



SIOP-ASIA NEWS

"Childhood Cancer is Curable", Let's build on our past

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Cover Page Image

The cover image is a painting drawn by a young Cancer Patient named “Shobhit”

The painting is the essence of Shobhit’s experience while battling cancer



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Executive of SIOp ASIA

Continental President: **Dr Chi-Kong Li**

Immediate Past President : **Dr Akira Nakagawara**

Newsletter Editors: **Dr Brijesh Arora, Dr Maya Prasad**

From The Editor's Desk



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It gives us great pleasure to bring another edition of the SIOP Asia Newsletter, albeit after a hiatus of a few years. Through this newsletter, we attempt to update you on the activities of SIOP Asia over the past few months.

The month of September is celebrated worldwide as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. We are fortunate that awareness regarding cancer, including those in children, has been increasing world-over. This newsletter reports a few good examples of events which promote awareness regarding various phases of childhood cancer, such as International Childhood Cancer Day events held at UAE and Japan, and a Childhood Cancer International (CCI) meeting held in conjunction with the SIOP Asia meeting. Even so, having a specific month earmarked for this purpose lends impetus to our cause, and helps involve the general community in fundraising events for various aspects of childhood cancer treatment as well as patient/ cancer survivor advocacy.

The month of October sees a change in leadership of SIOP Asia, with Dr Akira Nakagawara stepping down as Continental President after an illustrious and highly successful term of 5 years from 2010 onwards. We are fortunate to have Dr. Chi-Kong Li as our new Continental president starting this year. In this newsletter, Dr Akira has given us an excellent overview of SIOP Asia activities during his term in office, and Dr Chi-Kong Li has painted his vision for the future of SIOP Asia.

This newsletter also contains a report on the magnificent 9th SIOP Asia meeting which was held at Amman, Jordan in April 2015. This highly successful meeting saw the participation of over 400 delegates from 26 countries. Apart from the main conference, there were also a pre-conference SIOP-PODC Nutrition Workshop, a Pediatric Oncology Nursing Conference and CCI meeting.

We hope to continue bringing out future newsletters with contributions from members all over Asia in order to make the newsletter more interactive and interesting. We would especially request reports and/or pictures of National Conferences and events connected to Paediatric Oncology which were held anywhere in Asia. We would also be glad to accept contributions of art and writing from exceptionally talented youngsters- patients and survivors.

The 47th Annual SIOP meeting is just around the corner. Hoping to catch up at Capetown, especially at the Annual Business Meeting on 11 October 2015 (Sunday) at the Small Meeting Room 2, starting from 2:00pm. Importantly, do not forget to block your dates for SIOP Asia 2016 to be held at Moscow from 25th to 28th May 2016.

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING CONTINENTAL PRESIDENT



Five Years Summary Report from the Continental President of Asia, SIOP

Akira Nakagawara, MD, PhD

Continental President of Asia, SIOP
(2011~2015)

First of all, I would like to say “thank all of you for your great support for the SIOP Asia” during my continental presidency from October 2010 to October 2015. For the last 5 years, the world has largely changed and the policy of the SIOP Board has also changed in large parts. Now I am stepping down and Dr. Chi-Kong Li in Hong Kong becomes a new continental president of Asia for coming 3 years, starting from October 2015. Chi-Kong is a wonderful pediatric oncologist with a strong leadership especially in the field of childhood leukemia study in Asia.

Status of Asia

Asia is a huge continent comprising of very heterogeneous regions spanning from high- to very low-resources countries. In the high resources countries in Asia like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Jordan, the cure rate of childhood cancers is relatively high with still poor system for the long term follow-up of the survivor. In those countries, improvement of the clinical study system is ongoing. In the middle resources countries like Thailand, China, India, the cure rate of pediatric cancers is gradually increasing. However, it is largely different among the countries. The socio-economical conditions within the country strongly affect the results. The infrastructure of diagnostic and therapeutic systems as well as tissue bank is not enough in those countries. Unfortunately, in the low-resources countries like Laos and Cambodia, there is a large lack of infrastructure for diagnosis and treatment. Many patients are dying without receiving any diagnostic nor proper therapeutic services or even with abandonment of therapy. The number of hospital for treatment of childhood cancer is deficient. More seriously, the medical staffs including physician and nurses trained for

pediatric oncology are largely lacked, rather absent. There is also urgent need to retain trained staff staying in their home countries.

