**SIOP PODC March 2018 Newsletter Contribution**

The first quarterly meeting of SIOP PODC was held in late January 2018. All 11 Working Groups and 3 Task Forces are hard at work on both old and new projects. For more details see <http://siop-online.org/podc/> and if you have interest in any of our working groups, please contact the co-chairs of that working group or task force listed on the SIOP website.

Several important issues arose:

[1] Membership: We need to encourage PODC members to join SIOP. This is possible with reduced rates for LIC and LMIC member of €20. Julia Challinor has volunteered to track c4k PODC membership against SIOP membership to see how we are doing.

[2] Mapping: SIOP President Eric Bouffet has added his voice to the call for a global mapping of paediatric oncology services, and the Education and Training Working Group has taken up the challenge. Please see their report below.

Looking back on the Washington meeting we held a strategic planning session focusing on five areas …

[1] Collaboration across working groups and task forces.

[2] Measuring Impact and Outcomes of PODC working groups and task forces.

[3] Increased engagement with SIOP general membership?

[4] Increased advocacy for professionals in low and middle income countries.

[5] Survey synthesis. How to take advantage of data we already have from PODC Surveys.

The report of that strategic planning session is now completed and has been posted on the SIOP PODC group of the [www.cure4kids](http://www.cure4kids) website. It is also available at \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*.

One of the most pressing issues is the management of data from multiple surveys. The Survey Synthesis discussion group led by Tricia Alcasabas and Paola Friedrich suggested the formation of a Survey Review Committee. They have taken up the challenge and will be bringing a proposal to the second quarterly meeting which is due to be held on the 24th of April 2018.

We look forward to a fruitful and strategic 2018, and an excellent programme in Kyoto. The best of the continents sessions will take a break until 2019, but we will have inputs by the **Adapted Treatments Regimen** and **Abandonment** working groups, as well as **Twinning** who will look at the *Effective Development of Shared Care Networks in LMIC*. In addition the St Jude team will host a session on *Pediatric Oncologic Emergency Management in LMIC*.

Please remember that assistance for second language English speakers will continue this year. In addition to individual help which will be offered to abstracts chosen for oral presentation, the PODC chairs will try to find support for anyone preparing an abstract for Kyoto who requests assistance … the submission deadline is 10 April 2018.

Next, we highlight two SIOP PODC Working Groups, **Education and Training** and **Nursing**.

The **SIOP PODC Education and Training Working Group** improves access to education and training opportunities for health professionals who work with children with cancer. Many doctors and nurses (among others) are, of necessity, treating children and adolescents with cancer without any formal training or support. Our key activities include:

1. *Publicizing training opportunities*

We publicize conferences, seminars and training opportunities (such as short courses and fellowships) that are relevant to the PODC community. Download the spreadsheet from <https://cancerpointe.com/> to see all the training opportunities.

2. *Partnering clinicians from low and middle income countries with experts from high income countries*

We have created a dynamic platform to link willing experts in high income countries (mainly North America at this stage) with clinicians in LMIC. These experts are available to train face-to-face (they will come to the centre that needs training), via online platforms (Skype, cure4kids, teleconferencing etc.) or by email. They are willing to share training materials and provide advice and insights to any clinician who contacts them. If you consider yourself an expert in a particular area, and are willing to provide support to a colleague in a less-resourced setting, please contact us. If you are a clinician seeking support or advice, please go onto our website and download the spreadsheet to find a suitable expert - <https://cancerpointe.com/>

3. *Publish presentations and adapted regimen documents*

We have created a forum for people to share regimens and presentations to benefit trainees and clinicians who are not supported by established academic programmes. These currently consist of articles that have been published in Pediatric Blood and Cancer, but we welcome contributions from other journals.

For inclusion in the cancerPOINTE platforms please contact us on [info@cancerpointe.com](mailto:info@cancerpointe.com)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CancerPOINTE>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cancerPOINTE/>

4. *Global paediatric oncology mapping*

Dr Eric Bouffet, SIOP President, has commissioned a mapping of global oncology services, and we are excited to have been included in this project. The purpose is to identify paediatric oncology services around the world, to allow:

(a) Accurate and prompt referrals to specialist centres

(b) Identification of centres that require more assistance, for advocacy and lobbying purposes

(c) Increase networking and collaboration.

This project will be launched with an inventory of services in Africa. Africa has been chosen as the pilot continent as the known services are minimal, the survival rates are extremely low and we have willing members in Africa who are able to take this project forward. Once we have covered Africa, the project will expand to include other continents. However, if colleagues around the world forward their information, we are very happy to capture it. A survey will be sent to all SIOP members, people who have registered as part of the SIOP PODC group in [www.cure4kids.org](http://www.cure4kids.org) and other addresses that we locate.

To ensure this project is a success we will need a lot of support from the SIOP PODC working groups, to both complete the surveys, forward the surveys to clinicians in various countries, and to promote the global mapping campaign.

If you want to know more about what the working group does, or you want to get involved then email [info@cancerpointe.com](mailto:info@cancerpointe.com), we want to hear from you.

*Education and Training is co-chaired by Jennifer Geel from South Africa and Neil Ranasinghe from the United Kingdom.*

The mission of the **SIOP PODC Nursing Working Group** is to promote excellence in pediatric oncology nursing worldwide through education, collaboration and professionalism. The working group is comprised of nurses from low, mid and high-income countries who are committed to decreasing the survival gap in pediatric cancer. Nurses play a crucial role improving patient outcomes and safety. This group aims to build relationships between nurses from countries with varied resources, providing the opportunity for nurses to work together to foster quality nursing care and support patients and families along the cancer journey.

The PODC Nursing Working Group has over 130 members representing countries of all income levels. Monthly Cure4kids conference calls are offered, providing education and networking on topics relevant to pediatric oncology nursing. In 2018, topics have included Compassion Fatigue, Ethics Rounds, and Guidelines for Central Line care.

Scholarship application guidelines for nurses from low and lower middle income countries who wish to attend the 2018 SIOP Conference in Kyoto will be available on the SIOP website this month, along with information on sponsorships for SIOP membership.

*Nursing is co-chaired by Rehana Punjwani from Pakistan and Lisa Morrissey from the United States.*

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Report submitted by PODC co-chairs Sandra Luna-Fineman and Alan Davidson.