SIOP Asia 2019 was held at Abu Dhabi from April 3 - 6, 2019
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**Mark the dates**

**Executive of SIOP ASIA**

**Continental President**
Dr. Rashmi Dalvi

**Immediate Past President**
Dr. Chi-Kong Li

**Newsletter Editor**
Dr. Maya Prasad
Dear Friends and colleagues,

It gives us great pleasure to bring you the second issue of the newsletter for 2019.

SIOP Asia 2019 at Abu Dhabi was a resounding success, from both the scientific and hospitality aspects. Several novel concepts, such as the symposium on Asian Collaborations and the pre-conference workshop on Clinical Research Methodology were universally appreciated. I am certain that these concepts will be carried on in future SIOP Asia meetings. With Asia being such a large and diverse continent, international collaborations are challenging and, at the same time, crucial.

SIOP Asia 2020 will be held at Mumbai, India from March 27th-29th, 2020. Apart from the promised scientific feast at the congress, the city of Mumbai itself is worth a visit. The skeleton scientific program as well as updated flyer are part of this newsletter.

www.siopasia2020.com

As part of SIOP Asia 2020, the Paediatric Haematology Oncology Journal is bringing out a special issue on “The Asian Age of Collaborations in Pediatric Oncology - A Call for Action”. The editors invite original articles that highlight the theme of collaboration from members of SIOP Asia countries.

www.journals.elsevier.com/pediatric-hematology-oncology-journal

As always, this newsletter also carries reports from scientific as well as CCI events from the past few months. Inviting contributions for the newsletter in the form of reports/photographs from scientific or social events, as well as personal perspectives and/or poetry/art contributed by health professionals and patients.

I am sure many of us will be meeting at the annual congress of SIOP in a few days time at beautiful and serene Lyon.

Best Wishes
Dear Friends

Greetings from Asia! We hope everyone is rejuvenated by the summer vacations and the welcome rains, as the seasons go. Early this year we had the annual SIOP-Asia meeting, held in Abu Dhabi at the ADNEC Convention Center from 4-6th April 2019, under the leadership of Dr Eman Al Hashmi & Dr Muhammad Saghir Khan. A well-attended and well-organised meeting, it started with two successful workshops on Research Methodology & Solid tumors. The Main meeting had a mix of state-of-art sessions along with, topical symposia on ‘Adapted-treatment Protocols’ and ‘Cooperative Groups and Trials in Asia’. The CCI-Asia and Nursing Groups also convened fruitfully alongside.

The highly active ‘SIOP PODC-Nutrition’ group has partnered with SIOP Asia to develop Nutrition Assessment & Intervention Guidelines, under the leadership of Dr Elena Ladas and Dr Amita Trehan. These are in process, to be applied initially in India, and then across other Asian countries. The year began with a workshop/conference on Nutrition in Pediatric Oncology held at Chennai India by Dr Venkatraman, with over 200 physicians & dieticians participating; including from Nepal, Myanmar, Srilanka, Philippines, Bangladesh.

The Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer, which underwent its planning stage in 2018, will be very important for Asia with its higher proportion of LMICs; Myanmar and Phillipines are among Asian countries where the initiative is being piloted in 2019. Through the efforts of Dr Nakagawara and other SIOP Asia members discussions have been on between Japanese oncology organisations, SIOP-Asia, SIOP-WHO to revive the APHOG (Asian Pediatric Hematology Oncology Group), for developing and funding projects in Asia. SIOP Asia is also a stakeholder with Rare Cancers Asia group – ESMO, any members wishing to contribute or participate are welcome.

Preparations are on for the next SIOP Asia 2020 meeting to be held in Mumbai from 26th-29th March 2020. We have two bids for SIOP Asia 2021 meeting, from Armenia and Guangzhou, China; these will be presented, & discussed during the SIOP-Asia annual general meeting to be held on October 24, from 12-13.10 hrs at Auditorium Lumiere during the SIOP 2019 Lyon congress.

This month, September is the Childhood Cancer Awareness month, and we are sure you will advocate at individual, fund-resourcing and governmental, national and regional levels to promote the cause.

We again invite suggestions from SIOP members for any new activities or issues that they would like to address.

À bientôt à la conference de SIOP 2019 à Lyon
MEETING REPORT : SIOP ASIA 2019, ABU DHABI
3RD - 6TH APRIL 2019

Eman Alshamsi
Muhammad Saghir Khan

The 12th SIOP Asia Congress was held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre United Arab Emirates from 3rd to 6th April 2019, under the Patronage of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan (Advisor for the President of the United Arab Emirates & The Chief Patron of H.H Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan Humanitarian & Scientific Foundation). The conference brought together renowned scientists and pediatric oncologist from North America, Europe, and Asian Continent. The distinguished faculty shared updates in childhood cancer care and emphasized the ways to improve and optimize the treatment throughout the world, reaffirming SIOP’s vision that “No Child Should Die of Cancer”. The conference was granted with 27 Credit Hours by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®). More than 350 delegates from 39 countries participated in SIOP Asia 2019 Congress, making this conference one of the best pediatric oncology event in the Middle East region.

