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## Executive of SIOPI ASIA

**Continental President**  
Dr. Rashmi Dalvi

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

**Newsletter Editor**  
Dr. Maya Prasad

## From The Editor's Desk

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### **Dr Maya Prasad, M.D**

Associate Professor, Paediatric Oncology,  
Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai

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Dear Friends and colleagues,

We are well into 2019, and it is my pleasure to share with you some of the important events in paediatric oncology from Asia over the past few months. SIOF 2018 at Kyoto was wonderfully organized, with an outstanding scientific program and excellent hospitality, not to mention the charming location. The Kinkakuji Golden temple on the cover of this newsletter might bring back fond memories for most of us. Dr. Nakagawara, chair of Local organizing committee, gives us a report in this newsletter. SIOF Asia 2019 at Abu Dhabi, is just around the corner and we have the final program in this newsletter. Bidding for SIOF Asia 2021 congress opens soon- details below.

The SIOF PODC International Nutrition workshop held at Chennai, India in January had representation from many Asian countries, and will hopefully be the start of many fruitful collaborations between neighbours. Also in this issue, Dr Rezanur Rehman from Bangladesh gives an overview of childhood cancer in his country, and describes the challenges in management. Our CCI member organizations continue to support children with cancer, as you can read from reports later in this newsletter. International Childhood Cancer Day 2019 was celebrated all over the world; do you have pictures or reports from your centre that you would like to include in this newsletter ?

Inviting contributions to the newsletter, and reminding all to update their email addresses on the SIOF website.

Hoping to see you all at Abu Dhabi.

Best Wishes

## Message from Continental President

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### **Dr. Rashmi Dalvi**

Sr. Consultant Pediatric Hematologist Oncologist  
SRCC Children's Hospital, Mumbai,  
Professor & Head, Dept of Pediatrics  
Bombay Hospital Institute of Medical Sciences,  
Visiting Consultant, PHO & BMT,  
LTMG Hospital/Medical college, Mumbai

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Dear Friends and colleagues,

In the new year 2019, we have a change of guard on the SIOPI Asia committee; best wishes from Dr Chi-kong Li and myself, for an exciting and enlightening academic year ahead. Dr Maya Prasad continues her excellent work as Editor with this Spring Newsletter. We skipped our Asia continental meeting in 2018 in deference to the SIOPI 2018 Kyoto Congress, being held in Asia. Congratulations to the SIOPI Board, Dr Akira Nakagawara & team for a very successful meeting with a near record attendance.

The Annual General meeting of SIOPI Asia was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Kyoto during the SIOPI 2018 congress. Over 40 members attended. There was also representation from the SIOPI board, Dr S Howard, Dr Bouffet, Benson Pau & colleagues from Childhood Cancer International. DrSaghir gave an update on the progress of the upcoming SIOPI Asia 2019 meeting at Abu Dhabi, UAE. On behalf of the PHO society in India, Dr Banavali presented the bid for Mumbai as the host city for the next SIOPI Asia 2020 congress. This was accepted and confirmed by the members present.

The SIOPI 2019 Abu Dhabi meeting will be held from 4-6<sup>th</sup> April 2019, promising a great scientific feast. Prior to it, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April there will be Precongress workshops on Research Methodology and Solid tumors. As is usual, the CCI-Asia and Nursing Group will also hold their meetings in parallel sessions at Abu Dhabi. Preparations have also begun for the SIOPI Asia 2020 Mumbai meeting to be held from 2-5<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to be held at Mumbai, India. We look forward to seeing you soon at Abu Dhabi and the next year in Mumbai. We now have to plan for the next SIOPI Asia 2021 meeting. As per the endorsed bidding guidelines, members interested in hosting the SIOPI 2021 conference should submit a bidding proposal earlier to me & will have the opportunity to make a presentation at the next Annual General meeting (AGM) of SIOPI Asia during SIOPI 2019 Lyon congress in October 2019. The conference bid will be decided and accepted by members at the AGM.

