



SIMONE ABIB

BRAZIL

Dr. Simone Abib is a pediatric oncology surgeon in São Paulo, Brazil. She graduated from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica in São Paulo and then did her residency both in General and Pediatric Surgery at Escola Paulista de Medicina – Federal University of São Paulo, where she also did her Masters, Doctorate and Full-professorship. Her history with pediatric oncology surgery began when she was a General Surgery resident and cared for a very dear patient with Burkitt lymphoma who had an ileostomy. She is eternally grateful to him. At that time, there was not an organized structure to care for pediatric oncology in her University. There were only 2 beds at the pediatric ward and her career path was built in parallel with the growth and building of the Pediatric Oncology Institute – GRAACC – Federal University of São Paulo, where she is now the Head of Pediatric Surgical Oncology. Along with the multidisciplinary team, her patients have cure and survival rates near to those presented at high-income countries.

She first attended IPSO/SIOP Congress to present her Master thesis. She was invited to be the local organizer for IPSO when SIOP Annual Congress was in São Paulo and then she was elected a member of the IPSO Executive Council (EC), where she contributed as a member at large and Program Chair. After that, she had the great honor to be elected and serve as the first Latin American IPSO President. In that position and with the support of other members of the EC and membership, we built the IPSO Guidelines that were published and used as basis to include Pediatric Surgical Oncology in diverse initiatives, such as in the WHO, ARIA, ProFILE and made bridges with SIOP, St

Always keep your heart open, do your best and keep the intent of growing and learning. There is always something to learn and this is the greatest blessing.

Jude Research Hospital, PROS, CCI and many surgical societies. We also agreed that every SIOP Continental Congresses should have an IPSO session within the program, and have been working to establish an international pediatric oncology surgery fellowship to raise the quality of surgery delivered to pediatric oncology patients everywhere.

Her other accomplishments include serving as the Past president of Criança Segura – Safe Kids Brazil (having accomplished 53% decrease of pediatric trauma deaths in 20 years in Brazil), Academic coordinator of Medical Course at Faculdade Santa Marcelina, Postgraduate and graduate mentor, Board member of GICS (Global Initiative for Children’s Surgery – member of Trauma and Oncology groups), responsible for Trauma Education for 20 years at the Federal University of São Paulo, responsible for trauma and oncology sessions in Brazilian Pediatric Surgery Society, founder of the Latin American Pediatric Surgical Oncology Collaborative Group (LAPSOCG), and many other international initiatives, such as collaborating with the Global Health Research Group on Children’s Non-Communicable Diseases Collaborative and St. Jude Global Program.

On Relationships that Influenced My Career

The most important and meaningful influences are my parents, who taught me about love, perseverance, values, compassion and integrity. I thank all my teachers and masters for being my vehicles and partners so that I could offer my best to the world. In the Medicine path, I would like to recognize especially Dr. Diana Tannos, Dr. Sérgio Tomaz Schettini, Dr. Luiz Francisco Poli de Figueiredo, Dr. João Aléssio Juliano Perfeito, Dr. Roseli Giudici, Dr. Dario Birolini, Dr. Antonio Sérgio Petrilli, Dr. Martin Eichelberger and Dr. Bhaskar Rao. They made me a doctor, a surgeon, and taught me a lot about leadership and service.

I thank all my friends, inside and outside Medicine, for being part of my life, my patients and their parents who taught me a lot about what is essential in life. I thank all the people who crossed my path, those with whom I shared the same values and those who brought challenges because they are all my teachers and taught me a lot about myself at my best and at my worst.

Sometimes, I talk to my inner child and ask her: “Did you ever imagine these happenings and the unveiling of life in you and through you like that?” And together, we give thanks for the wonderful gifts and blessings received, offered and created through us, in service of the Greater Good.

On Challenges and Overcoming Them

I learned that we cannot control everything and that despite the clinical outcome, there is always something to learn. Transforming pride and submission into humility, integrity and dignity makes me take ownership of my worth in the world, in order to contribute effectively to it, exactly as I am.

I learned the importance of internal leadership, giving and receiving, flexibility, the importance of positioning myself in my truth, knowing when to act and when to wait and observe. Those are essential to work in a multidisciplinary team for the patients’ good. I can trust that the Universe is good and beautiful and that there is nothing to fear within or without, no matter how much it may seem otherwise due to present distortions.

I learned to face and welcome my fears and pain with compassion, transforming what was monstrous into a speck that continues to be part of us and opening an immense and luminous window, full of possibilities and solutions.

I have been lapidating my compassion, previously mixed with distorted feelings of being a “savior.” I have much more clarity about my role and can offer

much more efficient and loving help, respecting the other's wishes, without getting involved in issues that are not mine, thus being truly supportive. Today, I have much more acceptance of life as it is, as well as of myself and others. My imperfection is perfect because it makes me grow. This makes us live and walk through the world in a much more free and loving way, with faith that everything is for our good and growth.

I am learning to let love flow inside me, so that it can flow outside and through me.

On Balancing Career and Other Life Responsibilities

Family, friends, music, books, nature, meditation, believing in a greater and sacred purpose for everything.

My Words of Wisdom for the Next Generation of Female Leaders

Do your best as it is now given the circumstances. Be aware of what life brings as signs and opportunities. You have choices to make and build your life as you wish.