

NEWSLETTER

SIOP AFRICA UPDATES



AFRICAN PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY PHARMACY GROUP

The African paediatric oncology pharmacy group is the first of its kind in Africa comprising nearly 90 members from all over the continent. This group aims to drive the concept of paediatric pharmacy and paediatric oncology pharmacy and highlight the role of the pharmacist in the multidisciplinary team. The group is planning a second paediatric oncology pharmacy workshop at SIOP Africa 2024 and welcomes input and new members - contact Shauna Odongo Arao via the SIOP Africa secretariat on africa@siop-online.org

SIOP 2024
Johannesburg, South Africa
4-8 June 2024 Towards 2030!

Kindly note that the dates for SIOP Africa 2024 have changed and will now be taking place at The Indaba Hotel & Conference Centre from Tuesday, 4 June to Saturday, 8 June.

We understand the value of your time and commitments and apologise for any inconvenience caused by the adjustment

NEW DATE!

health WITS SIOP AFRICA

PLEASE NOTE NEW DATES

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING

St Jude Global hosted a sub-Saharan African regional meeting in Accra, Ghana at the end of August. Groups included EPAT (Education Program Assessment Tool), sickle cell anaemia, fundraising, febrile neutropaenia guidelines and health systems policy.

We look forward to increasing collaboration and locally relevant programme activities initiated at this meeting.



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PAEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOUR WORKSHOP IN ASSOCIATION WITH SAAPHO AND SNOSSA

Friday the 1st and Saturday the 2nd of December 2023
Wolfson Pavilion, Groote Schuur Hospital and UCT Faculty of Health Sciences Anzio Road, Observatory, Cape Town

IN PERSON EARLY REGISTRATION: R1750 (Up to 6th October 2023)

IN PERSON LATE REGISTRATION: R2000 (from 7th October 2023)

VIRTUAL REGISTRATION: R500 (scholarships available on request)

HOW DO I REGISTER OR MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES?

1. Register via our PBTW link: <https://pbtw.co.za/registration/>
2. Submit an abstract online: <http://btw.brainchild.org.za/abstracts/>

MESSAGE FROM SIOP AFRICA BOARD REGARDING RECENT EVENTS IN MOROCCO & LIBYA

SIOP Africa expresses its full solidarity with Morocco and Libya following the earthquake and floods that have affected both countries, causing several human casualties and property losses.

We offer our condolences to the families of the victims in support of the healthcare workers caring for children and adolescents with cancer and all others supporting patients and their families.

SIOP's vision, "no child should die of cancer: cure for more, care for all" applies here, as in all countries.

WHO UNGA78 SIDE EVENT

Childhood cancer survivor Wadzanai Mayiseni from Zimbabwe, together with Daniel Mackenzie, CEO of Kidzcan. Wadzanai graduated with honours in Neuroscience and Psychology from Columbia University.



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WHO UNGA78 SIDE EVENT

SIOP Africa President Dr Joyce Kambugu represented SIOP Africa members at the UNGA78 Side Event "Cure All Implementation Advancing Toward UHC Realization and Bridging Survival Gap in Childhood Cancer" in New York in mid-September.

The event was hosted by SIOP, the Slovak Republic, WHO and St Jude Global and was held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The event commemorated the 5th anniversary of the Launch of the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer.



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NEWS FROM FRANCOPHONE AFRICA



Partnership agreement between WHO Afro and GFAOP

A partnership agreement was signed between WHO Africa and the Franco-African Group of Paediatric Oncology (GFAOP). This partnership strengthens the capacity and expertise of 17 paediatric oncology units within the GFAOP network across 15 Sub-Saharan Francophone African countries. These countries include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Senegal, and Togo. The collaboration with WHO Africa will play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of care for paediatric cancer patients in these countries.

GFAOP programmes supported by S foundation

In addition to this partnership, the GFAOP continues its dedicated efforts to benefit children affected by cancer in Francophone Africa through nine ongoing programmes supported by S Foundation:

- 1. Hospital Registry:** Establishing and maintaining a hospital registry to systematically track paediatric cancer cases, providing valuable data for improved care.
- 2. Adapted treatment regimen:** Developing and disseminating evidence-based therapeutic guidelines to ensure standardized adapted treatment protocols for paediatric cancer in Africa.
- 3. Early Diagnosis programme:** Focusing on improving early detection methods and raising awareness about the importance of timely diagnosis.
- 4. Pain Management and Palliative Care:** Dedication to alleviating pain and suffering through effective pain management techniques and the expansion of palliative care services.
- 5. Access to drugs:** Ensuring reliable and affordable access to essential medications for paediatric cancer treatment.
- 6. Paediatric Oncology Diploma Programme:** Offering long-term diploma courses in paediatric oncology to enhance the expertise of healthcare professionals.
- 7. Short-term Training for Satellite Centers:** Providing short-term training programmes to establish a network of satellite centers to deliver quality care in remote areas.
- 8. Leadership Training:** Introducing a new leadership training programme aimed at enhancing leadership skills in a complex healthcare environment. The objectives include strengthening leadership competencies in a complex context, promoting the exemplary nature of paediatric oncology in Africa, and emphasising the search for sustainable solutions using local resources.
- 9. Multidisciplinary Training:** Offering training programmes that promote collaboration and communication among various healthcare professionals, ensuring a holistic approach to care.

