

UPDATE FROM SIOP OCEANIA, 7th June 2023

It is a pleasure to share an update on the activities of SIOP Oceania since our last meeting in February 2023. There are many upcoming new opportunities for our SIOP Oceania colleagues to join in our work, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to get involved.

SIOP Oceania Papua New Guinea in-country visit

From 19-23 February 2023, a SIOP Oceania delegation visited Dr Gwenda Anga and her colleagues at Port Moresby General Hospital. The first day was spent touring the hospital, meeting the Hospital Director and Nursing Director, meeting with the Ministry of Health and the in-country WHO team.



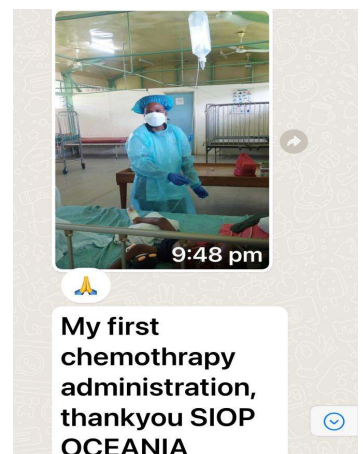
On Day 2, Michael Sullivan and Trisha Soosay-Raj joined Gwenda Anga and Benjamin Daur for the in-hospital paediatrics training. That was followed by a full-day workshop delivered by SIOP Oceania at the Holiday Inn, with sessions on chemotherapy, retinoblastoma and global efforts for childhood cancer.

Day 3 saw the team back at the hospital conducting several concurrent activities including practical demonstrations on chemotherapy, the launch of the PNG Childhood Cancer Registry, sessions on leukaemia care, solid and brain tumours, a multi-professional interactive discussion on palliative care and a family education session with resource sharing. At the invitation of Dr Jambi Garap, Senior Lecturer in Ophthalmology at the University of Papua New Guinea, Sandra Staffieri presented to the ophthalmology trainees and consultants. Sandra was also invited by Dr Amyna Sultan, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Director of the Pacific International Hospital, to tour the facility. This visit provided the opportunity to establish a network of collaborative treatment for patients from PMGH if required to achieve optimal survival outcomes.



The 4th day saw Michael Sullivan, Claire Wakefield and Ben Felmingham return to PMGH for final meetings, ward consultations, further refinement of the PNG Childhood Cancer Registry and further development of the treatment protocols on the ward. Claire Wakefield met with the Chaplain team at PMGH where they shared their personal stories of providing pastoral care for children with cancer and their families and had several case discussions focused on particular families of children with cancer. There was also a meeting with a parent and patient advocate.

The SIOP Oceania team left PNG with hearts full knowing this is just the beginning. What an amazing team from both countries pulling together with a common goal. Follow up work is continuing and we have also just heard that one of the regional nurses Jayne, Michele, Ben and Trisha trained has delivered her first chemotherapy administration!



Supporting childhood cancer care in Timor Leste

Preparations are underway for a small SIOP Oceania delegation to join a team from the Cancer Council NSW Daffodil Centre who are involved in the Cervical Cancer Elimination Project led by Dr Deborah Bateson and Dr Telma Costa, to visit our colleagues, Dr Milena and Dr Joao in Timor Leste. This is planned for August 2023 and will be a wonderful opportunity to better understand how SIOP Oceania can support our Timor Leste colleagues in providing cancer for children with cancer in-country.

ICATCH Grant

A small team within SIOP Oceania submitted their full submission, titled "Provision of palliative care for children in Papua New Guinea", to ICATCH on 10 March 2023. ICATCH is the International Community Access to Child Health program, which is dedicated to improving the health of children in some of the highest need regions of the world. We are very excited that our application was successful, especially since only 7 out of 200 proposals received by the ICATCH team were successful. We now have the opportunity to facilitate the development of palliative care services in PNG over the next 3 years by providing education and awareness in Port Moresby General Hospital.

SIOP Oceania Advisory Board

Our SIOP Oceania Advisory Board continues to meet to share ideas for improving outcomes for children with cancer across Oceania. We were delighted to have the St Jude Global Alliance team present at our last meeting on the supports that St Jude can provide to member countries.

Community engagement

Claire presented on "*Outreach initiatives to support women and children with cancer in the Western Pacific*" at the COSA Survivorship Conference in Adelaide, focusing in particular on the work of SIOP Oceania in PNG and Timor Leste, which was very well received by the audience.



Inter-continental collaborations

SIOP Oceania continues to collaborate with our WHO colleagues in the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, and at WHO offices in Geneva. We have also enjoyed growing collaborations with our colleagues at St Jude Asia-Pacific.

76th Session of the World Health Assembly

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO which takes place annually in Geneva, Switzerland. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States as well as Non-State Actors (NSAs) in official relations with the WHO.



As a NSA, SIOP's presence at the 76th World Health Assembly from 21–30 May 2023, was prepared in co-operation with the SIOP WHO committee chair and the on-site delegation consisted of SIOP President Guillermo Chantada, SIOP Advocacy Chair Alan Davidson, and SIOP Advocacy Committee member Claire Wakefield. Claire delivered SIOP's individual statement 'Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, and mental health'. The statement reiterated support for the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood cancer (GICC) global mapping proposal from the government of Slovakia and highlighted the importance of addressing childhood cancer in the WHO Noncommunicable Disease Framework.



SIOP Board of Directors Meeting

Michael Sullivan and Claire Wakefield attended the SIOP Board of Directors meeting in Barcelona at the end of May. The meeting focused on all aspects of SIOP, including planning for upcoming congresses and future plans for Education and Training for members across all disciplines.



SIOP Oceania working groups

THE SIOP Oceania Working Groups, focused on nursing (chaired by Jayne Harrison) and training and education (chaired by Trisha Soosay Raj) continue to gain momentum. In particular, we would like to congratulate the SIOP Oceania Nurses Working Group for finalising their Terms of Reference. Please do get in touch if you would like to contribute to either of these important two groups within SIOP Oceania.

Wishing you all the very best,

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