UPDATE FROM SIOP OCEANIA, 28\textsuperscript{th} February 2024

I sincerely hope all our members had an enjoyable holiday season and are looking forward to a productive year ahead. 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.

Representing Oceania through the International Childhood Cancer Day campaign

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and its unique challenges, while showing multi-stakeholder support for children and adolescents with cancer, survivors and their families worldwide. This year, SIOP and Childhood Cancer International are collecting the challenges people have experienced with cancer care across the globe. They are looking for input from all perspectives: healthcare workers, patients, parents, researchers, advocates. Next year, they’ll be asking our networks for tried and tested solutions to these problems. We hope this campaign will inspire stakeholders to act by demonstrating real and effective solutions.

There are not many entries from Oceania, so please do consider contributing your challenges so that we’re well represented in this global campaign! You can help us by encouraging your network to click ‘PARTICIPATE’ on the [https://www.iccd.care/](https://www.iccd.care/) website platform to share the challenges you have experienced. These should immediately populate on the map. People are welcome to write in their own language. The campaign will be open until 4\textsuperscript{th} March 2024.

Visit to Fiji Paediatric Oncology Services - September 2023 - An update from Dr Siobhan Cross

While Christchurch have been involved with progressing paediatric oncology care in Fiji since around 2004, this was only my second in person visit to see the team over there. Initial plans for a visit as we transitioned from the Lead Christchurch clinician being Dr Rob Corbett (previously Rob and Dr Michael Sullivan until he moved to Melbourne) in 2020 were delayed by Covid. This is on a background of having weekly zoom meetings with the team in Fiji to discuss clinical management as needed.
Rob and I spent time at both Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWM) in Suva and Lautoka hospital which covers the western division of Lautoka, Nadi and Ba. As well as some fact finding and education, this was a working visit and we saw 23 patients in clinic (for which we had temporary medical registration in Fiji). We did formal education sessions that were well attended for ALL, GCTs and LCH. We also visited the child cancer charity WOOn Walk Strong.

Of the 6 childhood cancers on the SIOP global initiative priority list we have Pacific protocols for all of these. We also have a protocol for Germ Cell tumours, Langerhan Cell Histiocytosis and Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia. One of the major issues though is the time to diagnosis leading to more extensive disease, and compliance with outpatient therapy.

On the less positive side there are severe staff shortages across the board but especially in nursing. Paediatrics in CWM has lost 24 nurses over the last year and only 19 out of 36 places were filled with nurses working 12 hours shifts leaving no time for education.

Over the last 20 years child cancer services in Fiji have suffered from issues with staff turnover and systemic problems with drug supply and hospital and governmental systems. Despite this, in clinics we are seeing patients who are cured and in surveillance – which would not be happening without the dedication of the team there. While there is still a way to go we are progressing with 2 steps forward to every 1 step back!

**Visit to St Jude Children’s Research Hospital – February 2024 - An update from Claire Wakefield**

I was lucky enough to visit St Jude Children’s Hospital in Memphis, US. The trip involved attending the Together at St Jude Advisory Board meeting, as well as participating in a range of meetings organised by our St Jude Asia Pacific colleagues, Sally Blair and Andini Handayani to discuss issues of relevance to the Oceania region. The Together by St. Jude online resource is available in 12 languages, providing information about childhood and adolescent cancer, blood disorders and other life-threatening diseases. You can access the resource here: https://together.stjude.org/en-us/

I was able to meet with Dr Jeremy Slone to learn more about the recent impact review of PNG, which aimed to conduct a cancer control capacity and needs assessment for the country. I also met with Dr Michael McNeil about St Jude’s Global Palliative Care work and was able to discuss potential synergies with our priority areas in paediatric palliative care in Oceania. I also met with Dr Daniel Moreira to learn more about St Jude’s Global Professional Education program and Dr Dylan Graetz who works in Culture and Communication.

**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.

**SIOP Oceania Nursing**

In January, the SIOP Oceania Nurses Working Group met in person to develop our strategic plan for 2024 and beyond. We aim to complete two key projects; (1) development of five Paediatric Palliative Care Clinical SIMS,
and (2) to update the Diaries for Families and the Handbook for Staff (incorporating palliative care). An in-country visit to Papua New Guinea is planned to deliver these resources.

**SIOP Oceania Advisory Board**

Our SIOP Oceania Advisory Board continues to meet to share ideas for improving outcomes for children with cancer across Oceania.

**UPCOMING REGIONAL MEETINGS**

**SIOP Asia, 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. The theme of the event will be "You raise it up!", with the message that we should all support paediatric cancer patients together. You can find out more at the congress website: siopasia2024.umin.jp/index.html

**ANZCHOG, Adelaide Australia, 1-3 Aug 2024**

This year’s Annual Scientific Meeting will run from 1-3 August and submissions for abstracts are now open. It’s happening in Adelaide (Tarntanya) this year, with the theme, “Sparkling hope through cutting edge technologies and collaborative care. Tangka parranthi.”. Tangka parranthi means “sparkling hope” in the native language of the Kaurna people, the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains of South Australia. You can find out more at the congress website: https://asm-anzchog.com

**SIOP World Congress, Hawaii, 17-20 Oct 2024**

SIOP 2024 offers four outstanding days of cutting-edge science, engaging debates and networking with world-renowned experts. The congress will be held in-person. All sessions will be recorded and made available on-demand (there will be no live broadcasting this year). This year’s congress is well situated for our region, as recognised by SIOP President, Guillermo Chantada who wrote: “The congress’s proximity to South-East Asia and Oceania promises to infuse our event with the expertise and insights of these dynamic regions.” You can find out more at the congress website: https://siop-congress.org

Wishing you all the very best,

Professor Claire Wakefield, Continental President, SIOP Oceania,  
cwakefield@unsw.edu.au