncologists in the region under one center. Team approach and holistic care are the standard at KHCC. Multidisciplinary clinics, pain clinic, after treatment clinic, and hospice care are all available now for pediatric patients at KHCC. State of the art Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is crucial for any cancer center, and this is one of the cornerstones at KHCC. Sub specializing is another major notion introduced at KHCC (table 1). This concept is important to create leaders in different fields, and promote research. Twinning and telemedicine





*The busy Oncology Ward in KHCC.*



*Play room with the lovely children.*



*Summer camp, joyful children and parents*

are also novel concepts that have been initiated at KHCC from the start. Such concepts had a major impact on the advancement of the pediatric oncology field. Now KHCC is actively supported by different international institutions in different fields. Some of these institutions include: National Cancer Institute USA, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital USA, and Hospital for Sick Children Canada. Please visit [www.khcc.jo](http://www.khcc.jo) for more information regarding KHCC.

The founding of **JSPO** marked a new era in the pediatric oncology in Jordan. This started with the first regional congress of cancer and blood disease of childhood. The conference was a major success and will be a regular event in the region (the upcoming conference in 2007). The JSPO will promote the pediatric oncology field further through conferences, support groups, and patients' advocacy. Please visit [www.jspo.org](http://www.jspo.org) for more information about JSPO.

### **Specialists providing service at KHCC:**

Faris Madanat (Leukemia), Mahmoud Sarhan (BMT and pediatric Infectious Disease), Maha Arnaout (Pain, Palliative, after treatment care, and Cancer communication), Taleb Ismael (Solid Tumor and limb salvage), Mohammad Jarrar (Lymphoma and BMT), Rawad Rihani (Leukemia, BMT and benign hematology), Iyad Sultan (Solid tumor and benign hematology),

Ibrahim Qaddoumi	Neuro-oncology, ocular-oncology, and telemedicine
Nisreen Faqih	Pediatric Intensivist
Yosef Al-Yamani	Pediatric Intensivist
Khlaeel Ghandour	Pediatric Surgery
Maha Barber	Pediatric GI
Muatasem Abu-Erriesh	Pediatric ID
Awni Musharbash	Pediatric neurosurgeon
Khalid Salaymeh	Pediatric Cardiology
Radi Hamid	Pediatric Nephrologist
Abdel-Kareem Al-Qudah	Pediatric neurologist
Ihsan Al-Jundi	Pediatric Pulmonologist
Ibrahim Nawaiseh	Retinal Surgeon
Mustafa Mehyar	Pediatric Ophthalmologist
Falah Harfoushi	Orthopedic surgeon



# The 5th Chinese Society of Pediatric Oncology Congress

The International Pediatric Oncology Conference and 5<sup>th</sup> Chinese Society of Pediatric Oncology Congress was held on September 8-10, 2005, at Tianjin, China. More than 100 doctors from different parts of China attended the Congress. Other than local delegates, there were also a number of eminent international experts delivering talks on the following subjects:

Other than the keynote lectures, there were also a number of high quality papers presented in the meeting. The papers included basic research, clinical studies from single center to multicenter collaboration.



*Other than the keynote lectures delivered in the lecture hall, there were also small group presentation and discussion on various topics. This was one of the discussion on leukemia attended by Dr. Margaret Mano..*



*The Lecture Hall were filled up with overseas speakers and local delegates: 2<sup>nd</sup> row from left Dr. W Newton, YP Wang, and the invited overseas speakers.*



*Opening Ceremony attended by the Prof. YP Wang (right 1<sup>st</sup>), and the two Chinese pioneer pediatric doctors in oncology: Prof. Hu Ya-Mei (leukemia treatment) (Right 2<sup>nd</sup>), and Prof. Zhang Jin-jie (surgeon) (left 3<sup>rd</sup>) of Beijing Children's Hospital. Both the pioneers were over age of 80s now.*



*This is a group of doctors including medical oncologists and surgeons from Guangdong Province. The two exceptions are Prof. YP Wang (left front 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Dr. CK Li (left back 1<sup>st</sup>) and Prof. Zhang GZ (Chairman of local organizing committee, left back 2<sup>nd</sup>).*

