

SIOF Spring Newsletter Nursing Steering Committee Updates

The pediatric oncology community faces unprecedented circumstances during the COVID19 pandemic. In these challenging times, the “Year of the Nurse 2020” has taken on new meaning. SIOF nurses are committed to learning together and sharing best practices to promote safety and health for our patients, families and clinical teams in the COVID19 environment.

The SIOF Nursing Steering Committee continues to plan for SIOF Ottawa and is hopeful that the extended abstract deadline will foster a robust response. A new rubric for scoring abstracts was developed by Pernilla Pergert and Courtney Sullivan that will improve the abstract review process. Planning for joint sessions with the Young Investigators, Supportive Care Group and Childhood Cancer International is underway. Along with a session focused on COVID19, topics include communication strategies when delivering bad news, resiliency and wellness for caregivers, and a nursing/parent panel focused on education strategies. The nursing roundtables session was very popular at the past two congresses, and will be offered in Ottawa. Lastly, we look forward to Marilyn Hockenberry’s keynote presentation on a multidisciplinary approach to managing distressing symptoms during pediatric cancer treatment.

Nominations for election of a Nursing Steering Committee member have been extended until April 8. The Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations have been reviewed and a 2020 honoree has been selected.

We were thrilled to learn that Sanofi-Esprit increased the “My Child Matters Nursing Awards” to 10 nurses in honor of the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. Several projects submitted by nurses from the PODC community were selected, providing an opportunity to attend this year’s congress. Thank you Sanofi-Esprit!

The Nursing PODC workgroup continues to hold educational sessions monthly, and featured a special meeting for nurses on COVID19 in mid-March. The group has also been collaborating closely with Cancer POINTE to disseminate educational and advocacy materials, including podcasts and a new video produced by Mark Zobeck on the Baseline Standards. In February the winter edition of “Making Global Connections” was disseminated and was very well received.

The SIOF Nursing Steering Committee wishes strength, good health and resiliency to all as we care for our vulnerable patients and families during the COVID19 crisis.