The International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) instituted through the Childhood Cancer International on February 15th, has been widely celebrated by CCI member organisations and pediatric oncology centres; bringing hope and encouragement to patients around the world

SIOPI as you know was granted nonstate actor status as partner with the World Health Organisation last February, through the efforts of Dr Calaminus, the SIOPI advocacy team, and Dr Perilongo. Subsequent to this, a Global initiative in Childhood Cancer has been launched through the WHO in partnership with St Jude Children's Research Hospital and other partners; with SIOPI being one of the important stake-holders. The proposed target of this initiative is to ensure 60% survival for children with cancer in LMICs, by the year 2030. The focus of this initiative is to treat children with cancer in the larger context of all needs of the children and families including psychosocial and palliative care. The initial intervention will focus on six diseases that represent 50-60% widely prevalent childhood cancers; viz. ALL, Burkitt lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, retinoblastoma, Wilms tumor and low-grade glioma. Much progress through stakeholder engagement has been achieved these past 8 months, and Asia which is home to a large proportion of afflicted children from LMICs will likely be a significant beneficiary.

On another note, as the scope of pediatric oncology widens and our tribe increases, there have been discussions on how best SIOPI continental groups can function within and benefit from the main SIOPI and vice versa. We invite comments and suggestions from both experienced members and fresh young minds, on this and you can write in to me or Dr Chi-kong Li on the same.

Looking forward to your participation in SIOPI Asia activities.

Rashmi Dalvi  
rashmidalvi5@gmail.com

# Minutes of 2018 SIOP Asia Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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Date: 17 November 2018

Time: 11:50 – 13:30

Venue: Annex Hall 2, International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan

Dr CK Li welcomed all attendees of the AGM. There were close to 50 attendees. Dr Li formally handed over the post of Continental President, SIOP Asia to Dr Rashmi Dalvi, and reiterated that all members update their email IDs on the SIOP website in order to ensure that all email communications are received.

The minutes of previous meeting (AGM 2017) were proposed by Dr Dalvi and seconded by Dr Maya Prasad. The minutes were subsequently approved with no objection from anyone present.

Presentation of SIOP Asia 2019: Dr Mohammad Saghir gave a brief presentation on the upcoming SIOP Asia Congress, to be held in Abu Dhabi from 3rd to 6th April 2019. He mentioned that there were 39 invited speakers, and gave an overview of scientific program and pre-conference workshops, and reported that there are parallel sessions for CCI and nurses. There was discussion regarding the program, and members brought up the point that further continental meetings should consider including IPSO sessions.

Bidding for 2020 SIOP Asia congress: There was only one bid (Mumbai) as Fukuoka had withdrawn from bidding. Dr SD Banavali from Mumbai presented the bid on behalf of Mumbai. He was welcomed and introduced by Dr Dalvi. Dr Banavali made a brief presentation on Mumbai as the venue for SIOP Asia 2020, with a tentative date in early April 2020. The bid was approved by members. Dr Li mentioned that bidding for 2021 would begin soon with the decision being taken at the AGM during SIOP 2019.

Report on SIOP Asia newsletter: Dr Maya Prasad, editor of the newsletter mentioned that two editions of the newsletter were brought out during 2018, in April and October, and requested for submissions to the newsletter.

Report on booklet (Asian Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Societies and Centres): Dr Li and Dr Kirill Kirzhigov spoke about the booklet which was initiated 3 years ago. While the soft copy is available online, print versions are yet to be finalized. Information is pending on a few societies. Dr Purna Kurkure suggested that national Paediatric Haem-Onc societies can liaise with SIOP Asia to provide valid information on approved centres and NGOs in each country. Dr Ramandeep Arora mentioned that the new venture by SIOP on global mapping of centres, might eventually provide information on all approved centres.

Dr Li spoke about the new category of non-voting SIO Asia membership which had been created 2 years ago at a concessional rate. However, now that the fee of full SIO Asia membership for PODC countries has been reduced, it is possible for most people to join as regular members.