# Pediatric Oncology Training Course in West China

The booming economy in China has brought great improvement in the medical care for children cancer in more developed parts of China. However the less developed regions are still lagging behind in the care, both the structural setting of oncology wards, and also the expertise in the field. The Shanghai Children Medical Center of the Shanghai Xin Huh Hospital and the Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong have jointly organized a pediatric oncology training workshop at the western part of China, Kunming of Yunnan Province. The objective of the workshop is to train up doctors in the less developed region in the management of children cancer. Thirty-five doctors from Kunming and nearby provinces attend the 5-day course. The course concentrated more on the practical management of childhood cancer. The feedback from the participants was very positive. Similar courses will be organized in the western

part of China at different cities every year. The Kunming workshop was sponsored by the Children's Cancer Foundation (Hong Kong). All the participants were waived of the course fee and also accommodation charges.



*Prof. Yang Jing-yin gave the lecture.*



*The other lectures at Kunming Children's Hospital.  
From left: Drs. CK Li, YP Wang, KW Chik.*



*Play area in the out-patient area  
of Kunming Children's Hospital.*

# Scientific Programme of the 4th Congress of SIOP-Asia April 6-8, 2006, Shanghai

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## **April 6, 2006.**

1. Improved Treatment Result of Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Pui CH, Memphis, USA.
2. Clinical Trials for Childhood Acute Myeloid Leukemia at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Ribeiro RC, Memphis, USA.
3. Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. Handgretinger R, Turbingen, Germany.
4. Genomic Profiling of Pediatric Brain Tumor, Lau CC, Houston, USA,
5. Management of Neuroblastoma. Kanedo M, Tsukuba, Japan.
6. Progress in the management of Wilms Tumor. Green DM, Buffalo, USA.  
Best paper presentation (4)  
Free paper presentation. (8)

## **April 7, 2006.**

1. Research and Treatment of Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Veerman AJ, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
2. Research and Treatment of childhood leukemia in China. Gu LJ, Shanghai, China.
3. Treatment of Childhood ALL: BFM experience. Schrappe M, Keil, Germany.
4. Management of Lymphoma. Margrath I, Belgium.  
Difficult cases presentation. (India, Beijing, Hong Kong)  
Free paper presentation (13)

## **April 8, 2006.**

- Limb Salvage Surgery - Modern Concepts and Techniques. Rao BN, Memphis, USA.  
Round Table Discussion on Multidisciplinary Team Work.  
Free paper presentation.

# Coming Pediatric Oncology Conferences

## 1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of SIOP-Asia and the 6<sup>th</sup> Chinese Society of Pediatric Oncology Congress

Date: April 6-8, 2006

Venue: Shanghai, China

Website: [www.siop-asia2006.cn](http://www.siop-asia2006.cn)

Contact: [siop\\_asia\\_2006@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:siop_asia_2006@yahoo.com.cn)

The programme and registration details are available in the website. Please visit the web.



*Putong in Shanghai*



*The Everbright Congress Center*

## 2. 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium on Childhood Leukemia

Date: April 30 - May 2, 2006.

Venue: Noordwijkerhout, The Nederland.

Contact: [info@congresscare.com](mailto:info@congresscare.com)

Website: [www.congresscare.com](http://www.congresscare.com)

## 3. "International Conference on Childhood Cancer"

Date: October 29-31, 2006.

Venue: Tehran, Iran

Contact: Dr. AA. H. Pour Feizi, Head of Department of Haematology/Oncology, Tabriz Children's Hospital, Tabriz Medical Sciences University.

Email: [hpourfeizi@tbzmed.ac.ir](mailto:hpourfeizi@tbzmed.ac.ir)

## 4. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual SIOP Meeting

Date: 30 October - 3 November 2007

Venue: Mumbai, India

Contact: Dr. Bharat R Agarwal, Chairman, Local Organizing Committee, PHO Chapter of Indian Academy of Pediatrics.

Website: [www.siop2007.in](http://www.siop2007.in)

e-mail: [siop2007@variance.com](mailto:siop2007@variance.com), or [parulbharat@vsnl.com](mailto:parulbharat@vsnl.com)

## 5. 5<sup>th</sup> SIOP-Asia Conference

Date: 2008

Venue: Al-khod, Sultanate of Oman

Contact: Prof. Zakia Al Lamki, or Prof. Mathew Zachariah

e-mail: [zakiya@squ.edu.om](mailto:zakiya@squ.edu.om), [mathewz@omantel.net.om](mailto:mathewz@omantel.net.om)

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