MAKING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
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FROM THE EDITORS
Happy international pediatric oncology nurses' day to all of our colleagues around the globe! This issue of the Making Global Connections newsletter highlights the unique and various ways that our members have found their calling as pediatric oncology nurses. In addition, we're highlighting some of the amazing work of our group members to advance and advocate for the pediatric oncology nursing profession worldwide.

We hope this edition of the newsletter reminds you of your own journey to becoming a pediatric oncology nurse, and inspires you to keep up the great work you do every day to take care of our patients.

Linda Abramovitz and Liz Sniderman
Co-editors, Making Global Connections Newsletter

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS
We are now well into our first year as co-chairs, and what a great year it has been already! Our group was well represented at regional meetings including SIOP Africa, AHOPCA, SLAOP, and the St. Jude-VIVA Forum. We've also held monthly educational sessions online with international experts on topics including family-centered care, evidence-based practice, nursing assessments, among others. We're looking forward to continuing these sessions, and are looking for any suggestions to help more people attend and benefit from the education sessions.

We look forward to seeing you in Lyon, and to what the rest of 2019 will bring!

Liz Sniderman and Yuliana Hanaratri
Co-chairs, SIOP PODC Nursing
upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER: CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 23–26, 2019: 51ST CONGRESS OF SIOP

MARCH 27–29, 2020: XIII SIOP ASIA CONFERENCE
Visit https://cancerpointe.com/nursing/ for education and training resources and ways to connect with other pediatric oncology nursing colleagues

- Resources - training courses and materials
- Find an expert
- News and Events
- How to get involved
- Links
- Podcasts
- POINTE Social Media
- POINTE Nursing contacts
BASELINE NURSING STANDARDS - update!

The Baseline Standards website has recently been updated to include translations of the Baseline Standards summary document in Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, and Bahasa Indonesian. More languages will be added soon!
POINTE has a new podcast! Global Health & Childhood Cancer is a podcast where we discuss the ideas in global health that can save the lives of children with cancer around the world. Go to GHCCpod.com to listen to episodes and find out more. Or you can find the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or Stitcher.

GHCC serves as a platform for leaders with a diverse range of expertise to discuss how advancements in global health and development can apply to global oncology.

Check out **Episode 11: Nurses are the final common pathway for safe care: The importance of baseline nursing standards** and **Episode 12: Nurses take charge: How to advocate for a safer working environment for staff and patients**, featuring members of the SIOP PODC Nursing community!
My Pediatric Oncology Nursing Journey

Glenn Mbah
Cameroon

Glenn Mbah is the programme coordinator for World Child Cancer in Cameroon, coordinating the activities of a childhood cancer programme at four hospitals of the Cameroon Baptist Convention health services, which provides comprehensive care to about 120 children with cancer annually. This programme has created national collaborations, leading to the creation of the Cameroon Paediatric Oncology Group in May 2018, which brings together healthcare professionals, parents, survivors and civil society groups involved in childhood cancer care and advocacy in Cameroon. This group has elaborated a 5 year childhood cancer care development plan for Cameroon and are implementing collaborative projects to advance clinical care and advocacy in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, such as a national protocol for ALL to be implemented in 2019 and an early diagnosis training for 230 first line health care providers in the Littoral region of Cameroon in July 2019. Stronger communication pathways are being formulated for effective orientation and referrals of childhood cancer patients towards care.

Glenn contributes to paediatric oncology nursing development globally in his roles as the nursing representative at the executive board of SIOP Africa; the co-ordinator for the supportive care project within the Wilms tumour Africa collaborative; steering committee member of the SIOP Africa sub-Saharan paediatric oncology Nursing Network; member of the Baseline nursing standards taskforce; co-chair for the SIOP PODC Traditional and Complementary Medicine working Group. He was nominated by SIOP to add a nursing voice to the preliminary discussions for the WHO Global Initiative on Childhood Cancer.

Glenn began working in paediatric oncology in 2010, shortly after qualifying with a bachelor’s degree in Nursing, learning on the job as he worked in this delicate but important domain. It was not until 2014 that he had his first formal orientation course in paediatric oncology nursing in the Netherlands. Over the years Glenn has acquired knowledge and experience from practice, education within the SIOP PODC network and observership opportunities in the UK, Netherlands, US, and South Africa. Committed to improving access to training for nurses in Africa, he helped design and provide and orientation course for nurses selected to start a paediatric oncology centre at Jimma University Specialist Hospital in Ethiopia in 2016 and, together with Sr Rachel Hollis from the UK, developed an orientation curriculum for paediatric oncology nursing in Cameroon. He now holds a Master’s degree in Public Health and is studying for a PhD in Paediatrics with a focus on childhood cancer advocacy.

Glenn’s contributions to paediatric oncology have not been limited to nursing practice. He has been involved in awareness creation for early diagnosis in Cameroon as well as fundraising and programme development. He has received several recognitions for his contributions, including selection for the Mandela Washington Young African Leaders Initiative Fellowship by the US department of State in 2015; the Sanofi Espoir My Child Matters Award for nurses in 2015; and recognition for outstanding dedication and support to the SIOP PODC nursing working group in 2016.