During the main SIO Asia council meeting, there was discussion that as Asia is a huge continent, the SIO Asia continental division could reflect WHO regional divisions. This point was discussed in the SIO Asia AGM as well, and opinion was divided

# Report: The 50th Anniversary of SIOF 2018 Congress in Kyoto

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## **Akira Nakagawara, MD, PhD**

Chair, Local Organizing Committee,  
SIOF 2018 Kyoto

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The 50th Anniversary of SIOF 2018 Congress was very successfully held in Kyoto from November 16th to 19th, 2018. It was the best season in Kyoto and with very fine weather and beautiful color changes in leaves of trees at the Japanese gardens, old temples and surrounding mountains.

The number of participants for SIOF 2018 was 2,475 from 90 countries over the world, which was a new record in the 50 years history of SIOF. We also had more than 40 Japanese volunteers. Considering that the number of participants was 1,000 at the 30th SIOF 1998 Congress held in Yokohama, Japan, with very few volunteers, the scale and contents of SIOF have amazingly expanded and filled up during the last 20 years. The large increase in number of attendants from Asian countries including Japan, China, India, Korea and others was very impressive. In addition, the number of SIOF official members has increased to 1,622, which was also a new record. Thus, SIOF 2018 Kyoto Congress was very successful and fruitful.

At the Opening Ceremony, the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Dr. Giuseppe Masera, Italy. The events at the Ceremony done by Japanese children, survivors, parents and volunteers gave the participants a deep emotion with a little tear. Celebration of the 50th anniversary of SIOF was done by the Keynote Lecture entitled "The History of SIOF" presented by Dr. Giorgio Perilongo and by the cake cut ceremony at the Opening Reception.

As usual, SIOF Jointly collaborated with CCI, IPSO, PPO, PROS, Nurses as well as PODC. There were 8 Keynote Lectures which included two talks by the Nobel Prize Winners, Prof. Yoshinori Ohsumi (Autophagy) and Prof. Tasuku Honjo (PD-1, PD-L1). Prof. Honjo had just been announced his winning of the Prize only one month before, and there occurred a standing ovation after his talk. All 10 Symposia and 7 Meet The Experts (MTEs) were also very exciting and inspiring. In addition, many young researchers enjoyed the MTE Lunch Time Sessions set up for 9 pediatric cancers.

Last year, SIOP and WHO made an agreement to collaborate together to increase the cure rate of children's cancer more than 60% all over the world by 2030. It was so wonderful that Mr. Andre Ilbawi, a representative of WHO, joined us and discussed with many people who attended the Kyoto SIOP. There were active discussions at the Poster Sessions as well as at the Exhibition booths in the Exhibition Hall. Many people enjoyed the Japanese OMOTENASHI to serve Japanese tea ceremony and to take Ukiyoe photos with their friends. Lastly, about 60 people enjoyed "Fun-Run" early in the morning by running the course around the beautiful pond just close to the convention center.

As Chair of Local Organizing Committee (LOC), I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the people who attended the memorial SIOP 2018 Congress in Kyoto and to all the supporters, all the children with cancer and their parents who fight against cancer together in the whole world.



「Networking Event\_Kagami-Wari」



「Lecture by Prof. T. Honjo, Nobel Prize Winner」



「Heated discussion in the main Hall」



「After the LOC & CCI Joint Session」



「Geiko Dance」



「Dr. Purna Kurkure, Dr. Rashmi Dalvi and Dr. Akira Nakagawara share a light moment」



「The Preparation Team 3 months before」



「The Main Hall」

# Announcement : SIOPI Asia General Assembly Meeting 2019

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The SIOPI Asia General Assembly meeting mid term will be held on – April 4th 2019 from 18.00-19.00 hrs at the Main Session Hall of the conference. The agenda for the meeting will be as follows