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS:

Two Very successful Pre-Congress Workshops were held on Educational Day (3rd April 2019):

1. “Research Methodology and Publication”: convened by Catherine Lam, Asim Belgaumi, Ana Patricia Alcasabas, Muhammad Saghir Khan and Ramandeep Arora.

2. “Local Control of Abdominal Tumors”: convened by Abid Qazi, Masih Kader, Natia Esiashvili and Omran El-Koha. The workshop provided great learning opportunities to the participants (pediatric oncologists, pediatric surgeons and radiation oncologists) by the virtue of the Case Based and Interactive Discussion Sessions on Neuroblastoma, Wilms Tumor, Germ Cell Tumors and Hepatoblastoma.

PLENARY SESSIONS:

There were dedicated scientific sessions on Leukemia/Lymphoma, Solid Tumors, Neuro-oncology and Supportive Care. However, the following three plenary sessions were proved to be the nucleus of SIOP Asia 2019 Congress:

1. Global Perspective for Childhood Cancers”: Eric Bouffet as President SIOP addressed about SIOP’s vision and mission for improvement of childhood cancer outcomes around the globe. Scott Howard (General Secretary SIOP) shared the highlights of recently launched World Health Organisation’s Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer. He emphasized the importance of Asian Continent for achieving the aim of this project (reaching at least a 60% survival rate for children with cancer by 2030, thereby saving an additional one million lives). Catherine Lam presented brief report of Lancet Oncology Commission in the end.

2. “Adapted Treatment”: Session started with an introductory speech by Scott Howard on the rationale for Treatment Adaptation based on available resources. Leads of SIOP PODC Adapted Treatment Regimen (ATR) projects; Ana Patricia Alcasabas, Stephen Hunger and Nisreen Amayiri shared the outlines of Neuroblastoma, Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Low Grade Glioma ATRs respectively. Ahmed Bilal Qureshi presented about radiation therapy resources in limited resource settings in the end of this session.
3. “Pediatric Oncology Expertise and Challenges in Asia”: In her opening address, Rashmi Dalvi (SIOP Asia Continental President) shared the ongoing collaboration projects within Asian Continent, and with a strong emphasis on further strengthening and consolidated efforts for improvement in childhood cancer care within the continent. Abdul Hakim Al Rawas (Chairperson POEM group) presented a brief report about ongoing collaborative strategies by Pediatric Oncology East Mediterranean (POEM) group. The salient feature of this plenary session was a series of presentations by esteemed speakers from some important countries of Asia (Mohamed Alsharani, Bharat Agarwal, Kirril Kirgizov, Akira Nakagawara, Chi-kong Li and Nisreen Amayiri). Focusing on World Health Organization’s prioritized six pediatric cancers (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, Hodgkin Lymphoma, Burkitt’s Lymphoma, Wilms tumor, Retinoblastoma and Low Grade Glioma), they highlighted the epidemiology, treatment facilities, outcomes and challenges within their countries. In the end, all guest speakers along with Scott Howard, Catherine Lam, Asim Belgaumi, Purna Kurkure and Muhammad Saghir Khan contributed in a very interesting and nicely concluded panel discussion (NB: Detailed report of this session will be shared in next SIOP Asia Newsletter).

MEET THE EXPERT SESSIONS:

“MEET THE EXPERT” sessions on 5th and 6th April provided the participants with great learning opportunities by direct interaction with the most distinguished guest speakers of SIOP Asia 2019:

- Eric Bouffet and Natia Esiashvili: Neuro-oncology
- Scott Howard and Ramandeep Arora: Data Management and Analysis
- Stephen Hunger, Benshang Li and Chi-kong Li: CAR-T Cell

BENIGN HEMATOLOGY UPDATES:

A very well-attended session “Updates on Prevalent Benign Hematological Disorders”, featured state of the art presentations by regional speakers on Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Glanzmann thrombasthenia and Immune Thrombocytopenia.

ABSTRACTS (POSTERS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS):

A structured peer review process was conducted for the submitted abstracts. The principal authors of two highest scoring abstracts (Muhammad Rahil Khan and Sajid Qureshi) were nominated for “SIOP PODC Best of Continent” Free Papers Session during SIOP 2019 at Lyon, France. Another eight highest quality abstracts’ authors were granted travel scholarship by SIOP Asia 2019 Organizers (Tooba Nadeem Akhtar, Malleswari Muddana Venkata, Nikita R, Kesavan M R, Nadia Ayoub, Rohit Kapoor, Amina Suleymanova and Saadia Anwar). Three “Free Paper Sessions” and one “poster viewing session with expert panel” were very appealing segments of the conference, particularly for researchers and young investigators. Victoria Emtsova, Khalid Alhabaybia and Uzma Imam (best posters) and Libin Huang, Ali Al-ahmari and Musa Alharbi (best free papers) were awarded during SIOP Asia 2019 Closing Ceremony on 6th April.