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NEWS FROM FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

These initiatives collectively align with the global initiative of WHO to achieve a 60% overall survival rate for children with cancer by the year 2030. Through these partnerships and programs, the GFAOP is dedicated to providing hope and improving the outcomes for children with cancer in Francophone Africa, ultimately contributing to the betterment of healthcare in the region.

The Paediatric Oncology Diploma

The 7th class of the Paediatric Oncology Diploma Programme (DUCP) is set to embark on their educational journey, marking another significant milestone in the relentless fight against paediatric cancer in Africa. Since 2014, as part of the African School of Paediatric Oncology, the Francophone-African Group of Paediatric Oncology (GFAOP) has been offering an accredited diploma programme in paediatric oncology in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat and the University Paris-Saclay. This programme, owes its success to the unwavering support of Foundation S.

To date, a total of 107 physicians from 20 Francophone African countries have undergone specialised training through the DUCP. The 22 carefully selected candidates comprising the 7th DUCP class are commencing their training this month. Hailing from 9 different Francophone African countries that are part of the GFAOP network (Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Mali, Benin, Cameroon, Senegal, Morocco), their participation underscores the network's enduring commitment to combat paediatric cancer across the African continent.

In collaboration with WHO Africa, the Francophone-African Group of Paediatric Oncology has awarded 10 training scholarships to candidates supported by their respective institutions. These scholarships cover travel, registration, and accommodation expenses for a six-month practical internship for candidates from Sub-Saharan Africa. This support ensures that students can access high-quality training without financial constraints.

The DUCP training program encompasses a blend of theoretical and practical modules, as well as hands-on experience under the guidance of renowned professionals in paediatric oncology. As a result, students acquire specialized knowledge and essential practical skills that are pivotal in enhancing the care and treatment of paediatric cancer.

This unique initiative significantly enhances the capacity of healthcare professionals in the field of paediatric oncology in Africa, ultimately leading to improved outcomes and increased survival rates for childhood cancer. The GFAOP's collaboration with WHO Africa exemplifies the power of partnerships in addressing critical healthcare challenges.

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AFRICAN RESEARCH BY AFRICANS



One of SIOP Africa's exciting committees is the Research and Emerging Researchers Committee. The aim of the committee is to establish collaborative research opportunities, facilitate research teaching and stimulate the development of research questions relevant to paediatric oncology in Africa.

The philosophy behind the committee is to get Africans talking about local priorities and identify which are relevant to the whole continent. By harnessing the research experience of Africa, we can address these together and facilitate regional, resource appropriate approaches to improve the understanding of paediatric oncology in Africa and improve survival outcomes.

Topics highlighted in the first months of establishing the committee included fertility preservation, late effects and access to oncology related medication. To build research knowledge a seven part research training series was presented in both English and French.

Due to the positive contributions of African paediatric oncology multi-disciplinary teams, two new working groups have been established: The Paediatric Oncology Pharmacy group and the African Late Effects group. Both these groups are already developing resources for practical application and training in Africa

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AFRICAN RESEARCH BY AFRICANS

These groups, with the coordinating person, are:

Central African Group: Dr Karim Assani (DRC) - drassanik@gmail.com

East African Group: Dr Daniel Hailu (Ethiopia) - daniel.hailu@aaau.edu.et

North African Group: Prof Riham Abdelaziz (Egypt) - riham.abdelaziz@57357.org

Southern African Group: Prof Mariana Kruger (South Africa) – marianakruger@sun.ac.za

Western African Group: Prof Boubacar Togo (Mali) - togoboubacar2000@yahoo.fr

Chair: Dr Jaques van Heerden (South Africa) – jaques.vanheerden@uza.be

The two working groups:

Paediatric Oncology pharmacy Group: Ms Shauna Arao (Uganda) - araoshauna6@gmail.com

African Late Effects Working Group: Dr Anel van Zyl - vanzyla@sun.ac.za

In the following months the committee will develop research interest around the six GICC tumours, abandonment of treatment and how to write an abstract.

Any person who works with children with cancer or related fields are welcome to attend teaching activities, contribute to research ideas or contact committee members to join regional teams or working groups to participate in activities.

See you at the SIOP OTTAWA CONFERENCE!