DATE: 4th April 2019

TIME: 18.00-19.00 hrs

VENUE: Main Session Hall

## AGENDA

- Minutes of AGM held at Kyoto, November 2018
- Presentation of SIOPI Asia 2020 meeting, Mumbai
- Comments from SIOPI Asia 2019 LOC: Dr. Eman / Dr. Saghir
- Report on SIOPI Asia Newsletter
- Report on Childhood Cancer Resources Asia
- Inputs /comments from CCI – Asia, Nursing Group
- SIOPI Asia membership
- Any other business with permission of the Chair

**Detailed program of SIOPI Asia 2019,  
Abu Dhabi is available on the website**

**<http://siopasia2019.com/scientific-program/>**

## Invitation for Bids for SIOP Asia 2021 conference

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Bid proposals as per bidding guidelines below are invited from countries wishing to host the SIOP Asia conference in 2021. Letter of intent and a brief proposal may be sent to Dr. Rashmi Dalvi (rashmidalvi5@gmail.com) before 31 August 2019. Interested individuals / countries will have a chance to make a presentation for approval at the SIOP Asia AGM, during SIOP 2019 at Lyon, France. In case there is more than one bid after the AGM, there will be online voting for the same immediately after the SIOP 2019 congress

### **Guidelines for Bidding and Selection of city for Annual SIOP Asia Congress**

SIOP Asia has been conducting separate scientific congresses in Asian cities since 2000. The objective of the SIOP Asia Congress is to provide updated scientific knowledge to Asian countries specially adapted to local conditions. So far, there have been 11 congresses organized at the following venues:

- 1<sup>st</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 26-28 April 2000, Singapore, Singapore
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 22 – 24 November 2002, New Delhi, India
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 26 – 28 February 2004, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 4<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 05 – 08 April 2006, Shanghai, China
- 5<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 26 – 28 February 2008, Muscat, Oman
- 6<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 3 – 5 March 2010, Kish Island, Iran
- 7<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 21 – 24 April 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 8<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 17 – 19 April 2014, Seoul, Korea
- 9<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 25 – 27 April 2015, Amman, Jordan
- 10<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 25-28 May, 2016, Moscow, Russia
- 11<sup>th</sup> SIOP Asia Congress, 28-31 May, 2017, Bangkok

The 12th Congress will be held at Abudhabi on April 3-6, 2019, and at Mumbai India in 2020. Initially, SIOP Asia congress was held every two years, but it was changed to annual meeting from 2014 due to popular demand. In the past, the selection of venue was made at the General Assembly of SIOP Asia during the SIOP Asia meeting or main SIOP congress. However, as the number of members from SIOP Asia attending the above meetings was small, representation from some countries could be inadequate for decision making. Thus, a formal bidding process has been put in place for the past three years.

The bidding guidelines are as below:

- The venue has to be proposed by a **SIOP member** of the bidding organization (either a hospital or national professional group),
- The proposal should be sent to the Continental President at least two years before the proposed congress, and it should be at least one month before the annual SIOP Congress. e.g. bidding to 2021 congress, the submission should be before October 2019.
- The proposed team should make a presentation in the SIOP Asia General Assembly (usually held during the main SIOP congress)
- If there is only one submission for that year, and this is supported by majority of members present at the General Assembly, the bidding will be successful.
- However if there is more than one proposal, all bidding teams must make a presentation in the General Assembly and answer questions from members. The selection of the city will then be made by voting through email (to be confirmed with SIOP Secretariat on the logistics)
- The result of selection should be announced before end of year of the bidding and informed to the SIOP Board.

# **XIth SIOP PODC International Nutrition workshop, Chennai, India : Meeting Report**

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The 11th SIOP PODC (Pediatric Oncology in Developing Countries) Workshop on Nutrition in Children with Cancer was held at Cancer Institute (W.I.A), Chennai, India on 18th and 19th January 2019. The meeting was attended by 250 delegates and faculty and included pediatric oncologist, physicians from other specialities, nurses, dieticians, social workers, and volunteers as participants.