NURSING AND CCI SESSIONS:

Another highlight of SIOP Asia 2019 Congress was a successfully concluded two days Nursing Workshop. Contributions of Rehana Punjwani, Julia Challinor, Faith Gibson, Abdullah Odat and other mentors were highly acknowledged by the workshop participants. The specialized sessions organized by Childhood Cancer International (CCCI) during 4th and 5th April were very well attended, featuring enthusiastic participation by the cancer survivors, parents of the cancer patients and volunteers. Benson Pau,
Carmen Auste and Roula Farah played key role for designing wonderful CCI activities. The most conspicuous segment was an exciting half day session “Mindfulness Interactive Workshop” which was jointly organized by CCI and Nurses on 5th April.

POST CONFERENCE SURVEY

- Overall Satisfaction with the Education Content: 91%
- Overall satisfaction with the Quality of the Speakers and Presenters: 90%
- Overall satisfaction with the Length and Structure of the scientific program: 90%
- Overall satisfaction with the Online Abstract Submission and Review Process: 88%
- Overall experience with the Conference Location: 87%
- Overall experience with the Conference Organisation: 87%

Special Acknowledgements (for consistent support in organizing SIOP Asia 2019):
- Members of the Scientific, Organizing and Advisory committees, particularly Chi-Kong Li, Rashmi Dalvi, Scott Howard, Eric Bouffet, Ramandeep Arora, Bharat Agarwal, Asim Belgaumi and Julia Challinor
- Pediatric Oncology East Mediterranean (POEM) group
- Childhood Cancer International (CCI)
- Industry Sponsors and Exhibitors (SOBI, Novartis, Pfizer, Servier, Bayer, Roche, Takeda, Novo Nordisk and Amgen)
- Meeting Minds - Experts (MME) Team
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MEETING REPORT : SIOP ASIA 2019, ABU DHABI
3RD - 6TH APRIL 2019

CCI group at SIOP Asia 2019

Award Winners

Inauguration Ceremony

A rare photograph of 5 continental presidents of SIOP Asia

Audience at SIOP Asia
This session started with brief, general overviews of the status and plans for childhood cancer care, within each of their realms, presented by Dr. Rashmi Dalvi, President of SIOP Asia, and Dr. Abdul Hakim Al Rawas, Chair of the POEM Group. This was followed by a series of presentations by six country representatives, each presenting on the status of two cancer diagnoses, chosen from within the list of six diagnoses included in the WHO Global Initiative priorities. The presentations were as follows:

- **Saudi Arabia**  
  Mohammad Al Shahrani  
  Burkitt Lymphoma and Wilms' tumor

- **India**  
  Bharat Agarwal  
  Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Hodgkin Lymphoma

- **Russia**  
  Kiril Kirgizov  
  Burkitt Lymphoma and Wilms' tumor

- **Japan**  
  Akira Nakagawara  
  Wilms' tumor and Low Grade Glioma

- **China**  
  Chi-kong Li  
  Wilms' tumor and Retinoblastoma

- **Jordan**  
  Nisreen Amayiri  
  Wilms' tumor and Retinoblastoma

These presentations were followed by a panel discussion that was based on the presentations and the experience of the panelists, and focused on ‘the Lessons Learnt and Future Perspectives for SIOP Asia’. In addition to the eight speakers mentioned above, the panelists included: Dr. Purna Kurkure, Dr. Scott Howard, Dr. Catherine Lam, Dr. Muhammed Saghir Khan, Dr. Asim Belgaumi

A highly energized discussion took place, including comments from the panelists and from the members of the audience. At the end of the session a summary of the discussion was presented and included the following points:

1. It was very useful for the attendees to hear about the various issues, solutions and successes from the member countries who had presented. Not only did this result in a better understanding of what is happening in other countries within Asia, but it also raised possibilities for learning and collaboration. It was recommended that this form of presentations be made on a routine basis, certainly at every SIOP-Asia annual meeting, but possibly also at the Annual SIOP Congress. This would allow such activity to occur twice a year, allowing for more country participation and frequent reporting of results and successes.

2. Professional organizations for Pediatric Oncology should be encouraged at the country level. These should have a dual role; an academic arm and an action arm. This would promote learning and capacity building on the one hand, and development and implementation of treatment strategies and research on the other. These national organizations must interact regionally, using the collaborations and groupings already in existence (such as POEM and EURADO) and work under the overarching umbrella of SIOP-Asia.

3. These local and regional organizations and collaboratives must encourage inclusion of people who are not Pediatric Oncology physicians and nurses, such as pharmacists, surgeons, pathologists, child-life specialists and parent groups. This would allow for a more multi-disciplinary involvement in holistic support for childhood cancer care.
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4. A very strong function for these local and regional organizations should be Governmental advocacy, with the aim to encourage legislation that would help the care providers improve outcomes for childhood cancer in their countries and lead towards the achievement of the WHO Global Initiative goals for Childhood Cancer.