Annual SIOP Asia Congress

The SIOP Asia Congress had previously been held bi-annually until 2012. However, it was changed to the annual meeting since 2012 because many Asian countries wanted to hold it in their own country [2010 (Feb) in Iran; 2012 (Apr) in Indonesia; 2014 (Apr) in Seoul, Korea; 2015 (Apr) in Amman, Jordan; 2016 (May) in Moscow, Russia; 2017 (Apr) in Bangkok, Thailand]. The reason was that many domestic pediatric oncologists in middle- or low-resources countries could not attend the main SIOP meeting because of too much expense for them to do. For example, in the meeting held in Seoul in 2014, more than 300 people attended from 22 countries that included about 80% of the domestic participants, among whom only small number attends the main SIOP meeting. In SIOP Asia congress held in Amman in April 2015, the similar thing happened; the number of the domestic participants was nearly 200, among whom very few people usually attend the main SIOP meeting mainly because of the cost. Therefore, holding the annual continental

meeting as a branched meeting of SIOP appears to be successful and make a good bridge to the main SIOP. In addition, there is no doubt that the scientific levels of SIOP Asia congress are getting higher year by year. The total number of participants to the main SIOP meeting from Asia has never decreased after changing the meeting annually. In Amman, the presence of HRH Princess Ghadi Talal and HRH Princess Dina Mired, whose son suffers from cancer, in the meeting very much encouraged us.

The activity of CCI (previously abbreviated as ICCPO) has also been exciting and wonderful by getting more and more support from the survivors, parents and supporters. In the SIOP Asia meeting in Amman, the Asian leaders of CCI had a wonderful joint meeting. Mr. Benson Pau reported that it surfaced key challenges related to rights of children/adolescents with cancer and their families, implementation of pediatric palliative care and pain management across health facilities in various countries as well as best practices and good practice models on networking and alliance building, care and support of children/adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families, and that the active interaction among survivors of 6 Asian countries (i.e. Brunei, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, Korea and Lebanon) was a seed for forming the Asia survivor network. The CCI Asia Conference is to be held annually as a joint meeting with the SIOP Asia Congress; the next will be in Moscow in May 2016.

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)

The celebration of ICCD on February 15th has become a regular annual event in many Asian countries (South Korea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Nepal, India, Russia, Japan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Dubai, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, etc.) for the last four years, with making a translated message from the main SIOP office,

some cards with wonderful words, having red ballooning in the garden or streets, walking together, and discussing with the survivors and families, which were often press released. In February 2015, there were many such events in many Asian countries including Japan which had a collaborative events with CCAJ (Children's Cancer Association of Japan) and SIOP Asia for celebrating ICCD. More than 20,000 cards with the posters warning early detection and T-shirts were distributed all over Japan.

Exchange of Information

The home page (HP) of SIOP Asia was made in 2013, however, it has not worked so well mainly because of the lack of money and manpower. Nevertheless, in the SIOP Asia general assembly meeting in Amman, we decided to re-activate it together with the newsletter. The articles are currently being collected. The HP will be linked to that of main SIOP website.