The conference was organised by Dr Venkatraman Radhakrishnan and chaired by Dr Amita Trehan and Dr Elena Ladas. The highlight of the meeting was the participation by pediatric oncologist from Srilanka (Dr Sanjeeva), Nepal (Dr Bishnu), Philippines (Dr Amy and Dr Pedro) and Bangladesh (Dr Rezanur). This was the first-time delegates from South-East Asia had participated in the meeting thereby broadening the reach of the SIOP PODC nutrition workshop.

Various topics of interest were discussed in the meeting including evolution of SIOP PODC nutrition workshops, accurate assessment of anthropometry, development of regional anthropometric reference values, nutrition in transplant and palliative care, total parenteral nutrition, food safety, role of superfoods, gut microbiome, guidelines for severe acute malnutrition, nutrition related toxicities, role of non-government organisations (NGO), ready to use therapeutic feed, obesity, vitamin D and pediatric cancers, case based discussions and many more.

The faculty from South-East Asia presented the status of the nutritional programme in their country for children with cancer. It was resolved to help the faculty from South-East Asia to develop an effective nutritional intervention programme like what had been achieved in India over the past one decade through the nutrition work-shop initiative and help of NGOs.

Ten research papers were presented from various hospitals from India on nutrition in children with cancer. The variety and depth of the research presentations were a clear indication that future is bright with regards to improvement in nutritional care of children with cancer. Dr Ronald Barr provided expert inputs throughout the meeting.

There was a separate half a day session for the dieticians. This session included speakers who were dieticians and was focussed on aspects of nutrition care from the clinical nutritionist's perspective. This session was introduced for the first time during this meeting as a popular demand from the dieticians.

The nutrition workshop was useful for establishing peer to peer networks, collaboration between hospitals and countries, understanding the burden of undernutrition, formulating policies for nutritional intervention and rehabilitation and providing a platform for all stake holders to discuss, debate and cooperate.



「Delegates attending the workshop」



「Faculty from across Asia」

# Challenges and Analysis of childhood cancer in Bangladesh: A Perspective

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## **Dr.S.M.Rezanur Rahman**

MBBS, MD (Pediatric Hematology and Oncology)  
Pediatric Hemato-Oncologist, Dhaka Medical  
Collage Hospital, Bangladesh.

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### **Introduction:**

Childhood cancer is increasing day by day. It is neglected in developing countries, even though approximately 84 % of the cancer cases under 15 years occur in the low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs). Incidence of childhood cancer worldwide is nearly 300,000 new cases per year. In Bangladesh, the overall cancer burden including adolescent and childhood cancer is largely unknown due to the nonexistence of (population-based) cancer registries. The proportion of childhood cancers is expected to be high in Bangladesh because of the young population structure- about 47 % of the population is under 15 years old. Total 80000 death /year in < 19 years of age due to cancer and in < 19 years of age 5-year survival in low income countries as low as 10% while that in developed countries like USA and UK as high as 80%. In Bangladesh, the overall cancer burden including adolescent and childhood cancer is largely unknown due to the nonexistence of (population-based) cancer registries. The proportion of childhood cancers is expected to be high in Bangladesh because of the young population structure- about 47 % of the population is under 15 years old.

Bangladesh has no authentic cancer statistics but nearby country scenario is available. In Pakistan incidence is 100 per million in <15 years of age and in India it is 64 per Million. In 2012, the population was estimated to be 164 million with 47% under 15 years. There is no national population based cancer registry but using worldwide incidence rates of between 180/million children. We would expect 13000 new cases/year in Bangladesh. Only about 25% of those numbers are actually currently diagnosed. Under-5 mortality is now 46/1000 live births and infant Mortality 38/1000 live birth. Poverty is a major issue but the national economy is showing positive growth. Children present late with cancer as a result of poor public and local health worker awareness of the meaning of signs and symptoms of cancer. Consequently, only about 80% of children reaching secondary/tertiary hospitals can be offered potentially curative therapy, and of those many families cannot afford to pay for full treatment. Over time, the childhood and adolescent cancer incidence has increased which is most likely due to improved awareness among clinicians, diagnostic facility and registration. The incidence rates are still low compared to India where the total childhood cancer rates varied between 38 and 124 per million person-years compared to 8 per million person-years in Bangladesh.

