

In 2017 we had very good and sad news in our Pediatric Psycho-Oncology group.

The scientific board announced in Washington that a PPO representative was considered important on the scientific committee. We were happy to have our long team member Dr Stephen Sands (pediatric neuropsychologist, Memorial Sloan Kettering NYC) to join. His assignment underscores the importance of psycho-oncology in the pediatric oncology society.

With great sadness we shared the news of the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Andrea Patenaude.  As a co-chair, Andrea contributed to the SIOP PPO committee for many years with the organization of the educational day, the clinical case report session, and as a member of the Scientific Program Advisory Committee (SPAC) of SIOP. Her tireless advocacy raised the profile of pediatric psycho-oncology research and most recently helped SIOP build a relationship with the International Society of Psycho Oncology (IPOS). She contributed to numerous areas in psycho-oncology, including but not limited to: counseling for hereditary cancer, family communication, breaking bad news, the standards of psychosocial care and most recently also hospital detention in Africa.   Her spirit will be greatly missed in our committee. We do know that she was delighted when the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SIOP and IPOS to facilitate closer future ties between the two groups with similar missions. She advocated for this for many years.

This year with the meeting in Japan psycho-oncology has again much to offer. We will have our educational day on Friday November 16th with several speakers on important topics. We will introduce our new PPO committee members who expressed their interest to join.

During the main program the following is scheduled:

* A symposium on cultural differences in truth telling to children with Lynn Gillam (Australia), Bridget Young (United Kingdom) and Yikiko Tsunematsu (Japan).
* A key note on sleep by Raphaele van Litsenburg (the Netherlands)
* A clinical case session
* Free paper sessions based on submitted abstracts.

We look forward to seeing you all in Kyote.

On behalf of the SIOP-PPO committee

Martha Grootenhuis, PHD, research psychologist, Princess Máxima Center in Utrecht the Netherlands (chair)