Asian Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Group (APHOG)

APHOG was founded in April, 2012, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, during the SIOP Asia 2012 congress. The by-laws of APHOG were made in 2013 at the Tokyo meeting. Because of lack of money and manpower, we have been struggling to establish the structure of APHOG for the last few years. Nevertheless, the process is gradually going on. At the SIOP Asia 2015 meeting in Amman, we discussed about many issues on what we are going to do, how to do it, who should be getting involved, and when to do now. We also discussed about confirmation of steering committee members and update of membership. We will have further discussion in Cape Town

Future direction suggested

1. The venue of the main SIOP meeting could be fixed at the proper cities in the world. The continental SIOP meeting may help it as a branched meeting of main SIOP to transfer the mission of the SIOP into the regional people.
2. The collaborative relationship between the academic society of pediatric oncology and the clinical study groups is very important. APHOG could be a good partner for the SIOP Asia in the future.
3. The intimate collaboration between SIOP Asia and CCI Asia is very important because the activity of CCI Asia directly affects the survivors and parents and supporters. This may strongly encourage the activity that makes childhood cancer as a “global health agenda”
4. As the main SIOP systems such as a homepage have recently improved very much, the SIOP Asia can utilize it by linkage.
5. The more collaboration between SIOP Asia and the domestic society of pediatric hematology and oncology in each country in Asia is recommended.



Laos Visit 2014



Members at SIOP 2014 Board Meeting



APHOG Meeting at Tokyo 2013



International Childhood Cancer Day Celebrations held at Japan , 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT



SIOP Asia: from the Continental President 2015-2018

Dr. Chi-kong LI

MBBS, MD, FRCPCH, FHKAM (Paediatrics)
Chief, Division of Haematology/Oncology/BMT
Consultant, Department of Paediatrics,
Coordinator of Clinical Service, Prince of Wales Hospital,
Honorary Clinical Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

SIOP is the largest international professional society solely concentrates on childhood cancer. SIOP is dedicated to increasing knowledge about all aspects of childhood cancer and aims at improving and optimising treatments throughout the world. The membership of SIOP spreads all over the world. Asia has the largest paediatric population in the world and also the largest volume of cancer cases in children. However the number of SIOP membership is still small, India has the largest membership of 46, followed by Japan of 45. There are many Asian countries not having a single member. The development of Asian countries varies a lot, from the low-income developing countries to the high-income developed countries. We observe rapid development in some of the Asian countries in the recent decades, however the medical service for childhood cancer may not catch up.

As advocates for childhood cancer, clinicians have the obligation to improve the access to care, education and research for these children. Asian SIOP should continue the role of supporting colleagues in the continent, especially the younger colleagues, enhancing the management for cancer children. The SIOP Asia Conference is an avenue to educate our colleagues in the region with the most recent development in the field. We have now increased the frequency of the annual conference from biennial event to annual

conference. Last year, the conference was held in Seoul and this year at Amman, Moscow will be the host for 2016 followed by Bangkok in 2017. The number of attendance in each conference is usually in the range of few hundreds, and mostly coming from the host country or nearby countries. This is a very good opportunity for doctors, nurses and allied health workers in these countries to attend a regional conference of high scientific level for paediatric cancer. In the recent years, the parent and patient organization (previously known as ICCPO, now Childhood Cancer International, CCI) also collaborated with local organizers to set up parallel meeting for parents and patients. With the joint effort from all stakeholders, we foresee the further improvement in treatment standard and thus the better cure rate.

Some Asian countries are just at the budding stage in setting up the cancer service for children. Asian SIOP will help to build up a platform for exchange of experience among colleagues in Asian countries, this may be more effective as we share similar culture or have gone through similar pathway of development. As the membership in Asian countries is still small, we may extend this platform to colleagues who are not yet SIOP members but already working in the field. In most countries, there are some professional societies or special centres set up to deal with childhood cancers. We hope to build up a network of clinical staff working in

the field of paediatric oncology, more advanced centres may help the less developed centres from sharing protocols to special diagnostic tests. Training of staff is of great importance and twinning of centres will facilitate training. Improvement of the medical standard in a country requires the advancement of the health system. We may also learn from other colleagues how to influence the local government and have better understanding the importance of investing resources in the health care system for childhood cancer. The collaboration with parent organizations and other non-government organisations may fasten the health care reform. Research in paediatric oncology in Asia is lag behind the western countries. Collaborative studies should be encouraged and the establishment of Asian Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Group may facilitate the development.