5. Finally, the panel stressed the importance of publication of their efforts and dissemination of knowledge that originates within Asia. There are clear local and regional peculiarities that prevent the successful adoption of strategies that have worked elsewhere. These differences could be environmental or genetic. Publication of our regional results will benefit others within the region to strategize treatment more effectively and efficiently.

**Asim F. Belgaumi,**
Professor, Pediatric Hematology& Oncology, Chief Medical Officer, Aga Khan University Hospital. Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Aga Khan University Medical College. Karachi, Pakistan
Dr. Muhammad Saghir Khan,
Dr. Catherine Lam,
Dr. Ana Patricia Alcasabas,
Dr. Asim Belgaumi,
Dr. Ramandeep Arora

A Pre-Congress Workshop on “Research Methodology and Publications” was held on 3rd April 2019 on Educational Day of SIOP Asia 2019 Congress. The conveners of this scientific activity planned the workshop extensively over the six months leading up to the event, through in-person and online meetings in addition to emails. The main objectives of this one-day workshop were to provide opportunities for participants to learn about research methodology, developing research questions/approaches and search strategies, and to enhance their presentation and writing skills. Twenty-nine delegates from nine countries participated in this workshop, comprising practicing physicians, trainee residents, medical students, nurses and research scholars. Altogether, 12 faculty provided mentorship and support.

In the opening session, a one-minute silence was observed for departed souls of the recent Ethiopian Airline Crash, which resulted in the death of 157 passengers including three participants of the SIOP Africa 2019 Congress. The workshop agenda comprised four lectures (one at the start of each session), followed by a break-out session of four smaller groups for effective understanding and learning of the prior lecture. A questionnaire had been prepared and sent to the delegates registered for the workshop, prior to the conference and their feedback was shared with the mentors in order to construct break-out session discussion. The last break-out session was converted to short presentations by the delegates based on their recent research ideas.

PRESENTATIONS:
1. Types Of Research and Clinical Trials (Asim Belgaumi)
2. Literature Search: Electronic Databases and Strategies (Catherine Lam)
3. Basic and Advanced Data Analysis (Scott Howard)
4. Disseminating Results: Publishing and Presenting (Ramandeep Arora)

GROUPS FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
1. Group 1: Stephen Hunger, Asim Belgaumi and Julia Challinor
2. Group 2: Scott Howard, Rashmi Dalvi and Ana Patricia Alcasabas
3. Group 3: Ramandeep Arora, Mary Taj and Faith Gibson
4. Group 4: Catherine Lam, Aziza Shad and Chi-Kong Li

An online post-workshop survey was created for receiving participants’ feedback. Survey respondents rated all the lectures, the interaction with mentors and learning atmosphere very highly. The most noteworthy survey finding was the appreciation for the break-out sessions, particularly the one about developing literature search (PICO) questions and the last session where the delegates made their presentations. Most of the survey participants (94%) recommended conducting such workshops during forthcoming SIOP Asia Congresses, whereas all of them suggested inclusion of this sort of activity in all national and regional conferences.
Presentations:
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Groups for Breakout Sessions:
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The meeting began with condolences offered to Jayne Kamau, Jabona Acheing and Dr Grace Kariuki of Kenya who tragically lost their precious lives in the Ethiopian airlines crash.

The following members/ non-member observers attended:

Rashmi Dalvi, Raya Saab, Eman Al Hamsi, Muhammad Saghir Khan, Chi-Kong Li, Scott Howard, BR Agarwal, Majed Al Remeith, Ahmed Al-Zeidi, Asim Rana, Zaheer Lillah, Amita Trehan, Vaskar Saha, Libin Huang, Kirill Kirgizov, Amina Suleymanova, Lalit Mohan Sharma, Vandana Dhamankar, Purna Kurkure, Akira Nakagawara, Benson Pau, Catherine Lam, Ramandeep Arora, Poonam Bagai, Carmen Auste

AGENDA

1. Welcome by Rashmi Dalvi

2. Minutes of AGM held at Kyoto, November 2018, circulated earlier were approved, proposed by Dr B Agarwal and seconded by Dr P Kurkure.

3. A video graphic presentation of SIOP Asia 2020 meeting, Mumbai was done. Dr Dalvi informed that the meeting would take place from 27th-29th March 2020, with preconference workshops on 26th March. Registrations were open at the SIOP Asia Mumbai stall at Abu Dhabi and members were invited to avail themselves of special rates. Benson Pau suggested lower rates for parents (USD100) and survivors (USD 50)

4. Dr Dalvi invited bids for SIOP Asia 2021 to be sent in by 31 August 2019.

5. Comments from SIOP Asia 2019 LOC: Dr Eman / Dr Saghir were lauded for putting up a very well organised meeting with an excellent scientific programme and arrangements. Dr Saghir mentioned among the highlights, the SIOP Asia Collaborations symposium, Adapted-treatment protocols session, preconference sessions on Research Methodology and Surgery/Radiation oncology workshops. Two oral papers would be selected for the Best of Continents session at SIOP Lyon and would get scholarships from their LOC. He suggested having an IPSO Masterclass with SIOP Asia. He promised to put up some of the conference lectures online.