## Bangladesh Perspective

First pediatric Oncology Center in BSMMU was created in the early 1990's. In December 2008 government of Bangladesh established Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Department in 8 (eight) Medical College hospitals. Pediatric Onco-surgery department was established in Dhaka medical College hospital & Chittagong Medical College hospital in 2017. In National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) was started only solid tumor treatment from 2005. First Government functioning pediatric hematology and oncology center is Dhaka Medical College hospital (DMCH) and that started its journey in 2010. Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital started protocol-based treatment from 2014 (Though Centre established earlier). Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) and Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital (SOMCH) are treating pediatric cancer patients (from 2014). In private sector Ahsania Misson Cancer Hospital, Square Hospital, Delta Medical College Hospital and United Hospital are treating paediatric cancer patients but most of this hospital are driven by adult oncologist or radiation oncologists or adult hematologists.

Total no. of patients admitted	1038	
Under treatment	549	52.89%
Death	194	18.68%
Refused	122	11.75%
Abandonment	367	35.35%
Treatment completed	186	17.91%
Alive	295	53%

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	479
Acute Myeloid Leukemia	106
Non Hodgkin Lymphoma	106
Hodgkin Lymphoma	40
Wilms' Tumour	59
Germ cell Tumour	29
Neuroblastoma	47
Rhabdomyosarcoma	34
Osteosarcoma	09
Ewing sarcoma	13
Retinoblastoma	14
Central Nervous System & Brain	14
Histiocytosis	15
Hepatoblastoma	10
Others	63

## **Challenges of Paediatric Cancer management.**

Following awareness created by the campaign of media and workshop

- Increased number of patient referral to the Pediatric Oncology Centers
- Work load increasing but skilled manpower and facilities are not adequate
- Late diagnosis, advanced disease and early toxic death
- Refusal to treat / stop treatment prematurely (47%)
- Economical constraint and lack of helping manpower
- Most drugs are imported from abroad and costly, inconsistent supply and sudden raise of price
- Shortage of bed in hospital, unavailability of Blood and Blood products
- Lack of
  - Reliable and modern diagnostic facilities
  - Patient transportation system
  - Functioning cancer support group
  - Shelter Home
- Unavailability of pediatric Onco-surgeon for Solid tumor management
- Lack of support group

## **Proposals**

- a) Creation of effective Support Group
- b) Establishment of functioning Cancer Home
- c) Awareness through Electronic and Print Media
- d) Development of non-governmental treatment facilities

## **Conclusion**

Childhood cancer is increasing burden for our country but these are curable with simple effort. Establishment of childhood cancer institute, creating posts of pediatric oncologists as well as onco-surgeons, support group, supply of drugs with subsidies and pediatric cancer home may help to reach the goal of success in childhood cancer.

## **Announcement :International Atomic Energy Agency Coordinated Research Project in childhood cancer and nutrition in low-and middle-income countries**

While survival rates for some childhood cancers have reached a 5-year net survival of around 90% in many high-income countries, 80% of young people with cancer live in low middle-income countries (LMICs) where survival rates are currently only 10-30%. The global challenge in childhood cancer is to translate gains achieved in higher-income settings to all children worldwide, but it is not enough to duplicate strategies or make recommendation only on consensus, quality research is needed to provide quality solutions for low resource settings. Whereas new cancer therapies may not be readily available and other solutions to improve survival may not be feasible in LMICs, a focus on nutrition support could raise the standard of care and improve clinical outcomes with simple low-cost strategies.

The IAEA is launching a new five-year Coordinated Research Project (CRP) into childhood cancer which is focused on increasing survival rates in children with cancer in low middle-income countries through improving nutritional support. By understanding the interlinking relationships between cancer, body composition, energy balance and clinical outcomes in childhood cancer, the CRP will provide evidence to cancer centres in strengthening nutrition supportive care programs to prevent premature deaths from childhood cancer.