We would like to keep close communication with members in the Asia. The Newsletter at the revised SIOP Website will facilitate the sharing of experience and knowledge among Asian colleagues. I must thank Dr. Brijesh Arora and Dr. Maya Prasad of Mumbai, India agreeing to be editors for the Newsletter of Asia SIOP. Lastly I must thank Dr. Akira Nakagawara for his leadership in the past few years.

Please join the SIOP Conference in Cape Town this October and attend the Annual Business Meeting on 11 October 2015 (Sunday) at the Small Meeting Room 2, starting from 2:00pm.

Let's us join together to achieve the SIOP's vision that no child should die of cancer.



SIOP Asia 2014 held at Korea

SIOP ASIA Conference 2015 - Meeting Report



9th SIOP Asia Congress - April 25-27, 2015
Le Royal Hotel
Amman, Jordan

Faris Madanat, M.D.

Professor, Pediatrics Hematology Oncology
Head, Leukemia Services, Chief Academic Officer
King Hussein Cancer Center
Amman Jordan

SIOP Asia 2015 was held in Amman, Jordan, from April 25 to 27.

Over three days, lectures on recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of childhood cancer, applied genomics, and late effects and survivorship were delivered by experts from Asia, north America, and Europe. Two panels dealt with obstacles to collaborative research in Asia and improving access to cancer care for children in Asia. Forty lectures and free papers, and 42 posters addressing all areas of cancer care were presented. 165 delegates registered for the meeting from 26 countries.

On Friday April 24, a pre congress work shop was held organized jointly by the PODC committee on nutrition and the nutrition department at KHCC; 152 registered for that workshop.

On Sunday April 26, the nurses held their meeting; 90 nurses participated. The nurses' program covered recent advances in pediatric oncology nursing care.

Over all, more than 400 delegates participated in the 9th SIOP Asia congress and its various scientific activities.

In conjunction with SIOP Asia meeting, CCI held a two day conference, on April 25th and 26th; 80 parents and childhood cancer survivors attended that meeting. Princess Dina actively participated in the CCI meeting. It is hoped that

the CCI meeting in Amman will result in the formation of a Jordan chapter and get Jordanian parents of children with cancer actively involved in the activities of the CCI.

The opening ceremony and dinner for SIOP Asia was attended by HRH princess Ghida Talal and HRH princess Dina Mired in addition to president and president elect of SIOP Asia, and president and president elect of SIOP. At the end of the opening ceremony, girls from the Jordanian institute for arts and culture performed. Proceedings of the ceremony were widely covered by Jordan TV and news media. At the closing ceremony, the president of the congress thanked the speakers and participants acknowledging the support of King Hussein Cancer center, SIOP board, and Jordan society of pediatric oncology. The names of the best oral presentation and the best poster were announced, and the winners were given a plaque and a nominal financial award. Dr. Karachunskiy and Dr. Akira then announced the next SIOP Asia meeting in Russia.

In general, the consensus was that SIOP Asia meeting in Amman was successful, and that efforts need to be exerted to continue the momentum.



Cultural event during the Opening ceremony



Dr. Brijesh Arora receiving the award for Best Oral Presentation



Dr. Akira Nakagawara during the Presidential Address



Dr. Kirill Kirgizov & Team inviting delegates to SIOP-ASIA 2016



HRH Princess Ghida Talal during her Inaugural address



Delegates at SIOP-ASIA 2015

MINUTES OF ANNUAL SIOP ASIA 2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Venue: Amman, Jordan, Date 27 April 2015, Time: 2 pm

Attendance:

Name	Country	Name	Country
Li Chi Kong	Hong Kong, China	Isam Haddadin	Jordan
Akira Nakagawara	Japan	Jong Jin Seo	Korea
Faris Madanat	Jordan	Kirill Kirgizov	Russia
Agrawal Bharat R	India	Moussa Barqawi	Jordan
Zakiya Al-Lamki	Oman	Muhammad Saghir Khan	UAE
Allan Yeoh	Singapore	Purna Kurkure	India
Alexander Karachanskiy	Russia	Rashmi Dalvi	India
Brijesh Arora	India	Shalha Musallam	Jordan
Chan Godfrey Chi Fung	Hong Kong, China	Shamanskaya Tatyana	Russia
Denis Kachanov	Russia	Svetlana Varfolomeeva	Russia
Guzel Muftachova	Russia		

Observers:

- **Benson Pau, Hong Kong, China**
- **Scott Howard, USA**

1. Dr. Akira Nakagawara (AN), Continental President of Asia, welcomed members to attend the General Assembly. AN reported that the SIOP Asia meeting had been changed from biennial meeting to annual meeting starting from 2014, and this was welcomed by members.
2. AN reported on the progress of International Childhood Cancer Day in 2015. Many countries including Japan, UAE had arranged celebration activities.
3. AN reported the election result of SIOP President. Dr. Eric Bouffet was elected and would start his term of President-Elect from the SIOP 2015 Annual Business Meeting in Cape Town. Congratulations to Dr. Bouffet.
4. The SIOP membership from Asia was as follow:

2011: 194, 2012: 185, 2013: 270, 2014: 215. The increase in SIOP membership in Asia in 2012 was probably related to ASIA Congress was held in Hong Kong, Asia. Subsequently there was decline in membership but there was still an increasing trend.
5. Venue of SIOP main congress was as follow:
 - 2015 Cape Town, South Africa
 - 2016 Dublin, Ireland
 - 2017 Washington DC, USA
 - 2018 Asia/Oceania

Venue for Asia SIOP would be as follow;

- 2016 Moscow, Russia
- 2017 Bangkok, Thailand
- 2018 To be decided

The venue of 2018 Asia SIOP would be affected by the selection of main SIOP Congress. If Asia city is selected for the main SIOP congress, we may consider stopping Asia SIOP congress for one year. Holding two large paediatric oncology congresses in one year in Asia may not be able to attract sufficient number of participants. This issue will be discussed in the coming Business Meeting in Cape Town after the result of SIOP 2018 venue is announced.

6. Chi-kong Li (CL), the President-elect of Asia Continent welcomed members to attend this Annual General Assembly (AGA). CL commented that the attendants of SIOP Asia congress were mainly from the country hosting the congress, and also neighboring countries. There was not many SIOP Asia members from other countries attending the congress, thus there might not be good representation. There are usually more Asia SIOP members attending the main SIOP congresses. Since the AGA is the highest authority of Asia SIOP, important decisions would be made at the AGA, it would be reasonable to host the AGA at the main SIOP congress instead of Asia SIOP congress. AN reported that the SIOP Board previously discouraged the SIOP continental meetings to be held during the main SIOP meeting. Members in the meeting agreed that the Asia AGA would be held during the main SIOP Congress and there would be an Annual Business meeting (ABM) during the regional ASIA SIOP congress. Since we have the AGA 2015 held in Amman, we would hold the ABM in Cape Town. From 2016 onward, the AGA would be held during main SIOP Congress, ie in Dublin 2016, whereas ABM 2016 in Moscow.
7. Website and Newsletter: To maintain the contacts with members of Asia SIOP, a website with information interested to members would be helpful. AN had set up the Asia SIOP website several years ago but it was not possible to keep the website updated due to lack of funding for this independent website. Since SIOP would reorganize the SIOP website and enhance the continental section, members in the meeting agreed that we should utilize the SIOP website and put our materials in the Asia continental section, and we would not set up the independent continental website. The contents of the website would be prepared by the Newsletter Editor who would communicate with the SIOP administrator in future to maintain the SIOP Asia section. It was proposed to include the abstracts of Asia SIOP congress, any projects conducted in Asia and the Meeting reports. Dr. Brijesh Arora of Mumbai, India had kindly agreed to take up the role of Newsletter Editor, and his colleague Dr. Maya Prasad would assist as well.
8. Data on professionals working in paediatric oncology in Asia: since not all the professionals working in the field were members of SIOP, it would be important to keep contact with these professionals. The information of annual SIOP Asia congress and other educational materials may be circulated to these workers and that in turn benefit the children with cancer in the continent. It was proposed to create a data base with doctors in Asia who are practicing paediatric oncology, and also professional societies of paediatric oncology. Some patients may travel among countries of Asia for treatment or second opinion, the data base would facilitate the referral of these patients.

