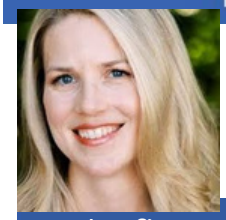
SIOP NURSING NETWORK Newsletter

March, 2026
Volume 1, Issue 4



MESSAGE FROM NURSING NETWORK CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

As the first quarter of 2026 draws to a close, our work continues with energy, purpose, and a shared commitment to advancing pediatric oncology nursing worldwide. Even as geopolitical challenges intensify, our global community remains united, strengthened by collaboration and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for children and adolescents with cancer.

The year ahead offers many opportunities to stay connected and engaged.

- **Stay connected!** We encourage you to renew your SIOP membership and remain an active part of this vibrant global network. Throughout the year, there will be numerous ways to participate in webinars, working groups, and initiatives where your voice and expertise can make a meaningful difference.

- **Hold your calendars!** Starting in April, we will hold a **monthly SIOP Nursing News Meeting** on the first Wednesday of each month at 3 pm CET. Check the SIOP Weekly Bulletin emails for updates and registration information.

- **Join us in San Antonio!** We especially look forward to coming together at the SIOP Annual Congress this September in San Antonio, Texas, a unique opportunity to connect, be inspired, and continue shaping the future of pediatric oncology nursing.

Every contribution, big or small, helps drive meaningful change. Your dedication, compassion, and leadership are at the heart of this Network and the impact we achieve worldwide.
Let us make 2026 a year of continued growth, collaboration, and collective impact.

Warm regards,

Courtney Sullivan & Lorena Segovia Weber, Chair and Vice Chair, SIOP Nursing Network

Inside This Issue:

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- Nurses at the Heart of Childhood Cancer Care: A New Episode of Global Health Dialogues with Princess Dina
- Princess Maxima Emergency Backpack QI Project
- Upcoming Educational Opportunities & Conferences

SIOP Oceania Nursing Update

By Jayne Harrison, Intercontinental Lead – Nursing, SIOP Oceania

Although SIOP Oceania represents many small island nations, our primary focus over the past 3 years has been Papua New Guinea (PNG)—the largest and most populous country in the region. Our collaborative work aims to strengthen & sustain quality paediatric oncology nursing across PNG. Cancer incidence continues to rise in PNG, yet oncology nursing is still not formally recognised as a specialty area. Many nurses are providing complex cancer care without structured training—often learning "on the job"—while facing significant challenges including limited resources, geographic isolation, & the absence of dedicated paediatric oncology units. Our collaborative education model is designed to bridge these gaps, build capability, and empower local leadership. Through ongoing partnership, mentorship, and education initiatives, significant progress has been made in strengthening paediatric oncology nursing capacity across Papua New Guinea.

Key Achievements

- > 100 nurses from 15 of PNG's 22 provinces have participated in the SIOP Oceania multi-modal education program.

- Three in-person workshops delivered to POMGEN and across the Southern and Momase regions (2023–2025), providing hands-on training, education, & specific palliative care training. The next workshop visit is planned for May 2026.

- Monthly Zoom masterclasses delivered to support continued learning, covering topics including: chemotherapy safety, paediatric oncology fundamentals, pharmacology, extravasation management, palliative care, nutrition, supportive care, & procedural comfort.

- Development of culturally adapted education tools, including posters, visual guides, SOPs, case-based learning scenarios, and clinical job aids to support bedside practice.

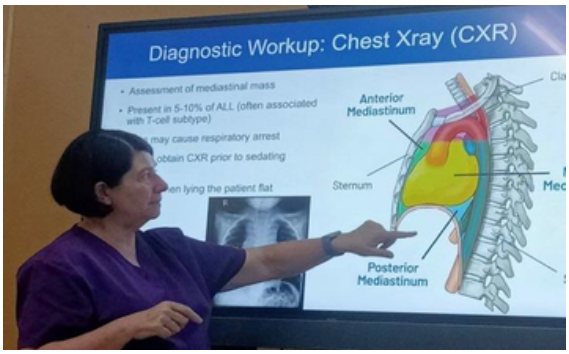
- 12 PNG nurses have enrolled in the St Jude Fundamentals of Paediatric Oncology Nursing Course, a 12-module self-paced online program. Learning is supported through mentorship from St Jude & SIOP Oceania.