The CRP will comprise seven participating teams from low middle-income countries. Each team will bring together childhood cancer researchers with nutrition researchers and use nuclear nutrition techniques to address the research objectives.

### **CRP Overall Objective:**

The overall objective is to generate evidence on how to improve survival in children with cancer in low middle-income countries through understanding the interlinking relationships between cancer, body composition, energy balance and clinical outcomes in childhood cancer.

### **Specific Research Objectives:**

- To understand how cancer and treatment influences body composition and energy balance through the continuum of childhood cancer
- To examine the effect of body composition on clinical outcomes for childhood cancer patients
- To evaluate body composition and energy balance assessment techniques for childhood cancer
- To determine the effect of interventions on body composition and clinical outcomes in childhood cancer

### **How to join the CRP:**

Proposals must be received **no later than 3rd May 2019**. Please submit your Proposal for Research Contract or Agreement by email to the IAEA's Research Contracts Administration Section, using the appropriate template on the CRA website.

For further information related to this CRP, potential applicants should write to the Project Officer at [NAHU-NAHRES.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:NAHU-NAHRES.Contact-Point@iaea.org)



## **CCI Member:ASHIC Foundation for Childhood Cancer, Bangladesh**

### **“Contribution of ASHIC Shelter to improve the Survival Rate of Childhood Cancer in Bangladesh”**

Cancer is a scary word for all, especially for low and middle income countries such as Bangladesh. The real data in Bangladesh remains unknown but it is said that approximately 15,000 children are diagnosed with cancer annually. In most cases the diseases are detected in their advanced stages, leaving limited avenues for curative treatment. A very high percentage of the affected children cannot pursue full treatment due to financial constraints, late diagnosis and ignorant parents who may not fully understand the gravity of the disease. Moreover, rural patients face hardship with accommodation and other logistical requirements for the long-term treatments available only in metropolitan areas, namely Dhaka.

In 1990s the present Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital was the only treatment center for Childhood Cancer in the country. We discovered then that the dropout rate of the cancer patients under treatment coming from across the country was very high because of accommodation problems in Dhaka city. As such, in 1999, we thought to establish a home away from home (Shelter) near BSMMU Hospital to support the commuting families so that we could have a positive impact on the survival rate of cancer children in Bangladesh, thus encouraging them to complete their treatments.

ASHIC Shelter started its journey in 2000 with 15 beds facility for the children and their mothers to provide accommodation free of cost for them. The facility also keeps additional 6 beds for accompanying male guardians. This first Shelter is a rented apartment located very near to the (BSMMU) Hospital, where almost all of the pediatric cancer patients arrive on a first referral from all over the country. We are proud to claim that the Shelter has had a direct impact on reducing the dropout rate from 80% to 35% and also in improving the country's survival rate from 3-10% to 40-45%. From running the ASHIC Shelter for almost the last two decades, we now know that the Shelter is an essential part of the support system for the Cancer Children coming from the rural areas for treatment in Dhaka and in becoming survivors.

Now as the survival rate has improved in Bangladesh due to the ASHIC Shelter, the facility is unable to cope the demand. Recently, we bought a 300 sq. meter apartment and designed 20 beds for children and their mothers and 6 beds for the accompanying male guardians. This facility is catering to families able to

pay a nominal fee so that the operational cost can be maintained. On the other hand, our first shelter catered free of cost causing fund constraint for meeting the increasing requirements of more accommodation. It is beginning to get good response and we are confident that the new Shelter will definitely contribute to further improving the survival rate of Childhood Cancer in Bangladesh.

We hope that the ASHIC Shelter serves as a replicable model for other low income countries struggling to improve their pediatric cancer survival rates.





