

SIOP North America: Continental President Report

September, 2015

SIOP North America, which includes Canadian and United States-based members, has 193 members, 49 from Canada and 144 from the U.S. Of these, 37 members are new in 2015. Disciplines represented include pediatric oncology (137), nursing (10), pathology (4), pharmacy (2), psychology (8), radiation oncology (11), surgery (6), translational research (4), and epidemiology/biostatistics (8). The membership does not meet on a regular basis, but there have been gatherings at the London and Toronto meetings.

Members of SIOP North America have been engaged in activities across SIOP, including in PODC, the Nursing Committee and the Young Investigators group. SIOP North America membership has focused its work over the past years looking at two specific issues: how best to train physicians with interest in global oncology and how to engage North American physicians in meaningful efforts to improve outcomes for children with cancer globally. To help address these issues, we have partnered with ASPHO to develop a Special Interest Group in global pediatric hematology/oncology. The group met for the first time at the ASPHO 2015 meeting in May. There was significant enthusiasm for increasing the support for pediatric oncologists/hematologists who want to be involved in global health – providing opportunities for exchange with international physicians, joint research and educational opportunities.

SIOP North America has also shared the results of its survey of membership with SIOP's Pediatric Oncology Training and Education Centre. In the survey, 47 US and Canada-based oncology professionals provided information about their expertise and interest in global health activities. Respondents reported on twinning programs across the globe including programs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Botswana, Mali, Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Bahamas, Trinidad, Jamaica, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. Respondents expressed interest in helping with training of oncology professionals, including offering to share educational documents, treatment protocols, developing virtual educational conferences and accepting international trainees. 24 of the respondents reported prior travel abroad to teach or work in a global setting as a cancer professional, and nearly all respondents expressed interest in further work in global oncology. Respondents also offered to use technology to do virtual mentoring, to help with manuscript editing, and to consult regarding case management. These interests and the professionals who expressed these interests will be connected to SIOP members globally through the Pediatric Oncology Training and Education Centre in the months to come.

Dr. Lindsay Frazier will be taking on the role of Continental President, North America. It has been my honor to serve in this role.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Diller, MD