9. Preparation of Asia SIOP Congress: There was discussion on ways to assist the scientific programme of the congress to be of high quality and also with relevance to regional situation. The SIOP Board also commented that the Continental President should take more active role to discuss with local organizing committee on the programme, and also reported to SIOP Board for progress. SIOP Board may also provide assistance in seeking appropriate speakers for the congress.
10. SIOP Asia structure: There was previous discussion on how to formalize the structure in the very big continent. The idea of forming an Asia SIOP Board with a secretary and 5 regional representatives was discussed. However there was no such rules in SIOP constitution and this needed further discussion with SIOP Board. The Associate membership was discussed but also considered not feasible under the current SIOP regulation.
11. Dr. Faris Madanat, Chair of Local Organising Committee of Asia SIOP 2015, reported that 400 delegates participated in the 9th SIOP Asia congress. A pre-congress workshop was organized jointly with the SIOP PODC committee on nutrition and 152 registered for that workshop. The nurses also held a nurse meeting with 90 nurses participated. In conjunction with SIOP Asia meeting, Childhood Cancer International (CCI, formerly ICCCP) held a two day conference with 80 parents and childhood cancer survivors attended the meeting. Princess Dina actively participated in the CCI meeting. The LOC also assisted in promoting the SIOP membership with the SIOP membership application forms inserted into the Congress bags.
12. ICCD events in 2015: We received reports from various countries on the activities celebrating the ICCD, including Japan and UAE by Dr. Muhammad Saghir Khan at Tawam Hospital of Abu Dhabi.
13. Mr. Benson Pau from Hong Kong, Head of CCI Asia attended the meeting. He shared with the work of CCI on advocacy of childhood cancer. CCI prepared a facebook page on ICCD, successful in including a section on childhood cancer in the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2015. CCI would be interested to hold joint sessions with the Continental congress, and also looked forward to collaborative projects between CCI Asia and SIOP Asia.
14. AN also made a report on the progress of the Asian Pediatric ematology Oncology Group (APHOG).
15. SIOP Asia Congress 2016: Dr. Kirill Kirgizov, Congress Secretary, and Dr. Svetlana Varfolomeeva, Congress Deputy President made a presentation on the preparation of the 2016 Congress. It would be held at Moscow on May 25-28, 2016. Further information would be available at the website: www.siopasia2016.org. The members showed concerns on the accommodation, registration fee and scholarship which the information was not available at the meeting. The LOC was reminded to prepare the information and announce early.
16. SIOP Asia Congress 2017: Thai Pediatric Oncology Group and the Thai Society of Hematology proposed to host the 2017 congress in Bangkok. Due to unexpected circumstance, the Thai representatives could not attend the meeting. CL on behalf of the Thai groups presented the materials prepared by the Thai groups. Members supported the 2017 Asia SIOP Congress to be held in Thailand.

MINUTES OF ICCD ACTIVITY 2015



Dr. Muhammad Saghir Khan

Specialist Pediatric Haem/Oncology
Tawam Hospital, Al-Ain
Co-Chair, SIOP PODC Supportive Care Working Group
Chair, Training Working Group-Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean (POEM)
Ex-General Secretary, Pakistan Society of Pediatric Oncology

ICCD 2015 at Tawam Hospital Al-Ain, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

(Dr. Muhammad Saghir Khan, Mr. Abdullah Odat, Dr. Muhammad Faisal Khanani and whole Pediatric Oncology Team)