Glenn’s personal mission is “To make the world a better and more equitable place for everyone, by acquiring, using and transferring the necessary knowledge, skills and contacts, focusing but not limited to children with cancer and their families.” He attributes his career achievements to selfless mentorship and sponsorship which he has enjoyed from within the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services and its twinning partners for the childhood cancer programme, and from the nurses, doctors and other colleagues of SIOP.
My Pediatric Oncology Nursing Journey

Yuliana Hanaratri
Indonesia

I started as a nurse and completed first education for nursing diploma in St. Carolus Nursing Academy 1991. I worked as general practice nurse in medical surgical wards and later as clinical instructor at St. Carolus Hospital for about 6 years. In year 1999 to 2003 I continued study in University of the Philippines Manila, for Bachelor and Master degree in nursing major Maternal and Child Health Nursing. Since then my career has focused on Pediatric Nursing as a Lecturer/ Pediatric Nurse educator and clinical Instructor at St. Carolus Nursing School Jakarta.

My focus attention on pediatric oncology nursing since 2010, at first, I was developing an educational program for one of children cancer foundation (YAI) a member of CCI for all stakeholder who was consent for childhood cancer. Then a few years later together with pediatric nursing colleagues began to develop the curriculum and learning material in our national language Bahasa Indonesia. In 2015 the third National Congress of Indonesian Pediatric Nurse Association (IPNA), I was chosen to lead of pediatric oncology nursing working group of IPNA. From than until now we organize national training course program for continuing education that concern for pediatric oncology nursing is responsive to the needs and interests of professional nurses that provide educational opportunities for improving and updating knowledge, skill and also the number of credits for enhancing their career path. These training course will be held regularly every year.

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be present at several international congress events for pediatric oncology nursing. The first opportunity was in 2012 at the APHON Congress and then regularly attended the SIOP congress since 2014. I got a lot of learning by attending the international congress and also became a member of the platform of the SIOP PODC namely Cure4kids since 2013. Finally, in 2018 I was chosen as co-chair of the SIOP PODC Nursing working group. Hopefully I can make a good contribution to all oncology nurses for children wherever they are.
My pediatric oncology-nursing journey began many years ago, when I finished high school and had to face the first big decision in my life.... what to study? That was when I was 18, and the truth is I was very disoriented, so disoriented that I entered the university to study computer engineering ... Don’t ask me why ... numbers and computing have never been my best friends! I spent half a year in engineering and then I retired.

Next, I went to study translation in English and French. I liked languages but I still didn’t know what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. When I finished translation school, following a friend’s advice I entered nursing school.

In 1997, I graduated from nursing school. I did my nursing internship at Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital, in the infant unit and I fell in love with babies. I remember that the only thing I wanted was to stay working there- but life had another destiny ready for me. The only chance I had to stay at the Calvo Mackenna Hospital was to cover a maternity leave at the pediatric oncology unit and I accepted. That was the beginning of an amazing journey through pediatric oncology.

I worked for 3 years in the oncology unit of the hospital: 2 years in the inpatient oncology unit and 1 year in the outpatient clinic. In 1999 it was decided to open the first BMT unit of the public health system and, along with 2 more nurses from the oncology unit, I traveled to Curitiba Brazil to do BMT training. This was my first encounter with St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, as St Jude was helping with the implementation and launching of the BMT unit in Chile.
In 2007, the Latin American Center for Pediatric Oncology Nursing Education was established at Calvo Mackenna Hospital, a St Jude initiative, and I assumed the Director position. This position has given me great opportunities for personal and professional growth. It has allowed me to meet, train and share with many Latin American nurses, who currently, in addition to be part of a network of educators, many of them have also become friends. In this way I have also met many amazing people with whom I have shared many experiences.

I have faced new challenges, such as taking and passing the APHON Chemotherapy Course and obtaining CPHON certification, which was a very difficult and stressful experience.

I have also had the opportunity to meet and learn from incredible nurses, nurses who are international experts in pediatric oncology and that with much kindness and generosity have shared with me not only their knowledge, but also their friendship. I have been invited by them to be part of important projects that are changing the destiny of many children in the world like the project that has made possible for hundreds of nurses in Latin America to have access to the APHON Chemotherapy Course and also to have the possibility of having instructors also certified by APHON. Another project that I am also very proud of being able to participate in is that of the Baseline Standards for Pediatric Oncology Nursing. This is a project that, in addition, to helping improve the care of children with cancer in oncology units has led me to develop other facets like participating in a podcast in English—that was not easy- or recording an elevator speech within the advocacy role of nursing.

After more than 20 years in pediatric oncology, I feel very blessed by God. I feel that there are very few careers that fill your heart like in nursing and that also allow you to develop in such diverse areas. Sometimes you are a teacher, other psychologist, lawyer, therapist, even clown and of course, you are also a nurse.