- Monthly Zoom sessions provide opportunities to review modules, discuss case studies, & share clinical experiences from PNG practice.

• Strengthening of the PaNGONA nursing network, which is increasingly taking ownership & leadership in paediatric oncology nursing development throughout Papua New Guinea

• Recognition of paediatric oncology nurses in workforce planning by two Provincial Health Authorities, representing an important systems-level advancement.

Nursing Feedback

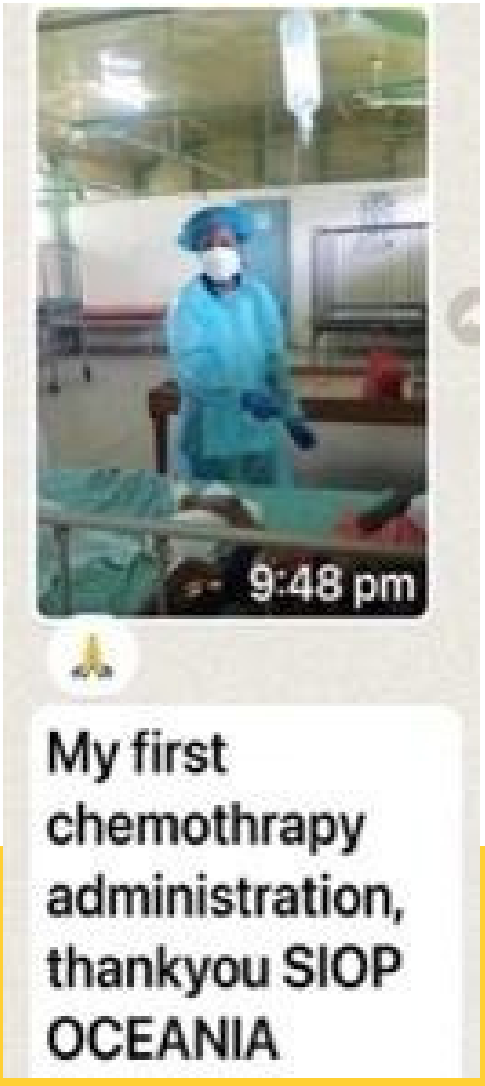


- Significant improvement in confidence and knowledge—particularly in chemotherapy handling, SOP development, & case-study learning.
- A continued need for formal training pathways, specialised paediatric oncology roles, & a dedicated paediatric oncology treatment facility.
- WhatsApp is now a crucial daily tool for mentorship, rapid clinical queries, & peer support. It enables real-time clinical questions & shared problem-solving
- Nurses from multiple provincial hospitals now communicate directly with each other—something that was not happening before.
- It has created a national network, allowing remote nurses to stay connected, share case queries, receive rapid guidance, & feel part of a supportive professional community.
- It is now used for education evaluation, distributing resources, coordinating workshops, & strengthening PaNGONA leadership. WhatsApp has essentially become the backbone of ongoing learning, mentorship, & national nursing connection in PNG

Looking Ahead

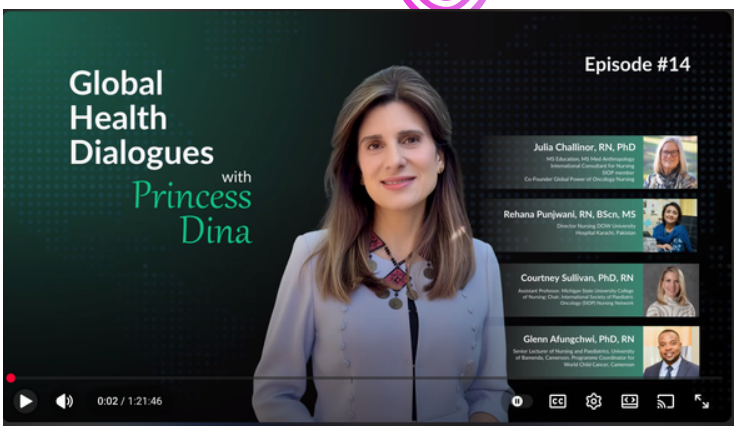
The program continues to demonstrate the strong motivation and commitment of PNG nurses to improving cancer care for children. Practical, case-based, multimodal learning supported by international collaboration remains the most effective strategy.

