

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Supportive Care Working Group.

In this Spring news letter, we will like to update you on the preparations of the program on Supportive care issues for the SIOP 2020 meeting (Oct 14-17, 2020) in Ottawa, and the activities in collaboration with groups involved in supportive care.

As in previous years, we will be collaborating with other committees and working groups. On the educational day, (day -1, October 14, 2020) we will have joint sessions with the Nurses Committee. Some of the topics to be covered include "Nutritional assessment and counselling of long term survivors, Oncofertility, Sexual health, Sleep disturbances in children with cancer, Emerging therapies/Targeted therapies ". You may follow the website for sessions on supportive care in the SIOP 2019 meeting. There will be keynote lectures on "Palliative Care" and on "Symptoms experienced by children and adolescents during cancer treatment". On the educational day, there will be a session organized by the "PFSE Task Force and CCI" on "Patient and Family Treatment Engagement, Parent Advocacy with focus on WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer, and Refugee Children with Cancer ".

Members of the SIOP Supportive Care WG are collaborating with SIOP-PODC Supportive Care WG and other international Supportive Care Groups. Collaboration with MASCC (Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer) is continuing. Marianne van de Wetering, past-chair of SIOP Supportive Care WG, is actively involved in the MASCC- Pediatric Supportive Care working group since 2011. The MASCC/ISOO 2020 Annual Meeting in Supportive Care in Cancer is taking place on June 25-27, 2020 in Seville, Spain. Thomas Lehrnbecher, the other past-chair of SIOP Supportive Care WG, is in an ongoing collaboration with the Pediatric Working Party of the EBMT (European for Blood and Marrow Transplantation). The following publications on supportive care and fungal infections are important for our members : "Supportive care during pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: beyond infectious diseases. A report from workshops on supportive care of the Pediatric Diseases Working Party (PDWP) of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) by Nava T, et al. Bone Marrow Transplant 2020" and "Revision and Update of the Consensus Definitions of Invasive Fungal Disease From the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer and the Mycoses Study Group Education and Research Consortium by Donnelly JP, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2019".

The International Pediatric Oncology Guideline (IPOG) network (www.sickkids.ca/Research/iPOG), has been active in setting up an international network on the supportive care clinical practice guideline development. Lee Dupuis, Lillian Sung, Marianne van de Wetering, Wim Tissing and many members of the SIOP-Supportive Care Working Group are involved in guideline development. iPOG has recently published: Dupuis LL, Robinson, PD, van de Wetering, MD, et al. Lexicon for guidance terminology in pediatric hematology/oncology: A White Paper. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2020; 67:e28170. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.28170>. The iPOG Network hopes to hold a meeting on Day-1 (Oct 14, 2020) of the 2020 SIOP meeting in Ottawa. The fertility guidelines developed by the PanCareLIFE consortium in collaboration with the International Late Effects of Childhood Cancer Guideline Harmonization Group, have been

completed and have been submitted for publication. The SIOP-PODC WG continues with the monthly webinars on educational topics on Supportive Care, members interested can log in and follow the webinars. There are 119 members in the SIOP Supportive Care WG in the cure4kids website. We congratulate, Muhammed Saghir Khan, MD (UAE), past chair of the SIOP-PODC WG, for being elected as co-chair of SIOP-PODC. Rejin Kebudi, MD, (chair of the SC WG) is in an ongoing collaboration with the Middleeast Cancer Consortium, directed by Prof Michael Silbermann, where surveys/studies on cancer pain management, integrative approaches are held; books on palliative care and research methods in palliative care are published. The new book titled "Palliative Care: The Role and Importance of Research in Promoting Palliative Care Practices: Reports from Developing Countries, *Nova Publishers*, 2019" has been published.

During the SIOP meeting in Ottawa, Canada, a business meeting is planned on day -1 (October 14, 2020), the time will be further announced.

Each year, especially in autumn and winter, we do encounter respiratory viral infections in our pediatric cancer patients. We and other groups have published their results previously (Respiratory viral infection's frequency and clinical outcome in symptomatic children with cancer, *Turk J Pediatr* 2018). The current outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that was first reported from Wuhan, China, on 31 December 2019, has been declared as a "public health emergency of international concern" on January 30, 2020 and a "pandemic" on March 11, 2020 by the WHO. As of March 28, 2020, there is a total of 597,262 reported cases of COVID-19 globally, and 27,365 deaths reported in 199 countries. People with cancer and cancer survivors, particularly those with compromised immune systems, are likely worried about the potential impact of coronavirus on their health. Based on available evidence, children seem to be at a lower risk for COVID-19 than adults. While some children and infants have been sick with COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date. In a recent report from China (Liang W et al., *Lancet Oncology*, March, 2020) patients with cancer were thought to have a higher risk of COVID-19 and poorer outcome than individuals without cancer. The strategies they proposed for patients with cancer in this COVID-19 crisis, and in future attacks of severe infectious diseases were: postponing of adjuvant chemotherapy or elective surgery for stable cancer in endemic areas; stronger personal protection provisions for patients with cancer or cancer survivors, more intensive surveillance or treatment when patients with cancer are infected with SARS-CoV-2, especially in older patients or those with other comorbidities. Pediatric oncologists globally, should be aware of the sign and symptoms of COVID19 and the supportive care and treatment. It is absolutely essential that countries strengthen their preparedness systems.

SIOP has a wealth of resources and reference that may help us during the COVID-19 pandemic, please review at <https://siop-online.org/>. Also, the deadline for abstract submission was extended to April 16, 2020 (12:00 midnight PST).

We hope you and your families and patients keep safe and healthy and we hope to meet you in the SIOP 2020 annual meeting in Oct 14-17, 2020 in Ottawa, Canada.

Rejin Kebudi, MD, Prof.
on behalf of the SIOP Supportive Care Working Group