

## UPDATE FROM SIOP OCEANIA, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

It is a pleasure to share an update on the activities of SIOP Oceania. 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.

### Congratulations!



**Sandra Staffieri** has just been recognised with “An Order of Australia” for her work in Retinoblastoma, and in particular for her distinguished service to medicine as an orthoptist and vision researcher, and to paediatric ophthalmology.



**Donna Drew** was awarded a “Nursing lifetime achievement award “for her incredible work in paediatric oncology and palliative care at Sydney Children’s 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.

### Minderoo Foundation PNG Palliative Care Grant

A small team from SIOP Oceania and UNSW Sydney submitted and have had accepted a grant titled “Provision of Palliative Care for Children with Cancer and Other Conditions in Papua New Guinea”. This further extends the ICATCH grant and allows for a dedicated palliative care nurse to be employed at Port Moresby General Hospital and an in-country training workshop in paediatric palliative care for medical, nursing and pharmacy staff, social workers and chaplains.

### Community engagement

Sandra Staffieri presented “It Takes a Village – Improving childhood cancer survival in Papua New Guinea – a multi-disciplinary approach” at ANZCHOG in Perth.



### Annual SIOP/CCI Survivors Week

This year saw a slight change in the annual SIOP/CCI Survivors week webinar. To accommodate more time zones we held 2 webinars. Over 260 people from more than 70 different countries joined us to talk about the topic "The Right to be Forgotten". During our Oceania webinar we had the opportunity to hear inspiring stories from survivors, their families and caregivers. Sandeep Kumar and Narendra Shetty from India and Baxter Hutchinson and Tiana Kittos from Australia talked about a range of issues they had experienced as survivors including access to health insurance, disclosing their cancer diagnosis at job interviews and much more. We then had a parent roundtable where Michelle Ngeri and Laurence Hibbert from Australia talked about financial toxicity and the impacts of a childhood

cancer diagnosis from a parent's perspective. We were so thrilled to also have Shauna Dagu from Papua New Guinea be able to join us and talk about her daughters' survivorship and about Shauna's mission to establish more support for childhood cancer in PNG. We were also very fortunate to be able to hear from Michael Crossland who is a childhood cancer survivor and motivational speaker who convincingly demonstrates that it is possible to overcome adversity and live a fulfilling life after cancer.



### PROS (Paediatric Radiation Oncology Society) Congress, Sydney, Australia 19 – 22 June 2024

The PROS Congress is held as a stand-alone event every other year, and as a joint meeting with SIOP other years. The Congress will be held in Australia for the first time in June next year. We are excited that the location makes it easier for our colleagues and friends in Oceania to attend and we look forward to welcoming you.

The first day will be an educational day including SCORPIO (Structured, Clinical, Objective referenced, Problem based, Integrated and Organised) sessions. Australian radiation oncology trainees have found these small group tutorials an excellent way to learn paediatric radiation therapy topics and a great way to interact with experts.

The programme for the main conference is currently being finalised and should be available on the PROS website soon: <https://intpros.org/congress/pros-congress-2024/>.

The PROS Congress is open to radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, radiation therapy nurses, medical physicists, our wider allied health team colleagues, and anyone else interested in learning more about paediatric radiation therapy.



## SIOP Asia 2024 (the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress of Asia continental branch of International Society of Pediatric Oncology) Congress, Yokohama, Japan 22 – 25 June 2024

The SIOP Asia Congress will be held in Yokohama, Japan, for the first time, under the auspices of the National Center for Child Health and Development, the only national children's hospital in Japan, in cooperation with the Japanese Society of Pediatric Hematology and Cancer, the Japanese Children's Cancer Group (JCCG), the Association for Children with Cancer, and the Pediatric Cancer Magokoro Organisation.

The theme of the event will be "You raise it up!", with the message that we should all support paediatric cancer patients together. This international conference aims to deepen collaboration among researchers in Japan and overseas, to further promote paediatric cancer treatment and research together with paediatric cancer researchers in Asian countries, and to make a significant contribution to the development of medical care in the field of paediatric cancer in Japan and around the world through the results of this conference.

The SIOP Asia 2024 will focus on long-term follow-up of paediatric cancer survivors, cutting-edge medicine including genomic medicine for paediatric cancer, neuroblastoma, Langerhans cell histiocytosis, and many other paediatric cancers. We encourage you to fully explore the scientific programme and attend other superb parts of the meeting such as SIOP-CCI conference, APHOG Annual Meeting, St. Jude Global meeting.

### 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. For those interested in the St Jude VIVA Forum, the date has been announced and you can register your interest using the QR code

### 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. 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,

**Professor Claire Wakefield, Continental President, SIOP Oceania,**  
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