6. Report on SIOP Asia Newsletter: In Dr Maya Prasad’s absence Dr Dalvi mentioned that another excellent spring issue was just brought out but pointed out that she would need help with bringing out the newsletter in the form of administrative/financial support. Members were requested to contribute write-ups for the same.

7. Report on Childhood Cancer Resources Asia: Dr Li and Dr Kirill spoke about this activity, that soft versions are available online and the feedback on it was positive. However they still need updating on information from various countries and in addition to PHO societies and centres, resources for families and hospital also to be looked into. However resources were inadequate and additional administrative support was required. Dr Arora mentioned that the SIOP global mapping of centres may provide some of this information on all approved centres. This was piloted in Africa presently.
SIOP Asia General Assembly Meeting 2019

The details and agenda for the meeting will be as follows

DATE:     24th October 2019  
TIME:     12.00-13.30 pm  
VENUE:  Auditorium Lumiere

AGENDA

1) Welcome by Rashmi Dalvi

2) Minutes of AGM held at Abu Dhabi, 4th April 2019

3) Report on SIOP Asia 2019, Abu Dhabi

4) Presentation of bids for SIOP Asia 2021: Armenia, Guangzhou (China)

5) Presentation of SIOP Asia 2020 meeting, Mumbai

6) Report on SIOP Asia Newsletter

7) Report on Childhood Cancer Resources Asia

8) Information: SIOP-WHO global initiative for Childhood Cancer/News from the SIOP Board

9) Inputs /comments from CCI – Asia, Nursing Group(Asia)

10) SIOP Asia membership

11) Expansion of SIOP Asia Working Committee wrt regional representation/ specific working groups

12) Any other business with permission of the Chair

(*Open question: What could Asia expect from its association with SIOP?)
SIOP ASIA 2020
XIII SIOP ASIA CONFERENCE
27th - 29th March, 2020 | Hotel Taj Lands End, Mumbai, India

www.siopasia2020.com

Rooms are filling up fast

For abstract submission & registration visit
www.siopasia2020.com
# Day-1 Pre-Conference Workshops

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<th>Workshop-1</th>
<th>Workshop-2</th>
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<td>Palliative Care</td>
<td>Stem Cell Transplant</td>
<td>Venous Access</td>
<td>CCI</td>
<td>Nutrition Workshop</td>
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# Day-1 SIOP Asia Conference

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<td>08.00 - 09.00</td>
<td>Meet The Experts: Embryonal Brain Tumors</td>
<td>Meet The Experts - ALL</td>
<td>Meet The Experts - Retinoblastoma</td>
<td>CCI</td>
<td>Nutrition Workshop</td>
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<td>09.00 - 11.00</td>
<td>Scientific session-1 Acute Leukemia /BMT</td>
<td>Scientific session-2 Brain Tumours</td>
<td>Nursing session</td>
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<td>TEA BREAK</td>
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<td>11.30 - 12.00</td>
<td>Plenary- Session-1 Global Perspective Pediatric Cancer</td>
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<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
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<td>14.00 - 14.30</td>
<td>Plenary- session-2 Immunotherapy in Pediatric Oncology</td>
<td>Nursing session</td>
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<td>14.30 - 15.30</td>
<td>Best of Continent Award Session</td>
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<td>TEA BREAK</td>
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<td>16.00 - 17.30</td>
<td>Scientific Session-3 Immunotherapy</td>
<td>Scientific-Seminar- 4 Sarcomas</td>
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### Day-2 SIOP Asia Conference

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<tr>
<td>08.00 - 09.00</td>
<td>Meet The Experts: Neuroblastoma</td>
<td>Meet The Experts: Bone Sarcomas</td>
<td>Meet The Experts</td>
<td>IPSO</td>
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<td>09.00 - 11.00</td>
<td>Scientific session-5 Lymphomas</td>
<td>Scientific session-6 Solid Tumors</td>
<td>Nursing session</td>
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<td>11.30 - 12.00</td>
<td>Plenary session -3 Wilms Tumor</td>
<td>Nursing session</td>
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<td>12.00 - 13.00</td>
<td>Award Papers - Solid Tumours,</td>
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<td>Best of Continents</td>
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<td>13.00 - 14.00</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>14.00 - 14.30</td>
<td>Plenary session -4 Childhood cancer survivors</td>
<td>Nursing session</td>
<td>IPSO</td>
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<td>14-30 - 15:30</td>
<td>Mixed Sessions</td>
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<td>15.30 - 16.00</td>
<td><strong>TEA BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>16.00 - 17.30</td>
<td>Scientific Session-7 Supportive Care</td>
<td>Paper Presentation</td>
<td>Nursing session</td>
<td>IPSO</td>
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<td><strong>Gala Dinner and Entertainment</strong></td>
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### Day-3 SIOP Asia Conference