We are also beginning to connect with paediatric oncology teams in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Vanuatu with a longer-term vision that PNG will serve as a regional training hub to support neighbouring Pacific nations.



SIOP OCEANIA

SIOP Nurse Leaders Featured in New Episode of Global Health Dialogues with Princess Dina



Princess Mired hosted four of our own incredible pediatric oncology nurse leaders to discuss how they are reshaping childhood cancer care across the world. Watch the full episode on YouTube to hear from **Julia Challinor**, **Rehana Punjwani**, **Courtney Sullivan** and **Glenn Afungchwi** to learn about their contributions to our nursing specialty. Check out the episode here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24wnscaPDdo

Congrats to Lisa Morrissey, newest nursing member of the SIOP Women Leaders Almanac!

What would you like to see in our next newsletter? Please submit your feedback here

Saving Precious Minutes: The Impact of an Emergency Backpack in Pediatric Oncology

By Bianca van Rossum Stolwijk
Princess Maxima Center Pediatric Oncology Nurse Educator

In pediatric oncology, patient deterioration can occur rapidly and every minute matters. When a child becomes critically ill, the ICU team typically arrives within 4–6 minutes. Those initial moments at the bedside are vital, requiring immediate access to the right equipment and medications to begin life-saving care. To address this need, our center developed a specialized emergency backpack designed explicitly for pediatric oncology emergencies. The goal is simple: enable clinicians to act immediately, without delays caused by gathering supplies.

A multidisciplinary team—including an intensivist/anesthesiologist, pediatric oncology nurse/educator, and nurse manager led this quality improvement initiative focused on the "critically endangered child."

The team first identified common acute scenarios across pediatric oncology, such as sepsis and respiratory compromise. Each scenario was mapped to the exact equipment and medications required. A backpack was then selected and organized using the ABCDE approach (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, Exposure), allowing staff to quickly locate items during high-stress situations.

To further support clinical decision-making, flowcharts for common emergencies were included inside the backpack. Medication safety is maintained through pharmacist oversight, and clear protocols guide use and maintenance. Backpacks are checked every three months for expiration dates and restocked after each use. They are stored in each ward's medication room, with additional backup packs available.

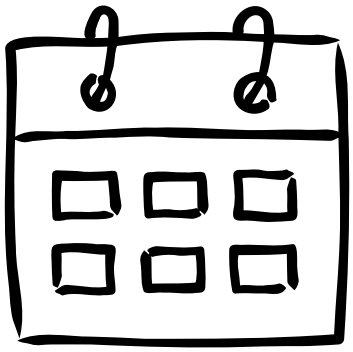
This innovation ensures that the right tools are available in one action, allowing nurses and providers to begin critical interventions immediately while awaiting ICU support. The emergency backpack has strengthened our team's readiness and confidence in managing acute events. Ongoing feedback and evaluation will continue to refine this approach, with the shared goal of delivering the best possible care when it matters most.

Do you have a quality improvement project you'd like to feature in our next newsletter? Scan the QR code and let us help highlight your work!

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Register for the 2025 Top Abstracts meeting here:
https://loom.ly/2C0I1vs

Register for the Survivorship meeting here:
https://loom.ly/M6wciyg



UPCOMİNG CONFERENCES

Registration links:

SIOP 2026 San Antonio: https://siop-online.org/event/siop-2026/
SIOP Asia 2026: https://www.siopasia-congress.org/registrationandrates
SIOP Africa 2026: https://siop-africa.org/attendance/register/
SIOP Europe 2026: https://siopeurope.eu/registration-guidelines/

Join & Renew SIOP Membership: https://siop-online.org/renew-your-membership/