Dear friends,

Despite the sad news of recently losing our past president and friend of all, Arturo Moreno and that the never-ending COVID-19 pandemic continues to hit our region and the world as a whole, many advances are being made in our continent. To begin with, SLAOP (the continental Latin American SIOP Branch) has a brand-new website, renovating its format and updating the information and news from our society. With an appealing design, our members and the general public may now access relevant information with an improved user experience. Please visit us in [www.slaop.org](http://www.slaop.org). Please note that simultaneous membership to SLAOP and SIOP provides many benefits!

The SLAOP board of directors has decided to host its annual 2021 meeting again in a virtual format. The selected dates are November 17-20, 2021, so please mark your calendar and plan to submit your very best research to SLAOP 2021. An exciting academic program with excellent speakers is being designed.

 SLAOP continued to support agreements with the national pediatric oncology societies in the continent (NAPHOs) and recent memorandum of understanding with ACHOP (Colombian Association), AMHOP (Mexican Association), SOBOPE (Brazilian Association) and AHOPCA (Central American Association) are in progress! We intend to continue to make our network grow and develop common programs by fostering these relationships. The annual meeting of SOBOPE is a major congress in our region and will be held on April 7-10, 2021, also in virtual format. Please visit <https://doity.com.br/sobope2021> for more information. SLAOP members in good standing enjoy free registration.

At SLAOP, we are working on a virtual educational program that will give support to fellowship programs in the region by the participation of our most distinguished specialists that will deliver masterclasses, case discussions and other educational activities in our own languages and sharing their extensive experience. Many fellowship programs from Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Guatemala, Peru, Argentina and Chile will take part in this initiative which is based on the Consensus SLAOP Minimal Content for fellowship programs and sponsored by a My Child Matters grant. The program will also give special content for nurses and pediatric surgeons and will start in April 2021.

The WHO-GICC continues to be implemented in Peru and a virtual working meeting was done to report the progress in December 2021. Programs were reviewed and the strategy and advances were share with the community.

The AHOPCA (Central American Group) virtual meeting was done in February 2021 hosting more than 900 attendees, also from other Latin American countries. In this highly successful meeting, the results of the different disease-oriented, psychosocial and nursing activities were presented showing once more the high quality of the work generated by the AHOPCA group.

Latin American institutions contributed actively to the joint effort between St Jude Global and SIOP for the COVID-19 registry.

So, despite we were not able to meet face-to-face this “new normality” made us become closer to each other, learn from each other experience, inspire and do the best to achieve the highest possible chances of cure to our patients.

Guillermo L Chantada MD, PhD

SIOP Latin America Continental President