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<tr>
<th>DATE &amp; TIME</th>
<th>Hall-1</th>
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<tr>
<td>08.30 - 10.30</td>
<td>Scientific session-9 Asian Cooperative Groups</td>
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<td>10.30 - 11.00</td>
<td><strong>TEA BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>11.00 - 11:30</td>
<td>Plenary session-5, Pediatric Oncology Cooperative Groups Lymphomas</td>
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<td>11.30 - 12:30</td>
<td>Innovative Asian Approaches</td>
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<td>12:30 - 13:00</td>
<td><strong>Valedictory and Closing</strong></td>
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<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch Break</strong></td>
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Dear colleague,

As you know, SIOP Asia 2020 will be held in Mumbai from 27th -29th March 2020. In association with this conference, the editorial team of Paediatric Haematology Oncology Journal (official journal of PHO chapter of IAP) plans to bring out a special issue. The theme for this issue is "The Asian Age of Collaborations in Pediatric Oncology - A Call for Action". We invite original articles that highlight the theme of collaboration from members of SIOP asia countries. The last date for submission is 31st October 2019. The process of peer review will take 6 weeks subsequently and hence the timeline will be adhered to strictly. Kindly encourage your juniors/ residents to register for the meeting and submit abstracts which will also be published in special supplement of this journal. There are limited scholarships available for selected abstracts.

For submission of original articles, please log onto https://www.journals.elsevier.com/paediatric-hematology-oncology-journal and follow the regular submission process. Under article type, please select ‘SI : SIOP Asia 2020’.

For further details about the conference, registration and abstract submission, please visit https://www.siopasia2020.com/
Looking forward to your participation in the conference and contributions towards the journal.

Please contact us in case of queries.

Thank you
Dr Hany Ariffin
Dr Nita Radhakrishnan nitark@gmail.com
Dr Maya Prasad maya.prasad@gmail.com,
The SIOP Young Investigator Network provides a platform for young investigators to develop research and scientific skills, and facilitates an international research network with other young investigators in paediatric oncology. Our detailed mission and aims are presented on our webpage here: https://siop-online.org/young-investigators

We are often asked “what is a Young Investigator?”. This has now been clarified within our terms of reference and we are happy to confirm that a young investigator is any SIOP member or associate member under the age of 40 years*, from any clinical or academic background, and no postgraduate qualifications are necessary (*if the potential YI is able to demonstrate that they have been away from the field, for example, for a career break, carers or parental leave or long-term sick leave, this will be taken into account when considering the upper age limit).

Young Investigators attending SIOP Lyon are welcome to attend any or all YI activities at the congress. This includes a full programme on the educational day, including the very popular expert lunch and a joint session on mentorship with our nursing and PODC colleagues. On day 1 of the congress, our YI collaborative event provides an opportunity to network and collaborate with other young investigators in a relaxed atmosphere. We have an additional event this year, supported by Dr Justin Baker and his team, providing a lunch session entitled “How To Work Toward Receiving Excellent Academic Product-Related Mentorship”. Registration for all of these activities is required, but the events are free to attend for YIs. Full details can be found here: https://siop-congress.org/young-investigators-programme/

Our social media accounts will be very active during the congress, and this continues throughout the year. For those who are unable to attend SIOP Lyon, these can provide a way to link up with other YIs and to access the excellent scientific content of the various activities. You can find us on Twitter (@SIOPYI_Network), Facebook (siopyinet), and LinkedIn (siopyinet).

I would also like to draw your attention to the SIOP-YI mentorship programme, which is open to all SIOP Young Investigators. We have a facilitated programme that matches mentees with one of over 130 senior mentors across the globe to address defined development goals. For more information on the programme please visit: https://siop-online.org/siop-yi-mentorship-program/.

Clearly all of these activities are offered in addition to any activities run by other groups, and thus our aim is to support young investigators within all SIOP areas, including encouraging their engagement with relevant professional and continental groups. If you would like to get more involved in the SIOP YI Network, please do get in contact through social media or by meeting up with us at any of the congress events.
INVITATION TO DEVELOP YOUNG INVESTIGATOR ACTIVITIES @ SIOP-ASIA
In April, 2012, when the SIOP Asia 2012 Congress was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, we decided to found the childhood cancer clinical study group that tightly linked to and collaborate with the SIOP Asia, that was named as "Asian Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Group (APHOG)". The picture attached is the members joined the kick-off meeting. Many leaders in Asian societies of pediatric hematology and oncology gathered and discussed about the future plans aiming to increase the cure rates of sick children with cancer in Asia. Since then, we have had several times of APHOG strategy meetings at the times of SIOP and/or SIOP Asia congresses in a semi-open style. However, as usual, we have had a big problem to get funding and donation to execute the plans.