มูลนิธิสายธารแห่งความหวัง  
WISHING WELL FOUNDATION

CCI Member: Wishing Well Foundation, Thailand

**“Wishing well foundation camp 2018 for Thai children with cancer”**

October 2018: Wishing well foundation, Thailand, held its 10th annual children cancer camp. Forty children and their families from 10 hospital all over Thailand came together at the Royal Navy base in Sattahip, Chonburi, to spent 3 day and 2 night at the Wishing well camp. Children had fun activities together, including arts, outdoor rallies, and swimming in the pool and at the beach, and a night party with magic performances by volunteers and suit actors. Integrated in the camp is a parent support group session. The camp ended with a visit to Chakrinarubet battleship. This year's camp is sponsored by members of Lions Clubs in Thailand; 310 A2, B, and C districts, and over 120 generous donors. Established in 2005, Wishing well foundation aims to improve quality of life for Thai children with cancer through fulfilling wishes for children whose hope for cure is limited, cancer camp for all cancer children, and promote access to palliative care. Wishing well became a CCI member in 2017, hosting CCI Asia meeting in Bangkok that year. Wishing well is also a member of ICPCN, APHN, UICC, and CHI.



## International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) 2019 Activities : CCI Members'

**Guangzhou Gold-ribbon Special Children Parents Centre, Guangzhou, China**  
Pediatric Ward of 8 Guangzhou hospital held a Pediatrics provided free consultations to the public on International Childhood Cancer Day.



### Sahayta - India



「The ICCD celebrations 25th Jan and 9th Feb 2019 -a workshop celebrating life」

## International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) 2019 Activities : CCI Members'



「A Bollywood bonanza - childhood survivors played their favourite stars, dancing the blues away」



「Children's Cancer Association of Japan (CCAJ)  
The Art Exhibition of Children with Cancer from  
around the world at the National Center for  
International Medical Research」

## International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) 2019 Activities : CCI Members'



### 「ICCD celebration in Mandalay, Myanmar

The collaboration between CCI Asia and Ayeyarwaddy International School in Mandalay demonstrates how a caring community of school leaders, students, parents and families can bring joy, inspire hope and save lives.」



### 「Can Kids, India

CanKids Campaign Snaps Chennai Airport」

## MARK THE DATES

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### **12th SIOP Asia 2019**

When : April 3-6, 2019  
Where: Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Details: <http://siopasia2019.com>

### **Annual Conference of American Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology ( ASPHO ) 2019**

When: May 1-4, 2019  
Where : New Orleans, USA  
Details : <http://aspho.org/meetings/conference/overview>

### **16th World Congress of the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC ) 2019**

When : May 23-25, 2019  
Where: Berlin, Germany  
Details : <http://www.eapc-2019.org/home.html>

### **Annual meeting of American society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2019**

When : May 31-June 4, 2019  
Where : Chicago, USA  
Details : <https://am.asco.org/>

### **Annual meeting of Paediatric Radiation Oncology Society (PROS)**

When : June 19-22, 2019  
Where: Bangkok, Thailand  
Details : <http://intpros.org/media/1403/pros-bangkok-2019-congress-flyer.pdf>

### **North American Symposium on Late Complications After Childhood Cancer (NASLCCC)**

When : June 20-22, 2019  
Where: Atlanta, USA  
Details : <https://stjude.cloud-cme.com/default.aspx?P=5&EID=2553>

## MARK THE DATES

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### **Annual Meeting of Multinational Society for Supportive Care in Cancer/ International Society of Oral Oncology (MASCC/ISOO)**

When : June 21-23, 2019

Where: San Francisco, USA

Details : <https://masccmeeting.org/2019#.XGxCpOgvPIV>

### **Annual SIOP Congress 2019**

When : October 23 - 26, 2019

Where: Lyon, France

Details : <https://siop-online.org/event/siop-2019/>

SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE  
D'ONCOLOGIE PÉDIATRIQUE



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY



CURING  
CHILDHOOD  
CANCER

# XIII SIOP ASIA CONFERENCE

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Hotel Taj Lands End, Mumbai, India

[www.siopasia2020.com](http://www.siopasia2020.com)

