ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – OCTOBER 22, 2026

Name: SIOP Advocacy Committee
Chair: Rashmi Dalvi

Instructions: Please report on your activities since January 2026. If your Network did not offer any activities in a particular Strategic Goal area, you can delete that section below. Please proofread your report – it will be sent out to the all SIOP members as it appears below.

Strategy Goal 1: Advocating globally for children and adolescents with cancer

The SIOP Advocacy Committee has been a key driver of Goal 1, reflecting the core mandate of the Committee to lead and coordinate SIOP's advocacy efforts.
Throughout 2026, the Committee has actively pursued the efforts to amplify awareness of childhood cancer worldwide through impactful campaigns, social media engagement around key international occasions, and global events.
Regular liaison with the SIOP WHO Committee ensured that global health policy asks and multi-channel advocacy messaging are consistently aligned and enriched by the expertise of both groups.
Partnership with Childhood Cancer International (CCI) has been essential, with the Advocacy Committee Chair and members meeting regularly with CCI counterparts to co-develop joint initiatives centred on the real needs of patients and the multidisciplinary healthcare professionals who care for them.

Highlights include:

- **Universal Health Coverage Day** (12 December): SIOP's messaging highlighted the importance of equitable access to quality childhood cancer care and emphasised engagement in and support for the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC) and its CureAll framework. The communication underscored the need to integrate childhood cancer into universal health coverage to improve access to timely diagnosis, treatment and care worldwide.

- **Worldwide Candle Lighting Day** (14 December): SIOP joined CCI's global campaign by inviting its members to light a candle in memory of children who have lost their lives to cancer. The campaign created a shared moment of remembrance and solidarity with bereaved families, bringing together members of the childhood cancer community around the world to honour these children, raise awareness, and inspire continued action towards a better future.

- **International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)** (15 February): ICCD remains an important fixture in the SIOP and CCI joint advocacy calendar and a key opportunity to mobilise the global childhood cancer community. In 2026, the campaign marked

the final year of the 2024–2026 theme, *From Challenge to Change – Demonstrating Impact*. Together with CCI, SIOP helped drive global participation through advocacy resources, campaign messaging and a communications toolkit, demonstrating how collective action is contributing to meaningful improvements in childhood cancer care and research.

- On **International Nurses Day** (12 May), SIOP recognised the vital contribution of nurses worldwide through the SIOP Nursing Network campaign *"Caring Connects Us"*. The campaign celebrated the essential role of nursing in connecting patients, families and healthcare professionals across borders and healthcare systems, while highlighting the strength, compassion and collaboration of the global paediatric oncology nursing community.

- On **World No Tobacco Day** (31 May), SIOP highlighted the urgent need to protect children and young people from tobacco and nicotine exposure, with particular attention to children with cancer, survivors and their families. The campaign called for stronger regulation, prevention and education to reduce avoidable health risks.

- **The Survivor's Week Webinar 2026** (27 June) was entitled "Empowered for Life: Education, Work, Wellbeing & Independence After Childhood Cancer". It brought together childhood cancer survivors, healthcare professionals, advocates and support networks from around the world to explore the realities of life beyond treatment. Co-organised by SIOP and CCI, with leading contributions from the SIOP Survivorship Network and CCI's SurNet, the interactive webinar combined lived-experience stories, expert perspectives, live polls and Q&A to promote shared learning, community connection and practical approaches to supporting survivors in leading fulfilling and empowered lives. Simultaneous caption translation further supported inclusive global participation.

- **Gold September – Childhood Cancer Awareness month** has been another important milestone in the SIOP-CCI joint advocacy calendar, with the SIOP Advocacy Committee playing a leading role in coordinating and amplifying the campaign across the SIOP community. Throughout the month, the Committee supported the use of **dedicated social media templates** to build global awareness and engagement. At the SIOP Congress 2026, the Committee and CCI organized a **gold-theme group photo**, creating a strong expression of collective support for Gold September and childhood cancer awareness.The campaign culminated on 30 September in a **coordinated global activation**, with SIOP, CCI, members, partners and supporters sharing stories, photos, videos and landmarks as each region reached midday local time. This created a rolling wave of global visibility, demonstrating the strength, reach and connectedness of the worldwide childhood cancer community.