Last year, the new winds actually have blown. That is the announcement of "WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer" with the aim that the cure rate of childhood cancer on earth will be increased to 60% by 2030. A large population with pediatric cancer is present in Asia. Therefore, to achieve the goal of WHO Global Initiative, we need a unified strong structure that leads to execute the actual actions in each Asian country. Then, we believe that it may be the APHOG in collaboration with St. Jude-VIVA and many clinical study groups of pediatric hematology and oncology in Asian countries like JCCG, InPOG, ThaiPOG, TPOG, etc.

In Japan, a non-governmental organization (NGO) named as Magokoro Organization for Childhood Cancer (MOCC) has just recently decided to support the WHO Global Initiative by proposing some projects as well as by collecting money (see the article on MOCC in this newsletter). MOCC may mainly support for the activities of APHOG which include clinical studies for developing new drugs, pediatric cancer registry, ICT-based system for storage of the medical health records, and long term follow-up and care systems for human network. Of course, other good projects are very welcome to be included.

Thus, it is now the time of re-activation of APHOG for the goal of the WHO Initiative. APHOG should be organized by any people who have a strong motivation and passion to work together for the sick children with cancer in any country in Asia.

Akira Nakagawara, MD, PhD
Former Continental President of Asia, SIOP
Chairman, Local Organizing Committee, SIOP 2018 Kyoto
Asian Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Group (APHOG)

APHOG meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE
(March, 2019: SIOP Asia 2019)

APHOG meeting in Tokyo
(August, 2013)
Hello all members of Asia SIOP! My name is Souichi Adachi, professor of Kyoto University. JCCG (the only Japanese clinical study group for children’s cancer) was established in 2005, by the great effort of Dr. Akira Nakagawara, Dr. Shuki Mizutani (first president of JCCG), and Dr. Masahiro Fukuzawa (first chairman of JCCG). Members of JCCG are pediatricians, pediatric surgeons, neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, basic researchers. We are performing many clinical studies in JCCG institutions including neuroblastoma, Wilms’ tumor, brain tumor, rhabdomyosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), acute myelogenous leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, malignant lymphoma, hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, and Langerhans cell histiocytosis. We have two data centers at Tokyo and Nagoya and many central diagnostic centers at Tokyo, Nagoya, Tsukuba, Mie and Kyoto. We also have national banking system at Tokyo. We are the members of international BFM group and communicate with COG and St. Jude Children’s Hospital. But for the purpose of achievement of World Health Organization goal for 60% survival for all children with cancer by 2030, we want more deep collaboration with many Asian countries.

We just started international Asian clinical study for Down syndrome ALL patients. We are also planning a new clinical study for acute promyelocytic leukemia in Asian countries. Dr. Tomoaki Taguchi and his colleagues performed delicate surgery at Cambodia. I was the Dean of Human Health Sciences of Kyoto University and develop human resources such as nurses, clinical laboratories physical therapists and occupational therapists for children cancer patients. Hope for all children cancer patients and families in Asia!

Greetings from the new JCCG (Japan Children’s Cancer Group) president

Souichi Adachi, MD, PhD

President, Japan Children’s Cancer Group (JCCG)
E-mail: office@jccg.jp
Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI) programme is the latest therapy service offered by Children’s Cancer Foundation (CCF) for children and families affected by cancer. Led by CCF’s Principal Social Worker, Fion Yip, who is certified in Play Therapy and Animal Assisted Therapy, AAI comprises Animal-Assisted Activity (AAA) and Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) sessions for individuals and groups.

AAA provides opportunities for motivation, education, or recreation to enhance the quality of life of our beneficiaries through human-animal interactions. The inaugural AAA session was launched in December last year and participants learnt about AAT and AAA, and the differences between the approaches. Seven volunteer dog handlers and their pooches volunteered their weekend to spend time with our beneficiaries. Besides patting and playing with the dogs, they participated in games such as “Blindfold Picasso” where the child had to feel a part of the dog while being blindfolded and draw what they felt. Other games included an “Obstacle Course” where the caregivers had to set up obstacles using chairs, hula hoops and cones for their child to navigate the dogs through.

AAT is directed and delivered by a formally trained therapist with specific goals for children impacted by cancer to enhance their emotional well-being. Since April 2019, AAT was offered as part of individual therapy. CCF will also be introducing group AAT sessions in the last quarter of 2019.
“Joy Cart Story”

It all starts with a smile, one smile that ignites and encourages us all to do more here at Friends of cancer patients, as a non-profit charity in the UAE we are strong believers in the importance of moral support and the big effect it has on everyone who was affected by cancer at some point in their lives, when FOCP roams through the hospital halls we make sure to send positivity through the variety of activities and workshops that we arrange in collaboration with our sponsors who help us in alleviating the burden of cancer on the children.

