ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – OCTOBER 22, 2026

Name: SIOP Europe
Chair/Co-Chair/Continental President: Uta Dirksen

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 all SIOP members as it appears below.

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

In 2026, SIOP Europe continued to champion childhood cancer on the European health policy agenda, engaging with the European Parliament, Commission and Council to advance key priorities. Partnership with CCI Europe was instrumental throughout these efforts. Highlights include:

- Bringing the childhood cancer community together around the European Parliament's evaluation of **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, notably through the **International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) EU Policy webinar** on 26 February 2026, focusing on progress, gaps and future directions for paediatric oncology.

- In parallel, contributing to developments in the **EU Cancer Mission**, the companion initiative to the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, including as a partner in the newly established **Cancer Mission Forum for Rare Cancers**.

- Addressing the **European Parliament's Public Health Committee (SANT)** twice in 2026: during the week of **World Cancer Day** in February, highlighting, among other priorities, the need to strengthen European paediatric and adolescent oncology infrastructure; and during **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month** in September, highlighting the amendments needed to the **EU Biotech Act** to accelerate therapeutic innovation for children with rare, life-threatening diseases, and calling for continued investment in childhood cancer under the next **EU long-term budget** (2028–2034).

- Consolidating SIOPE's role in the Secretariat of the **European Parliament Intergroup on Cancer and Rare Diseases**, together with two partner organisations, and contributing actively to the Intergroup's policy hearings, including '**Cancer in the Next EU Budget 2028-2034**' held around World Cancer Day on 3 February 2026.

- Generating evidence and policy recommendations for the **European Parliament report on modernised rules for cross-border healthcare**, through the SIOPE-led **CATCH-Europe project** (*Childhood Cancer Access to Trials and Healthcare across Europe*), in partnership with CCI Europe, ERN PaedCan and ITCC.

- Bringing the paediatric cancer perspective to the **EU Health Technology Assessment Stakeholder Network** as an appointed member to support implementation of the **EU Health Technology Assessment Regulation**.

- Actively following the developments in the **EU rare disease agenda**, notably through partnership with the **European Reference Network for Paediatric Oncology (ERN PaedCan)**, which contributed expertise to the development of the **Declaration on a European Innovation and Care Ecosystem for Rare and Complex Diseases** – a multi-stakeholder initiative advancing sustainable EU funding and a resilient healthcare infrastructure for rare diseases in Europe.

Strategy Goal 2: Promoting research to improve outcomes for patients

SIOPE continued to promote and support research aimed at improving outcomes, quality of life and survivorship for children, adolescents and young adults with cancer through its extensive portfolio of EU-funded projects and research collaborations.

Several projects have research and clinical research at their core. **MONALISA** is conducting a pragmatic clinical trial investigating liquid biopsy as a less invasive approach for monitoring relapse in children with high-risk neuroblastoma, with the potential to support earlier detection and more personalised treatment. **SCARLET** strengthens research and innovation capacity in childhood cancer survivorship, including research into early and late effects and survivorship epidemiology. **Partner4VRT** is developing international collaborative research on very rare paediatric and AYA cancers by combining clinical, genetic, molecular, imaging and patient-reported data across countries. **MIREYA** is conducting large-scale, multidisciplinary research into environmental exposures and their contribution to childhood and AYA cancers, integrating epidemiological, environmental and omics data and applying AI-based causal analyses.

Research and evidence generation are also embedded across SIOPE's wider project portfolio. For example, **IMPACT-EU** is mapping psychosocial services across Europe to build an evidence base for improving psychosocial care; **JANE 2** promotes clinical cancer research as part of its work on the Network of Expertise for adolescents and young adults; **ERN PaedCan** supports evidence-based clinical practice through expert collaboration, registries and European Standard Clinical Practice recommendations; **IMAGIO** explores the potential application of innovative imaging and interventional oncology approaches to paediatric cancer; and **YARN** includes evaluation of psychosocial, mental health and quality-of-life-related issues affecting young people with cancer. SIOPE's involvement across the broader projects' portfolio demonstrates the Society's continued contribution to European research, evidence generation, innovation and cross-border scientific collaboration.

Research and evidence generation are also supported through SIOPE's network of Working Groups, which address specific areas of care and research for the benefit of children and young people with cancer in Europe. All SIOPE Working Groups remained active

in 2026, with two new groups established during the year: the **SIOPE Pathology Working Group** and the **SIOPE Physical Activity & Exercise Therapy Working Group**. Together, these groups provide a platform for European experts to collaborate, exchange knowledge and contribute to the development of research and practice in their respective fields.

Additionally, the SIOPE Clinical Research Council (CRC) continued to support coordination and collaboration within the European paediatric oncology research community. The CRC brings together European Clinical Trial Groups and National Paediatric Haemato-Oncology Societies, providing a platform for the exchange of good research practices, collaboration on common research challenges and representation of the clinical research community at European level.

Together, these activities support the development of new knowledge, strengthen research capacity and networks, facilitate the translation of research into clinical practice, and ultimately contribute to improving outcomes and quality of life for children and young people affected by cancer.

Strategy Goal 3: Providing education and training

SIOPE continued to provide a broad range of education and training opportunities for paediatric oncology professionals and future specialists. Educational activities included the SIOPE Europe Course in Paediatric Oncology, the Student Summer School, CME-accredited virtual courses, and webinars delivered in collaboration with ERN PaedCan and other European partners. The second SIOPE Europe Course selected 60 fellows, while the first Student Summer School brought together 64 advanced medical students interested in a future career in paediatric oncology. Virtual courses provided focused training on topics including palliative care and childhood cancer causes.

The 7th SIOP Europe Annual Meeting, held in Glasgow, UK, from 4–7 May 2026, provided a major platform for education, knowledge exchange and professional development across the paediatric oncology community. The four-day meeting brought together 1,310 participants from 58 countries and featured 125 sessions, including four dedicated educational sessions and four plenary sessions. The wider programme also included joint and open sessions organised by European Clinical Trial Groups and SIOPE Working Groups, covering developments in research, clinical practice and multidisciplinary paediatric oncology. The meeting further supported learning through interactive formats, discussion and exchange between healthcare professionals, researchers, young oncologists, nurses, psychosocial professionals, and parent, patient and survivor representatives.

Education and training were further strengthened through collaborations with ESO, EHA, SIOP, and Young SIOPE including fellowships, masterclasses, focused symposia and webinars. **Together, these activities supported knowledge development, practical skills, professional networking and the continued development of the next generation of paediatric oncology professionals across Europe.**

Strategy Goal 4: Increasing membership engagement and retention

Membership engagement and retention continued to be supported through active membership renewal and engagement with SIOPE's national paediatric haematology/oncology groups (NaPHOS) and institutional members. **SIOPE membership has shown sustained growth, increasing from 2,843 members in 2024 to 2,984 members in 2025**, with members represented across 36 countries. The 2026 membership renewal campaign was launched to encourage continued engagement and retention through the respective NaPHOS and institutional structures.

Strategy Goal 5: Strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships

SIOPE continued to strengthen strategic partnerships through its participation in European projects and initiatives, working collaboratively within international consortia and networks. SIOPE also maintained its close and important partnership with Childhood Cancer International Europe (CCI Europe), supporting continued collaboration with the parent, patient and survivor community.