Tawam Hospital, affiliated with Johns Hopkins Medicine, is one of the largest hospitals of United Arab Emirates (U.A.E), offering state of the art health services to UAE nationals and expatriate population. More than 100 new childhood cancer patients are annually treated in Pediatric Oncology Unit of this hospital. Despite the availability of a well-established primary health care structure in U.A.E, we often come across advanced stage cancer cases, mainly due to delays in diagnosis or referral. To address this matter, we celebrated International Childhood Cancer Day in February 2015 at Tawam Hospital as per the directives of SIOP Asia. Three main objectives of these celebrations were as follows:

- 1. To educate health care professionals regarding early warning signs of childhood cancer:**
 - A CME presentation titled “Childhood Cancer is curable” was organized in the hospital. In this presentation, importance of timely diagnosis of pediatric malignancies and initial stabilization of newly diagnosed cases before referral was highlighted. Need for a better index of suspicion for childhood cancers was also emphasized in this session.
 - Another state of the art lecture was delivered to a large group of Pediatricians in an International Pediatric Conference held in Al-Ain.
 - “Childhood Cancer Warning Signs” pictorial pamphlet of SIOP Asia was translated in Arabic language and was displayed in all main areas of the hospital.
- 2. To create public awareness about potential curability of childhood cancers:**

A special seminar (Act Now For Kids With Cancer) was organized in a famous resort within Al-Ain City. It was well-attended by pediatric cancer patients, survivors and their parents. Salient features of this six hours session were:

 - The success stories shared by cancer survivors and their parents- struggles and hardships ultimately resulting in complete cure!
 - A quiz program about the cancer and its treatment
 - Panel Discussion and question/answer session by attendees
 - Entertainment activities for the children

Public awareness message about the potential curability of childhood cancers and importance of early diagnosis was publicized in six leading local newspapers of U.A.E. Similar message was also circulated through social media; official page of Tawam Hospital on Facebook.

3. To educate the caregivers of childhood cancer patients about the difficulties during cancer therapy:

- Educational material in Arabic and English languages (adapted from CCLG PODC group; with their kind permission) was published for the caregivers of childhood cancer patients. These educational leaflets have now been routinely distributed to all the patients' families who are on active treatment.
- Further plan is to prepare its Urdu and Hindi versions in near future for the guidance of expat families.

For ICCD-2016, we are setting up to organize educational activities on a larger scale. We will aim at primary health care professionals; to educate them regarding early cancer detection signs and baseline diagnostic work-up. Another aspect of this year's awareness campaign will be to involve educational institutes of the city. Prime motive behind all these efforts is to eliminate the factors responsible for the delay in diagnosing childhood cancers. By virtue of these activities, we may succeed to prove the fact that "most childhood cancers are curable".



Tawam Hospital, Al-Ain



Panel Discussion/QA session



Cancer Survivor - Sharing his Success Story



Group Photo: Pediatric Oncology Team with patients/survivors and their parents



Public Awareness Message through Print Media



Public Awareness Campaign through Social Media

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2015 CCI ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Benson Pau & Carmen Auste

Head of CCI Asia

CCI Chair

“Towards a Better Cancer Care for Children of Asia and the World” was the theme for the 9th CCI Asia Conference held in Amman, Jordan from 25-26 April. The conference was under the patronage of and very kindly supported by HRH Princess Dina Mired and King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC). It was attended by around 80 parents and survivors representing childhood cancer organizations and support institutions from Jordan and 11 other Asian countries (i.e. Bangladesh, Brunei, Egypt, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Korea, Lebanon, Philippines, Russia and UAE).

Behind the highly successful congress was a very dedicated and committed teams led by Dr Faris Madanat - Chair of LOC SIOP Asia Congress, Dr Faiha Bazzeh - CCI LOC team, and Mr Benson Pau - CCI Asia team. The King Hussein Cancer Center and King Hussein Cancer Foundation also very generously provided support for key aspects of the conference (i.e. venue, Arabic-English simultaneous translation and sponsoring participation/attendance of local parents and survivors).