I hope to continue working for children with cancer in the world for many more years, contributing from knowledge, quality and leadership. As we continue to join our efforts, we can change the reality of children with cancer in the world.
My name is Shenila Anwarali. And I am currently working as an Assistant Manager in Pediatric Nursing Education Department at The Indus hospital. My journey towards nursing began in 2006 when I started the three year Diploma for Registered nurse from the Aga Khan University Hospital. As you might already be aware that there still places where nursing education is provided in general context rather than specialization so that goes the same for Pakistan as well. Once the diploma was completed in 2009, I was placed in a Medical Surgical area to perform my clinical duties (not that I was fond of that area, we were just placed on the needs).

After exact two year, I was eligible for applying in Post RN BScN program. In 2013 when I completed my Post RN degree I was looking forward for working in a different area for which I joint The Indus Hospital as a Management Trainee Officer in Operation department. I worked here for approx 9 month and then felt I was not made for this and shifted back to Clinical area as a Clinical Nurse Coordinator for Neurology in 2014.

Looking at my career history, you might feel as how she landed up in Pediatric Oncology. Here is when my life took a turn. With having my first born, I could not keep up with the busy schedule and decided to take a break. During my second month of being home and thinking what next. I was approach the Children Cancer Hospital’s Medical Director Dr Shamvil Ashraf stating “you cannot just sit at home”. That brought me to the doors of Pediatric Oncology. I did not know much about the specialized field as during the educational duration we were not provided much information about it (same thing, lack of specialization or specific information). I was enrolled in to the famous Two week course for Pediatric Oncology Nurses, from where I got the basic of Pediatric Oncology. I also got a chance to attend Palliative care Basic and Advance Course from Oman Cancer Association in 2017.

I started my career in Pediatric Oncology from working as a volunteer so that I could understand how this specialty functions. After that I was appointed as a Clinical Nurse Instructor, where I would identify the needs of nurses on floors and provide them with information. I have achieved promotions as my career ladder and wish to pursue it further. Currently I am also a member of Pakistan Society of Pediatric Oncology, International Society of Pediatric oncology and SIOP Young Investigator (Social Media and Blog). We are also aiming to improve the Pediatric Oncology Nursing throughout Pakistan from the assistance of Sanofi Espoir Foundation “My Childs Matters” grant.

I aim at obtaining a Master’s degree preferably and then follow Masters in Health Professional Education.
I’m Mengxue He, the clinical nurse educator in department of hematology and oncology, Shanghai Children’s Medical Center, affiliated to Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine. As the clinical educator, I’m responsible for all the training and education of pediatric hematology and oncology nursing, including orientation training for 10-18 new nurses every year, in-service continuing training and competency assessment for 80+ nurses, and class lecture and clinical internship for nursing students. Through observation and training in St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Children’s National Medical Center in Washington D.C., I found that there were diverse methods to help improving our clinical training and evaluation, furthermore, gradually established my new understanding about how to support the clinical practice in our department. The key is to think globally and act locally, which means you would learn the best and most effective methods from all over the world, and meanwhile you should consider the clinical settings and resources, and then make decision, to change or not.

After my return to Shanghai children’s Medical center, I started rebuilding orientation program, by integrating more classes about essential theory and clinical skills, such as bone marrow transplantation and palliative care. Furthermore, I reorganized competency assessment both for orientation and continuing education, by introducing case discussion, procedure checklists and simulation. As clinical nurse, I paid most attention to the utilization and implementation of evidence, rather than only evidence generation and synthesis. After discussion, our team adopted the Fudan model of continuous quality improvement based evidence, and try to promote our clinical excellence through evidence-based practice, including the management of procedural pain, and sedation procedure during radiology.

Of course it’s just the beginning of my journey, not so long and complex. But I just love it, because I could encounter new challenge nearly every day. Just keep going and I’m sure there will be a better future, both for me and our team.
Cure4Kids is a professional medical education website developed by the Cure4Kids team at the Department of Global Pediatric Medicine at the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Cure4Kids has hundreds of online seminars and courses, and group collaboration workspaces. Cure4Kids is free of charge.

Oncopedia, part of the Cure4Kids website, has freely available articles on a wide range of pediatric hematology and oncology subjects, including nursing content. Oncopedia articles are written by various experts in the field from around the world and are available in several languages.

Register at www.cure4kids.org/register

**Essential Orientation to Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing** on Cure4Kids! This self-paced, open enrollment course is intended for nurses to gain the essential knowledge to safely care for children with cancer. Each module takes approximately 60 minutes to complete, and upon completion of the lesson and successfully passing the associated quiz, each student will obtain a certificate.

The first two modules, Nursing Assessments and Overview of Childhood Cancer and Treatment, are available now!

Future modules to be released over the next year include the following: Chemotherapy; Line Care; Oncological Emergencies; Treatment-Related Side Effects; Pain and Palliative Care; Care of the Immunosuppressed Patient; Hematology; and Bone Marrow Transplant.

**To access the modules:**
On the Cure4Kids.org page, search "Essential Orientation to International Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing", then select "Enroll Me."
Contact us!

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