“Joy Cart’ is a monthly initiative by Friends of Cancer Patients UAE that was established in 2013 and not only draws smiles on children’s faces who are bravely battling cancer, but has a longer term effect in the way it instills a sense of normalcy in their lives by engaging them in creative activities. Joy Cart has contributed to bringing much needed relief to the arduous journey of young cancer patients, and continues to ignite hope in their hearts.

FOCP’s ‘Joy Cart’ initiative has been making rounds at pediatric cancer wards across UAE, spreading happiness and hope in the lives of young patients fighting this difficult disease.

Alongside its mission to support young cancer patients financially and emotionally, the Joy Cart initiative is equally committed to promoting volunteerism and service in the UAE. By doing so, FoCP not only seeks to encourage people’s participation in community initiatives, but also heighten awareness about cancer, its risks, symptoms, and treatment, by engaging volunteers with patients, as well as medical practitioners.

Through Joy Cart, FOCP has also been engaging with families who are unable to bear the high cost of cancer treatment for their children, and bringing as many as we can under the FOCP’s financial support program. Until now, Joy cart has supported over 2100 with approximately 72 joy carts over 6 years.

![Image of children receiving gifts during Joy Cart]

![Image of children engaging in creative activities during Joy Cart]
“Helping Those in Need”

Started with a commitment and vision in mind, ECWF now, is a combined effort and devotion of over 5000 people. Aimed to help children from cancer whose families cannot afford for their treatment, ECWF provides complete medical help required for their treatment, from medicines to food to follow up. Supporting over 60 treated children and around 50 siblings of survivors with their education and patients, in order to make them self-dependent. Currently, 50 mothers are actively working with us. Blood donation camps, hygiene education, educational support for children, food both raw and cooked distribution and women empowerment workshops happen on a daily basis.

Rehabilitation is provided for families by setting up small tuck shops in their villages for daily source of income. We aid in building homes of the cancer survivors who lose everything during their treatment process, till date we’ve built two homes from scratch.

Rural women are the key to achieve the social and economic transformation we keep talking about. Doing our bit in contributing for their empowerment, ECWF organizes workshops of skill training so as to provide them with a source of earning livelihood. They make paper jewelry, handicraft items, paper bags, thread jewelry and purely homemade spices, which are then sold.
Sometimes it doesn’t mean it is the end of the road when you reach a milestone in life, but rather a continuation of something much bigger than the initial goal. Surviving a childhood cancer is a dream of many that are suffering from it, but what lies ahead may be daunting to most of them. Spending most of their lives going through countless procedures, it is undeniable that they are missing some essence of growing up that children normally go through.

At SCCS, youth cancer survivors are given the opportunity to join the annual Youth Camp, a platform to nurture & support their well-being, through a series of team-building exercises that fosters relationship as well as feeling of self-empowerment where they can talk openly about their experiences on the road to survivorship. This year, 41 youths attended a 3 day 2 night camp which was held at Sumiran Eco Camp, Kuching. The camp, themed ‘Mission I’m Possible’, had a setup of natural boot camp in the jungle. At the end of the camp, the SCCS Survivor Passport was given out as an initiative to enhance the survivor program, to ensure survivors are responsible for their own health progress and attend check ups with doctors.

The next initiative is the formation of a dedicated SCCS survivor group known as Heroes of Hope (HOH). With their experience with childhood cancer under the care of SCCS, they will work together as a team to contribute back to the society in their own ways. HOH’s first project was conducting fun & interactive activities at the ward with current patients, which included arts & craft, karaoke and dance session. Looking forward to an awesome journey with our survivors to help kids fight cancer!
1. Annual Meeting of American Society Paediatric Haematology- Oncolog (ASPHO) 2020
   **When:** May 6th - 9th, 2020
   **Where:** Fort Worth, Texas, USA
   http://aspho.org/meetings/conference/overview

2. Advances in Neuroblastoma research (ANR) 2020
   **When:** May 11th - 14th, 2020
   **Where:** Amsterdam, Netherlands
   https://www.anr2020.org/

3. Annual Meeting of American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
   **When:** May 29th - June 2nd, 2020
   **Where:** Chicago, USA
   https://meetings.asco.org/am/save-date

4. International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology (ISPNO) 2020
   **When:** June 21st - 24th, 2020
   **Where:** Karuizawa, Japan

5. Annual meeting of Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) 2020
   **When:** June 25th - 27th, 2020
   **Where:** Seville, Spain
   https://2020.masccmeeting.org/

6. Annual Conference of SIOP (SIOP 2020)
   **When:** October 14th - 17th, 2020
   **Where:** Ottawa Canada
   https://2020.masccmeeting.org/

7. World Cancer Congress 2020
   **When:** October 19th - 22nd, 2020
   **Where:** Muscat, Oman
   https://www.worldcancercongress.org/

8. International Symposium on Hodgkin Lymphoma (ISHL12)
   **When:** October 24th - 26th, 2020
   **Where:** Cologne, Germany
   https://www.hodgkinsymposium.org/