Several prominent keynote speakers made the conference even more memorable and inspiring; HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan, Dr Maria-Cristina Profili (WHO Country Representative of Jordan), Dr SM Moazzem Hossain (UNICEF MENARO in Jordan), Dr

Scott Howard (SIOP PODC), and Dr Purna Kurkure (Indian Cancer Society). Also gracing the occasion was His Excellency Colonel (R) Nooradin Haji Yaakob, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam who attended the survivor session, showing support to the 12 year old survivor from Brunei sharing his personal journey.

The learnings and sharing of experiences among participants and different countries were maximized through adaption of highly interactive and participatory methodologies (e.g Plenary Dialogues, Action Clinics, Conversation Circles). It surfaced key challenges related to rights of children/adolescents with cancer and their families, implementation of pediatric palliative care and pain management across health facilities in various countries as well as best practices and good practice models on networking and alliance building, care and support of children/adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.

The active interaction among survivors of 6 Asian countries (i.e. Brunei, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, Korea and Lebanon) was a seed for forming the Asia survivor network. Their sharing of their journeys and how they overcome their challenges, enlightened and inspired the attendees on the need to do more for childhood cancer survivors.

The active participation of HRH Princess Dina Mired throughout the whole conference, and her sharing of her son and family's own childhood cancer journey, was a remarkable gift that was most appreciated and enthusiastically received by all participants of the conference.

The Gala Dinner on 26 April, where most participants were in their native costumes was another peak event for the conference. A professional Jordanian cultural dance troupe volunteered their services for the evening and created a joyous and fun atmosphere, leading to a great ending for the conference. We hope to see you again in next CCI Asia Conference in Moscow in May 2016.



Working Lunch at the CCI – SIOP Asia Meeting



CCI Workshop in Progress



Cancer Survivors at the CCI Meeting



CCI Gala Dinner in Costumes



Mark your Calendar for (2015-16)

47th Congress of International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)

When: 8-11 October 2015

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

More information:

<http://www.siop2015.kenes.com/>

Please join the SIOP Conference in Cape Town this October and attend the Annual Business Meeting on 11 October 2015 (Sunday) at the Small Meeting Room 2, starting from 2:00pm.

5th International Symposium on Childhood, Adolescent and Young Adult Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

When: 21-23rd October 2015

Where: Centro Congressi Ville Ponti Piazza Litta, 2, 21100 Varese, Italy

More information: WWW.PCRF-KIDS.ORG

Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hematology

When: 5-8 December 2015

Where: Orlando, Florida

More Information: www.hematology.org

European Network for Cancer Research in Children and Adolescents (ENCCA) Closing Conference

When: 17-18 December 2015

Where: Brussels, Belgium

More Information: <http://www.encca.eu/>

15th International Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Update Meeting

When: 12-13 May 2016

Where: Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, UK

More Information: www.iphoum.com

10th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology Asia (SIOP Asia)

When: 25-28 May 2016

Where: Moscow, Russia.

More Information:

<http://www.siopasia2016.org/index.php/en/>

17th International Symposium on Paediatric Neuro Oncology (ISPNO)

When: 12-16 June 2016

Where: Liverpool, UK

More Information: <http://www.ispno2016.com/>

ESLCCC16-European Symposium on Late Complications after Childhood Cancer

When: 22-23rd September

Where: Copenhagen, Tivoli Hotel & Congress Center

More information: <http://www.eslccc.org/>

SIOP 2016 Congress

When: October 19-22

Venue: Dublin, Ireland

More Information: <http://www.theccd.ie/>



The Convention Centre
Dublin, Ireland

October 19 - 22, 2016

www.kenes.com/siop

48th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology

SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE
D'ONCOLOGIE PÉDIATRIQUE



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The 10th Congress of the International
Society of Paediatric Oncology Asia
(SIOP Asia)



10th
**SIOP Asia
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May 25-28, 2016
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for children of Asia and the World!*



www.siopasia2016.org