- **London Global Cancer Week:** The SIOP Advocacy Committee was instrumental in developing, shaping and coordinating the joint SIOP–CCI session *"Beyond the Cure in Childhood Cancer: Survivorship, Care Transition, and Quality of Life"*, submitted to London Global Cancer Week. The successful submission reflects the Committee's leadership in bringing childhood cancer survivorship into this premier global cancer forum. Taking place on 5 November, the session will explore long-term follow-up, transition from paediatric to adult care and quality of life across the lifespan, drawing on evidence, lived experience and perspectives from diverse health system settings. Contributions from SIOP, CCI, WHO and other international experts will highlight shared challenges and scalable approaches to strengthen equitable and sustainable childhood cancer survivorship care worldwide.

Strategy Goal 2: Promoting research to improve outcomes for patients

Research has been an important theme across advocacy initiatives led by the SIOP Advocacy Committee, helping to highlight the critical role of research in improving outcomes for children and adolescents with cancer. In particular, the 2026 International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) campaign, under the theme *From Challenge to Change – Demonstrating Impact*, provided an opportunity to showcase how research and evidence contribute to progress in childhood cancer care and outcomes worldwide.

Strategy Goal 3: Providing education and training

Webinars co-organised by the SIOP Advocacy Committee provide important opportunities for the global childhood cancer community to learn, exchange experiences and engage with key topics across the cancer care pathway. In 2026, the Committee, in partnership with CCI, placed a particular focus on childhood cancer survivorship through the Survivorship Week webinar and the upcoming London Global Cancer Week session, addressing long-term care, transition, wellbeing and quality of life after treatment.

Strategy Goal 4: Increasing membership engagement and retention

The SIOP Advocacy Committee is rooted in member engagement and ensures representation from all SIOP Continental Branches, creating opportunities for regional voices to shape the Committee's work. In March 2026, the Committee **revised its Terms of Reference** to ensure that it continues to support timely, accountable and inclusive representation. New **'Focus' presentations** have been introduced into bi-monthly Committee meetings, providing dedicated opportunities for regional representatives to share advocacy needs and priorities, and to explore how global and regional activities can complement and reinforce one another. The Advocacy Committee presented its key activities to the broad membership at a **dedicated Spotlight session** at the SIOP Congress 2025 in Amsterdam, and was profiled in relation to the Gold September campaign at the SIOP Congress in San Antonio. All these initiatives have strengthened two-way engagement and collaboration across the SIOP membership.

Strategy Goal 5: Strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships

Partnership with Childhood Cancer International (CCI) has been a consistent thread throughout the SIOP Advocacy Committee's work and an important driver of its global advocacy initiatives. The collaboration has brought complementary professional and patient perspectives together, enabling SIOP and CCI to develop more consistent, coordinated and impactful messaging and joint initiatives across the childhood cancer community. The partnership has also provided a strong foundation for further collaboration and joint engagement around shared priorities.

The SIOP Advocacy Committee would like to thank its valuable members for their continued and active engagement:

- Rashmi Dalvi, Chair
- Joyce Kambugu, Chair-Elect & SIOP Africa
- Azeezat Ajose, Young SIOP
- Wendy Allen-Rhoades, SIOP North America
- Maja Beck Popovic, SIOP Europe & WHO NSA Cmte Chair
- Ben Felmingham, SIOP Oceania
- Vikramjit Kanwar, SIOP Asia
- Lisa Morrissey, SIOP Nursing
- Milena Villarroel, SIOP Latin America
- Ex-officio: Rob Pieters, Guillermo Chantada, Rejin Kebudi,
- Ex-Officio SIOP Office: Susanne Wollaert, Olga Kozhaeva, Nancy Anderson, Arpine Baghdasarian, Anelia Atanasova